

## Spring 2018 – Customer Notices & Updates

### Hot Topic: Clogged Pipes can mean Costly Repairs for both LCA & property owners!

**Fats, oils and grease, also known as F.O.G., can cause big trouble for your pipes, and could result in costly repairs!** These substances, many of which come from cooking, are liquid when hot, but solidify when they cool, and can cause costly blockages to your home's septic pipes or those operated by Lehigh County Authority. Whether you are cooking bacon or other foods that leave grease behind, or have greasy sauces, gravy or leftovers on plates you may be washing in the sink, whatever you put down the drain could contribute to a sewer backup.

If you are using oil for deep-frying foods, consider saving it for future use, storing it in a glass jar with a lid and a label. Otherwise, to dispose of grease, sauces, oils and food particles in the trash, before they lead to bigger problems, use an empty soup can, milk carton, glass jar or other container, allowing it first to cool and harden prior to placing in the trash. Wipe pans and dishes to remove remaining oils or grease prior to putting them in a dishwasher or hand washing them. However, if you pour it down your drain, running hot, soapy water will not help once it has become solid in your pipes. Let's all work together to keep F.O.G. out of our pipes and from clogging up the system!



**Wipes may be quick and convenient, but they could cost you later!** Just because the label on many different types of disposable wipes says "flushable" does not mean it's safe to do so. Flushing wipes of any kind, including baby, makeup, cleaning, or other wipes, can jam up the pipes in your home, as well as those of the LCA sewer system. Not all wipes are manufactured the same, and many do not biodegrade, or they degrade slowly, leading to expensive problems for property owners and for LCA.

Wipes that get stuck in your plumbing can combine with grease, food particles, toothpaste and other things you send down the drain, leading to bigger clogs and problems. LCA often removes long strands of tangled wipes from the Kline's Island Waste Water Treatment Plant, which make it there, but have not decomposed at all along the way!

Do your part and put wipes where they belong – for now, that is in the trash – not into our wastewater treatment or water supply. We thank you for your kindness to our system and our environment.

**Check out our 2018 Water System Flushing Schedule on page 2 and see when we might be in your neighborhood.**

#### **Water Quality Report Available Online:**

Each year, we provide our customers with an annual Water Quality Report to let you know how our water quality stacks up against federal and state standards for safe drinking water. We encourage you to review this report as it provides details about the source and quality of the drinking water delivered to your community in 2017. Please visit us online to view the report for our Allentown Division: [lehighcountyauthority.org/wp-content/uploads/ALD.pdf](http://lehighcountyauthority.org/wp-content/uploads/ALD.pdf). If you wish to have a paper copy, you can print one directly from the website. You can also receive a printed version by contacting us at 610-437-7515.

**Attention landlords, businesses, schools, restaurants and other large employers!** Please share this info with tenants, students, employees, patrons and other water users at your location who do not receive an LCA water bill.

*Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre se agua potable.  
Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo intenda bien.*



## 2018 Water System Flushing Schedule:

Lehigh County Authority (LCA) will complete system wide flushing of the water system in Allentown during the spring and summer months. This important maintenance program helps to ensure the water system is maintaining proper disinfection, and helps to clean out the water lines in your neighborhood.

**What should you do when LCA is flushing in your area?** If you see a crew flushing a hydrant on your street, avoid running tap water, using the washing machine, or running the dishwasher until the flushing is complete to avoid drawing discolored water into your home plumbing. If possible, completely avoid using your hot water as this may draw discolored water into your hot water heater allowing the discoloration to persist for long periods of time. After the flushing is completed in your area, turn on your cold water tap. If you encounter discolored water, shut the water off and wait several minutes before you turn on your cold water tap again. If pressure or volume seems low, check faucet screens for trapped particles.

**Safety Notice:** If you see hydrant flushing crews working in the area, please drive carefully and treat them like any other road construction crew.

**Brown Water Notice:** Discoloration of your water after system flushing only affects the appearance of the water. There is no health risk associated with the discoloration of water after system flushing. If your water does not clear up, contact LCA.

**Schedule:** The 2018 flushing schedule is shown below and should be considered as tentative depending on the weather. Unless otherwise noted, flushing will occur during daytime hours.

<b>March 29<sup>th</sup>– April 1<sup>st</sup>: Ward 3 and Ward 13</b>	Center City, south of Hamilton, between 7 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> Streets
<b>April 2<sup>nd</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup>: Ward 18</b>	West Allentown, south of Hamilton, west of 19 <sup>th</sup> Street
<b>April 16<sup>th</sup> – April 29<sup>th</sup>: Ward 7 and Ward 11</b>	Center City, north of Hamilton, between 9 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> Street
<b>April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup>: Ward 17</b>	West Allentown, north of Hamilton, west of 22 <sup>nd</sup> Street
<b>May 21<sup>st</sup> – June 3<sup>rd</sup> : Ward 8 and Ward 11</b>	North Allentown, north of Gordon Street, between 7 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> Streets
<b>June 4<sup>th</sup> – June 24<sup>th</sup>: Ward 12</b>	South Allentown, south of the Little Lehigh Creek and west of the railroad tracks, from Trout Creek Park to Bicentennial Park and on the Queen City Airport area
<b>June 25<sup>th</sup> – July 8<sup>th</sup>: Ward 1, 2, 5 and 4</b>	Center City, both north and south of Hamilton, between 4 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> Streets
<b>July 9<sup>th</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup>: Ward 10</b>	North Allentown, east of 7 <sup>th</sup> Street, between Liberty Street and Sumner Avenue
<b>July 16<sup>th</sup> – July 29<sup>th</sup>: Ward 8</b>	North Allentown, west of 7 <sup>th</sup> Street, between Liberty Street and Sumner Avenue
<b>July 30<sup>th</sup> – August 6<sup>th</sup>: Ward 9 and Ward 6</b>	Center City, north of Hamilton, east of Law Street and following north up along the Lehigh River
<b>August 6<sup>th</sup> – August 12<sup>th</sup>: Ward 14</b>	East Allentown, east of the Lehigh River, from Keck Park north up to the East Side Fire Station
<b>*August 13<sup>th</sup> – August 26<sup>th</sup>: Ward 15 (Minus the high elevation system)</b>	East Allentown, north and east of the East Side Fire station, and then south toward the Allentown State Hospital area
<b>*August 22<sup>nd</sup> – September 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward 16 (Minus the high elevation system)</b>	South Allentown, south of the Lehigh River and east of the railroad tracks, south down to Chapel Avenue
<b>*September 3<sup>rd</sup> – September 16<sup>th</sup>: Ward 19 (Minus the high elevation system)</b>	South Allentown, south and east of Trout Creek Park, down to the South Mountain Reservoir and Park area

*\*After these areas are completed the high elevation system will be flushed at night from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. There are 105 hydrants in these areas, which include Ward 15, 16, 19 and 28<sup>th</sup> Street. The high elevation hydrants in the system are silver and black in color.*

**Please contact LCA at 610-437-7515 if you have any questions about our flushing program.**