

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:

Wastewater in Your Home



Middleburg Municipal Authority

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

What happens to our wastewater?

Household wastewater contains all the wastes from our home. This includes bathroom use, kitchen use, laundry and other activities.

Households that are on a public sewer system have these wastes treated at a local wastewater treatment plant. They are designed to handle water, human waste, and toilet paper.

Anything else that goes down the drain can damage both the treatment system and the environment!



Flushing Don'ts:

Here are a few of the **worst** things to dump down the drain.

WIPES: Even “flushable” wipes do not break down like toilet paper and can clog household and treatment plant pipes.

CHEMICALS: Cleaners, paint, and pesticides contain some chemicals that cannot be removed during the treatment process.

FATS, OILS, GREASE: Cooking greases, fats, and oils can become solid causing build up in pipes.

Some other things that should never go down a drain include medicines, kitty litter, feminine products, cigarette butts, diapers, and disposable toilet brushes.

The Typical Treatment Process:

SCREENING: Solid materials like wood, rocks, and dead animals are removed first.

PUMPING: If the plant is built above the ground level, the wastewater is pumped to the aeration tanks.

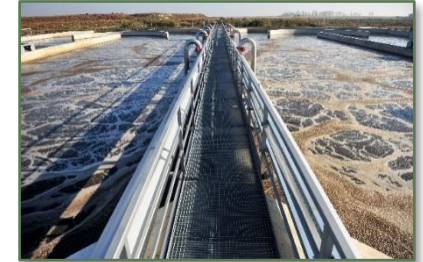
AERATING: The sewage is shaken up and exposed to air. This causes some of the dissolved gases that taste and smell bad to be released from the water. Air is pumped through the water to replenish oxygen used in the matter decaying process. ‘Grit’ (coffee grounds, sand, and other small particles) will settle out.

REMOVING SLUDGE: Wastewater enters sedimentation tanks. Here, the sludge settles and is pumped out of the tanks. Sludge is then processed in large tanks called digesters.

REMOVING SCUM: Lighter materials float to the surface. This ‘scum’ includes grease, oils, and soap. Scum is skimmed off the surface and pumped to the digesters with the sludge.

KILLING BACTERIA: Chlorine is added to kill bacteria. The chlorine is mostly eliminated as bacteria are destroyed. But sometimes it is neutralized by adding chemicals.

DISCHARGE: The treated water (called effluent) is discharged to a local river or ocean.



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.