

waterrings

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Checking for Leaks This Spring

Just as we change the batteries in our smoke detectors and move our clocks ahead, we should also get in the habit of checking for leaks every spring.

Check hose bibs, garden hoses, underground sprinkler systems, and all water pipes that were exposed to the elements - especially with the cold we experienced earlier this winter.

Begin checking for leaks by visually inspecting all exposed pipes and fixtures for dampness. If you have a soft, wet spot on your lawn during a dry period or hear the sound of running water, you may have a leak in the service line to your house. To confirm if the water might be coming from your service line, close the main shut-off valve inside your house. If the sound of running water continues, the outside service line could be leaking.

Check your irrigation system when it's on. Look for popped sprinkler heads and other problems. The amount of water running through a faulty sprinkler head can add up quickly and they are pretty easy to fix.

If you have a pool, shut the auto leveler off for a few days and mark the water level. If the level drops significantly in a day or two, there's a good chance there's a leak in your pool's plumbing system.

Inside your home, check your water meter before bed and when you get up – before anyone runs the water. If the meter has moved, there's likely a leak somewhere in the house.

To check for leaks in your toilets, place a drop or two of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl after 15 minutes, you have a leak. Be sure to flush immediately after the experiment to avoid staining the tank. Call our office or email us at wizard@nwwater.com and we'll send you dye tablets in the mail.

Leaking pipes waste your money, can cause property damage and should be immediately repaired. Early detection and repair will save you money and minimize damage.

Beware of Utility Imposters!

Unfortunately, reports of criminals posing as utility workers seem to be on the rise. Keep these tips in mind to keep you and your family safe.

- NWWA employees rarely visit a customer's house without an appointment.
- All of our inspection, metering and service crew team members carry a photo ID badge and wear a uniform with the NWWA logo on it.
- In almost all cases, our employees travel in clearly-marked Authority vehicles. The majority of our trucks are white and have North Wales Water Authority and our logo printed on them.

- Our employees will NEVER ask for cash. All NWWA payments must be processed through our offices or our online payment portal.
- If someone comes to your door claiming to be an NWWA employee and you're not expecting them, ask for identification. If you have any questions or concerns, call our office in Montgomery County at 215-699-4836 or Bucks County at 267-482-6940.
- If they threaten you in any way, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Learn about this and more on our website at: nwwater.com/go/security.



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Know What's Below. Call Before You Dig.

Keep your home and neighborhood protected and connected by knowing what's below and always calling 811 *before* you dig.

Pennsylvania law requires you to contact PA One Call at least three business days before you begin any excavation project so that utilities can mark the location of any of their underground facilities that might be in the area.

Knowing the approximate location of your buried lines before each digging project helps protect you from injury and the consequences that can result from accidentally damaging a buried utility line. The depths of the utility lines vary, and there can be multiple utility lines in the same area.

Damages to underground utility lines can disrupt service to the entire neighborhood, potentially harm diggers and damage the environment.

Call 811 Before You Dig

Water Conservation Tips

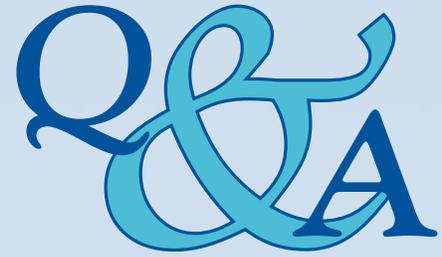
Are you a wise water consumer? How many of these water conservation tips do you practice?

In The Bathroom

- ◆ Install low consumption (1.6 gal/flush) toilets. This can save up to 14,000 gallons of water per year.
- ◆ Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- ◆ Install a low-flow showerhead.
- ◆ Take showers instead of baths.

In The Kitchen And Laundry Room

- ◆ Run only full loads in the dishwasher and washing machines.
- ◆ Use a dishpan or plug the sink for washing and rinsing dishes.
- ◆ Install a low-flow aerator on all faucets.
- ◆ Do not pre-rinse dishes before loading in the dishwasher.
- ◆ Refrigerate a bottle of drinking water instead of letting the faucet flow until the water is cold enough to drink.
- ◆ Use the proper load-size selection on the washing machine.
- ◆ Instead of running water over fruits and vegetables to clean them, fill a bowl of water and use a brush.



Q: *What is a watershed and why should I care about it?*

A: A watershed is an area of land that drains rain water or snow into a water body such as a stream, lake or wetland. These water bodies supply our drinking water, water for agriculture and manufacturing, offer opportunities for recreation and provide habitat to numerous plants and animals.

We need healthy watersheds because they sustain life. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, more than \$450 billion in foods, fiber, manufactured goods and tourism depend on clean, healthy watersheds. Even though the Earth is covered in 70% water, 40-50% of our nation's waters are impaired or threatened.

But you can help! To help keep your watershed clean and healthy, the EPA suggests:

- ◆ Don't pour toxic household chemicals down the drain; take them to a hazardous waste center.
- ◆ Use hardy plants that require little or no watering, fertilizers or pesticides in your yard.
- ◆ Do not over apply fertilizers. Consider using organic or slow release fertilizers instead.
- ◆ Recycle yard waste in a compost pile & use a mulching mower.
- ◆ Use surfaces like wood, brick or gravel for decks & walkways; allows rain to soak in & not run off.
- ◆ Never pour used oil or antifreeze into the storm drain or the street.
- ◆ Pick up after your dog, and dispose of the waste in the toilet or the trash.
- ◆ Drive less—walk or bike; many pollutants in our waters come from car exhaust and car leaks.

**Water Rings is published quarterly to serve our customers in:
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