

## Getting Started

To get started in taking an active role in protecting your community's drinking water you must first learn about your local water sources. The best place to start learning about your water is by contacting your local water supplier.

Once you have a better understanding about your local water, only then can you take active steps as an individual or community to protect the local water sources. By using the information provided in this brochure and information provided by your local water supplier, communities will have safer and cleaner drinking water now and in the future. Cooperation is the key!

## For More Information Visit

West Branch Regional Authority  
[www.westbranch-ra.org](http://www.westbranch-ra.org)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
[www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
[www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us)

Center for Watershed Protection  
[www.cwp.org](http://www.cwp.org)

Water Resources Education Network  
[www.waterwisepa.org](http://www.waterwisepa.org)

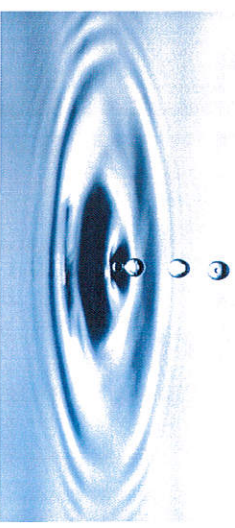


**WATER**  
Water Resources Education Network  
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## Community Guide

Preserving &  
Protecting Drinking  
Water





### Why Protect Drinking Water?

Water is and always will be an essential human need; however, having clean drinking water is something many people take for granted. Local drinking water can be contaminated if proper measures are not taken to protect it.

Drinking water is a shared resource. When local drinking water sources become contaminated the entire community shares the burden, and the cost of clean up can be expensive. Local organizations, individuals, and local governments all can play a role in the protection on drinking water.

### Possible Sources of Drinking Water Pollution

- ◆ Hazardous household chemicals
- ◆ Hazardous waste
- ◆ Lawn fertilizers
- ◆ Pesticides /Herbicides
- ◆ Fuel leaks
- ◆ Pharmaceuticals
- ◆ Septic systems
- ◆ Storm water runoff

### How Can My Borough /Township Help?

- ◆ Sponsor household hazardous waste collection days.
- ◆ Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides on borough/ township grounds.
- ◆ Establish septic system maintenance ordinance .
- ◆ Encourage use of permeable surfaces.
- ◆ Adopt and enforce storm water management requirements.
- ◆ Install drive-by public education signs and spill response signs.

### How Can Local Organizations Help?

- ◆ Sponsor local clean up efforts.
- ◆ Hold educational events and meetings.
- ◆ Educate members on keeping safe and clean drinking water.

### Things You Can Do at Home

- ◆ Purchase environmentally friendly household chemicals
- ◆ Properly dispose and clean up household hazardous waste and spills.
- ◆ Read instructions on how to properly use lawn fertilizers or limit use.
- ◆ Minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides.
- ◆ Regularly check oil and gas tanks for leaks or damage .
- ◆ Read Pharmaceuticals labels and properly dispose them in the trash or at collection points.
- ◆ Be sure to care for and maintain septic systems and inspect the entire system every 1 to 3 years.

### Benefits of Prevention

By taking steps to prevent drinking water pollution, not only are you ensuring clean drinking water, you are providing a clean environment for all organisms. Prevention is cheaper, easier, and less time consuming than clean up efforts.

Prevention benefits everyone.

“ An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” ~ Benjamin Franklin