

Tips to Protect Home Water Quality Drinking Water Week, May 5-11

-Dickinson, North Dakota –

During Drinking Water Week, May 5-11, 2013, **the Southwest Water Authority** and **the American Water Works Association** join water professionals across North America in helping consumers learn to maintain high-quality water throughout their household plumbing systems.

“Drinking Water Week provides an excellent time to focus on the role we all play in understanding and caring for our water supplies and systems,” said AWWA Executive Director David LaFrance. “Let’s use this opportunity to help protect all of our communities’ health and vitality by learning more about how we maintain a safe and sustainable supply of drinking water.”

After water enters a home, conditions in the home plumbing system can affect the water’s quality. “Our water providers work very hard to be sure that the water leaving the treatment plant meets all federal and state standards,” said Mary Massad, Manager/CEO of the SWA. She added, “As consumers, it’s up to us to help protect that water quality by maintaining our homes’ pipes and faucets.”

To assist homeowners, the Southwest Water Authority and AWWA have provided these top tips for maintaining water quality at home:

1. Clean faucets and aerators regularly
2. Clean and disinfect sinks and drains regularly
3. Keep drains clear and unclogged
4. Use cold water for drinking and preparing food
5. Replace old plumbing and install certified “lead free” fixtures
6. Flush cold water taps after household plumbing work or when the water hasn’t been used for several days
7. Drain and flush your hot water heater annually
8. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for the water heater, filters, treatment devices, softeners and any other products attached to the water system
9. Do not connect hoses or other devices intended for non-drinking purposes to household drinking water faucets
10. Keep hazardous chemicals and unsanitary materials away from drinking water faucets

The Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) is state owned and administered by the North Dakota State Water Commission (SWC). The SWPP transports raw water from Lake Sakakawea to Dickinson where it is treated and delivered to the project’s customers in southwest North Dakota and Perkins County, South Dakota. SWA is responsible for the management, operations and maintenance of the Project.

For 28 years, the SWPP has been constructing an efficient network of pipelines, pump stations, reservoirs and treatment facilities to bring southwest North Dakota an adequate quantity of quality water. To date, 31 communities, more than 4,400 rural service locations, 19 small businesses, and 21 raw water customers are served by the Pipeline. www.swwater.org

Additional information about maintaining water quality at home is available at DrinkTap.org. ###