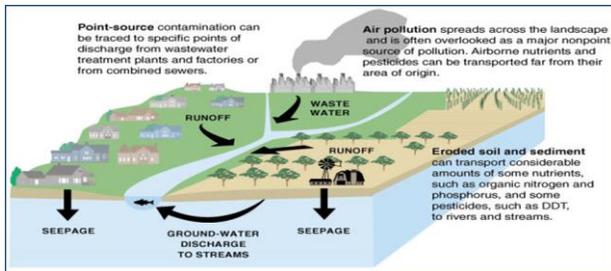


What is Source Water Protection?

The goal of source water protection is preventing contaminants from entering waterways that serve as our drinking water sources. Protecting our source water from pollutants not only protects our drinking water supplies, but it also makes economic sense, as it can be extremely costly to remove pollutants from drinking water sources through complex treatments. Protecting our source water also helps protect the natural environment by providing a healthy habitat for countless species.

The source water for Berks County residents can come from groundwater wells, springs, reservoirs, rivers, or creeks. To further strengthen our source water protection efforts, many drinking water systems and other partners have developed a County-wide Source Water Protection Program.

The program members are committed to Source Water Protection for the health and well-being of all our natural resources!



Source: USGS

More Ways to Help

The members of the **Berks County Source Water Protection Committee** are working nonstop to provide our customers with a clean and reliable source of drinking water, and we could use your help!

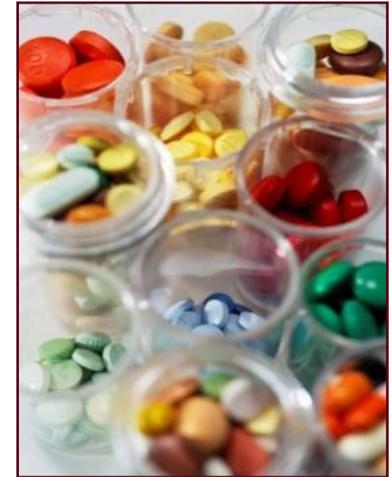
Steps to help us protect our water supplies

- Minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides on your lawn and garden.
- Do not dump swimming pool water into a creek or storm drain at the end of the season. If possible, direct the water into the sanitary sewer. Otherwise, wait until the chlorine diminishes and then direct water into grass, forest, or other natural areas.
- Remember: Anything you throw or store on the ground can find its way into waterways. Anything you flush down the toilet or rinse down a sink will end up in a waterway. Store, handle and dispose of all chemicals properly.
- Bring household hazardous waste – such as paint, varnishes, and other chemicals to recycling facilities. Check the Berks County Solid Waste Authority website for details at <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/swa>
- Dispose of motor oil at a garage that will recycle it. Never pour oil on the ground or in a storm drain or sewer on the street.
- Call the PA Department of Environmental Protection at 877-333-1904 immediately if you observe a chemical spill.

CITIZEN'S GUIDE

What Not to Flush –

Proper Disposal of Pharmaceuticals and other Chemicals



Berks County Source Water Protection Program

A Program By:

Berks County Water & Sewer Association
Center for Excellence in Local Government
c/o Albright College
<http://www.albright.edu/localgov/bcwsa/index.html>

For More Information Contact:
Berks County Conservation District
1238 County Welfare Road, Suite 200
Leesport, PA 19533
610-372-4657
www.berkscd.com



A Message from the Berks County Source Water Protection Committee



Hamburg Drop Box

Your drinking water providers work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. It is a task that all water systems take very seriously. They work hard to protect our water resources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Pharmaceuticals can impact the quality of your drinking water. It can be very difficult to remove even trace amounts of pharmaceuticals from groundwater or surface sources. To maintain a clean, dependable water supply, your water system needs your help. This brochure was developed to make the community aware of the importance of proper disposal of prescription medications.

Please read this brochure carefully. If you have any additional questions, please refer to the guidelines cited in this brochure or contact the Berks County Solid Waste Authority for more information on drop-off boxes in your neighborhood.

This brochure has been funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program.



Proper Disposal of Pharmaceuticals and Other Chemicals

- A few small steps can make a huge impact in safeguarding the environment and improving water quality.
- **Do not flush** unwanted or leftover medications down the toilet or sink drain. They may affect groundwater and private drinking water wells.
- Never give your unwanted medicine to someone else. Having unwanted medications around the home presents a danger to children, guests, and pets that could accidentally ingest them.
- Take advantage of the community pharmaceutical take-back programs available in Berks County that allow the public to bring unused drugs to various locations for proper disposal. Visit the Berks County Solid Waste Authority website below for additional information on collection events and dropoff points in your neighborhood.



For more information on the proper disposal of pharmaceuticals:

Berks County Solid Waste Authority

<http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/SWA/Pages/default.aspx>
(610) 478-6362

Berks County Community Drop-Box Program

<http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/SWA/Documents/Pharmaceutical%20Collection/Berks%20County%20Medication%20Drop%20Box%20Program%20-%20single%20page%203-2017.pdf>

"Take Back Your Meds" Program

<http://www.takebackyourmeds.org/dea-events>