
“THE PUDDLE”

THE NORTH KINGSTOWN DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY NEWSLETTER

September 2025

Lead and Copper Monitoring Completed

With the help of participating residents, we have completed our most recent round of lead and copper testing in our water system. Every three years we collect thirty (30) or more samples from residential taps throughout our distribution network. The results for these samples for both lead and copper fell well below the action levels set forth in Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulation. The EPA action level for lead is 15 parts per billion (ppb), whereas our system value was 1.3 ppb. And the EPA action level for copper is 1.3 parts per million (ppm), whereas our system result was 0.18 ppm. The North Kingstown Water Department works to ensure that lead and copper levels remain low in our water by utilizing industry standard practices to provide corrosion control. Additionally, we have been replacing the last few remaining lead service lines in town over the last couple months. We are proud to say that we have replaced these lines towards the end of August and will have no known lead service lines remaining in our system. As with what is required by the EPA as well as the state, we will also regularly verify lines throughout our system confirming our installation/replacement records.

Semi-Annual Hydrant Flushing Program

Please be aware semi-annual hydrant flushing will be scheduled for mid to late September. Hydrant flushing is an important component of North Kingstown's distribution system maintenance and is extremely important in providing safe and clean drinking water. The flushing of mains removes sediment that normally accumulates in water pipes and flushing is also a good way to verify that the hydrant is operating properly. We will be flushing in the northern portion of our system this fall. If you experience any discoloration at your tap, please flush it until it clears.



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Why did you send me a letter saying I might have a leak?

Our newly installed radio read meters have a feature that sends us a message if there is water consistently flowing through your meter during any given 24-hour period. The most common type of household leak experienced is a leaking toilet. This is where the toilet tank is cycling on and off consistently throughout the day. Because the tank is filling periodically it can be difficult to identify as a problem but can result in a significant amount of water being used. The EPA estimates that a leaky toilet can waste roughly 7,000 gallons per month. To test your toilets for this type of leak, we offer free leak detection dye tablets in the Water Department office. Simply put the dye tablet in the back of the toilet and if the blue dye shows up in the bowl after 10 minutes, you know that you have a leak. Although this is the most common source of excess water usage, other leaks can exist. In some cases, the homeowner can have a leaking service line resulting in a more challenging fix. More information can be found in the WaterSense section of the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/watersense>

Septic System Maintenance Requirements

Article VIII of the Town of North Kingstown Ordinance requires that all residential septic systems be pumped out or inspected no less than once every three (3) years. This ordinance also requires that proof of inspection or pumping be provided to the Town within thirty (30) days. We send out reminder postcards regularly but may not always be able to remind everyone in town in a timely



manner. Please keep records of your pumping or inspections and provide the reports to this department in person, through the mail, or email them to jblair@northkingstownri.gov. This ordinance is enforced to not only protect our precious ground water, but to also ensure the long term viability of your septic system. Regular maintenance of your system will keep it working well for decades.