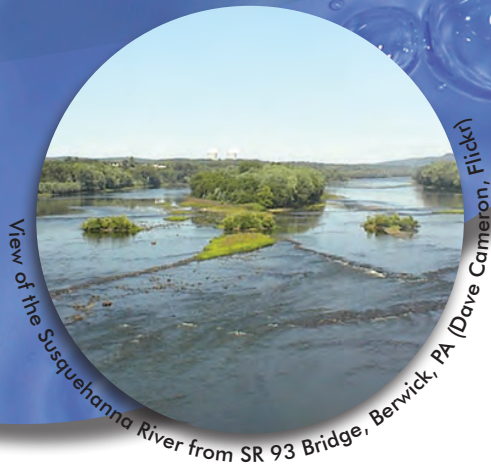


# Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?

The Berwick Water District is supplied with drinking water from four drilled wells located at the Canal Street pumping station, in the Borough of Berwick, which is operated by Pennsylvania American Water. The treatment facility at the Canal Street Station processes approximately 1.4 million gallons of groundwater per day with a maximum capacity of 4.6 million gallons per day. This water is distributed for residential, commercial, and industrial use.

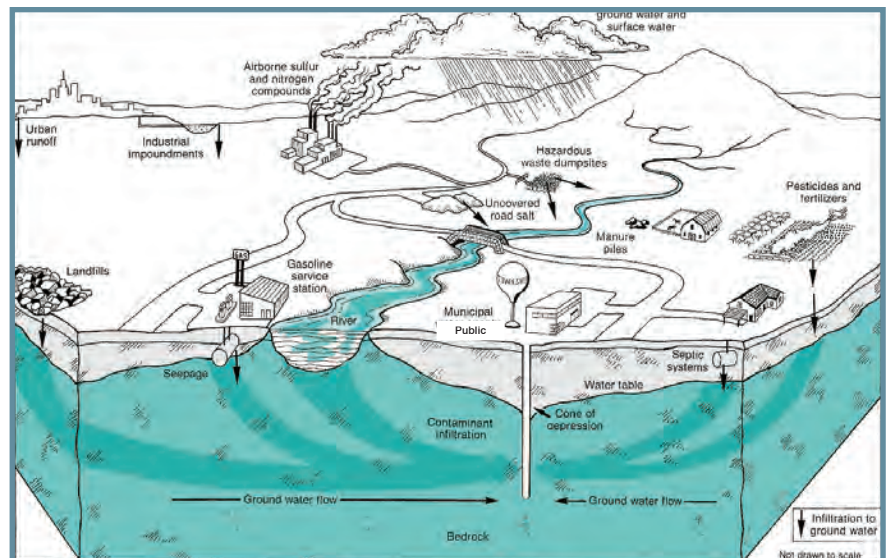


## What is Source Water Protection?

Source water protection is a method of safeguarding a community water supply by preventing pollution of public water supply wells. This is achieved by effectively managing potential pollutant sources in the area which contributes water to the well. **Source water protection is a community effort – everyone has an important part to play in protecting drinking water.**

## Why Does Source Water Protection Matter to Me?

The quality of drinking water affects public health and the economic well-being of the community. Common water pollutants may include gasoline or oil from leaking tanks, nitrates and pesticides from agriculture and lawns, pathogens from livestock and pet waste, salt from winter road maintenance, chemicals from industrial facilities, and prescription drugs. Source water protection helps minimize the threat to public health by keeping harmful pollutants out of the water supply and can enhance the community's potential to attract employers, maintain a healthy economy, and possibly benefit from tourism.



Source water contamination can come from a number of sources.

This Source Water Protection Fact Sheet has been funded by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund under a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for Drinking Water Source Water Protection administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency.



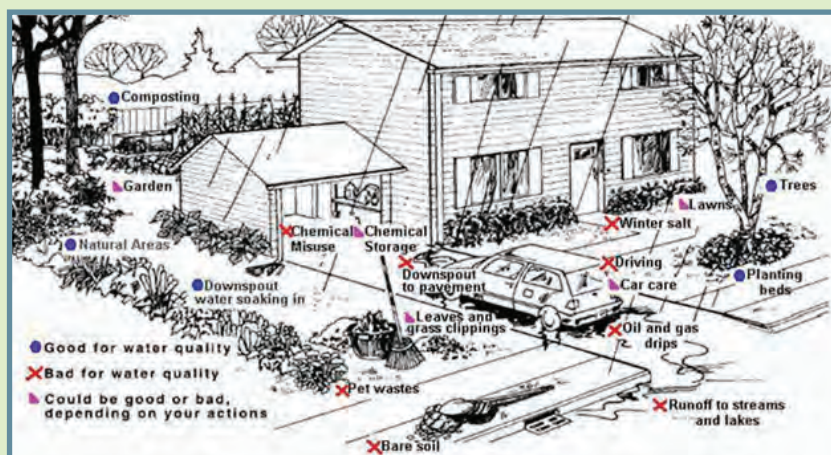
## Once a Water Supply Source Becomes Contaminated

- ◆ Clean up can take years and may not be possible
- ◆ Clean up is costly
- ◆ Required treatment adds to the operating costs of the water treatment plant
- ◆ Developing a new source for water supply is expensive

The expense of treating polluted water or finding a new source of drinking water can be avoided through source water protection.

## What Can You Do?

- ◆ Limit the use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides on your lawn and garden.
- ◆ Recognize and manage possible sources of pollution on your property.
- ◆ If you have a septic system, make sure it is properly maintained.
- ◆ Have heating oil tanks checked regularly for leaks.
- ◆ Conserve water.
- ◆ Dispose of used motor oil at a garage that will recycle it. Never pour oil down the drain, in a storm drain or sewer, or on the ground.
- ◆ Use hazardous products – such as paint, varnishes and other chemicals – as directed and take them to a county waste collection site for disposal.



Activities around your house that can affect water quality.

## Ways to Get Involved

- ◆ Participate in clean-up activities in your neighborhood.
- ◆ Help identify potential sources of pollution in your source water protection area.
- ◆ Help educate your neighbors and others about source water protection.

## For More Information

On Source Water Protection: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/index.cfm>

On Water Conservation: [http://www.epa.gov/watersense/our\\_water/be\\_the\\_change.html](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/be_the_change.html), and

<http://www.amwater.com/paaw/learning-center/wise-water-use.html>

On Septic System maintenance: [http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/homeowner\\_guide\\_long.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/homeowner_guide_long.pdf)

Typical activities around the home can affect groundwater quality: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gw/pubs/SmartGrowth3.pdf>

On Locations that recycle used oil and other household hazardous products: <http://www.cleanup.org> or call 1-800-CLEANUP

To report an environmental incident, such as a spill: Call the Department of Environmental Protection at 1-800-541-2050



and the Columbia County Conservation District