

## UNDERSTANDING

# Source Water Protection

**THE GOAL:** Prevent contaminants from entering waterways that serve as sources for our drinking water.

### THE BENEFITS:

- ✓ Protects our drinking water supplies.
- ✓ Ensures a healthy habitat for countless species.
- ✓ Decreases need for costly, complex treatments to remove pollutants.

**The source water for Middleburg Municipal Authority is from surface water intakes and a groundwater well.**

Your water system has volunteered to participate in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program (SWPTAP).

**THROUGH SWPTAP:** A plan will be developed to guide your water system's source water protection efforts in the future. Once complete, it will be available for all customers to learn more about assisting with our source water protection efforts.



## More Ways to Help



Minimize your use of pesticides and herbicides on your lawn and garden.



Bring hazardous waste (ex: paint) to recycling facilities.



Don't pour motor oil on the ground or in a storm drain. Dispose of motor oil at garages that recycle it.



Pump out your septic system every two or three years.



Do not flush any unwanted or leftover medications down the toilet or sink drain. Dispose of them at a disposal event or collection box.



Don't dump pool water into a creek or storm drain. Direct it to a sanitary sewer or foliage once chlorine diminishes.



Remember that anything you throw or store on the ground or put down the toilet will find its way into waterways.

If you observe a chemical spill, call the PA Department of Environmental Protection at 800-541-2050.

## CITIZEN'S GUIDE:

# Proper Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste



Middleburg Municipal Authority

This program is funded by the PA Department of Environmental Protection's Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program.

## DID YOU KNOW:

If a water source is contaminated, the cleanup often takes many years and can be very expensive.

A watershed is all the land that drains to the same river or lake.

Water travels from the highest points at the watershed edge to the lowest point at the bottom of the watershed.

When it rains, water travels over the land surface. As stormwater flows, it picks up contaminants on the surface.

Some precipitation percolates into the soil and reaches the groundwater. Groundwater also picks up nitrates and chemicals.

Both groundwater and stormwater ultimately flow into one of the rivers or lakes on the watershed.

## Best Practices for Household Chemicals

### Do this:

- ✓ Purchase products that contain fewer hazardous ingredients.
- ✓ Minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides on your lawn and garden.
- ✓ Use biodegradable pesticide and herbicide products when available.
- ✓ Use water-based paints if possible.
- ✓ Sweep up dust and paint chips from sanding or stripping activities.

### Not this:

- ✗ Pour oil on the ground, down a storm drain or street sewer.
- ✗ Pour used or unused chemicals and paints down the sink drain or flush down the toilet.
- ✗ Mix leftover or unused chemicals with other materials.
- ✗ Leave chemicals unlabeled and in the reach of children or pets.

### What happens when contaminants get into our water supply?

A water supply can become polluted when substances that are harmful to human health enter the water source.

Once drinking water is contaminated, it must be treated or abandoned as a drinking water source.

### Common examples of household hazardous waste:

Latex and oil-based paint	Asphalt and driveway sealants
Gasoline, motor oil, and antifreeze	Vehicle batteries
Lawn fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides	Lithium/NiCad batteries
Household cleaners and solvents	Outdated & unused pharmaceuticals
Ammunition	Electronic devices
	Pool chemicals

### Remember:

Anything you throw on the ground or send down the drain can find its way to our water sources.

When waste makes its way into the environment, plants, animals and humans can all be affected.

**Middleburg Municipal Authority**

13 North Main Street | Middleburg, PA 17842  
(570) 837-2533 | <https://middleburgborough.com/>

The members of your water system work around the clock to provide top quality tap water to every tap. It is a task that we take very seriously. For more information, contact us.