

From Source to Sink...

Protecting Your Drinking Water



Pike County
Conservation District

Your everyday choices impact local water resources...

Your water provider gets your drinking water from groundwater wells. In fact, **everyone** in Pike County relies on groundwater!

What is source water?

Source water refers to sources of water (such as rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater) that contribute to public drinking water supplies and private wells.

Source water protection means managing pollution sources in the community and watershed to protect our drinking water sources. We all use the groundwater, and we can also all play a part in protecting it!

What is groundwater?

Groundwater is the water found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand, and rock.

Rain, melting snow, or surface water becomes groundwater by seeping into the ground and filling these spaces. Groundwater is a source of recharge for our streams, lakes, rivers, and wetlands.

Why protect source water?

Protecting source water can reduce health risks by preventing exposure to contaminated water.

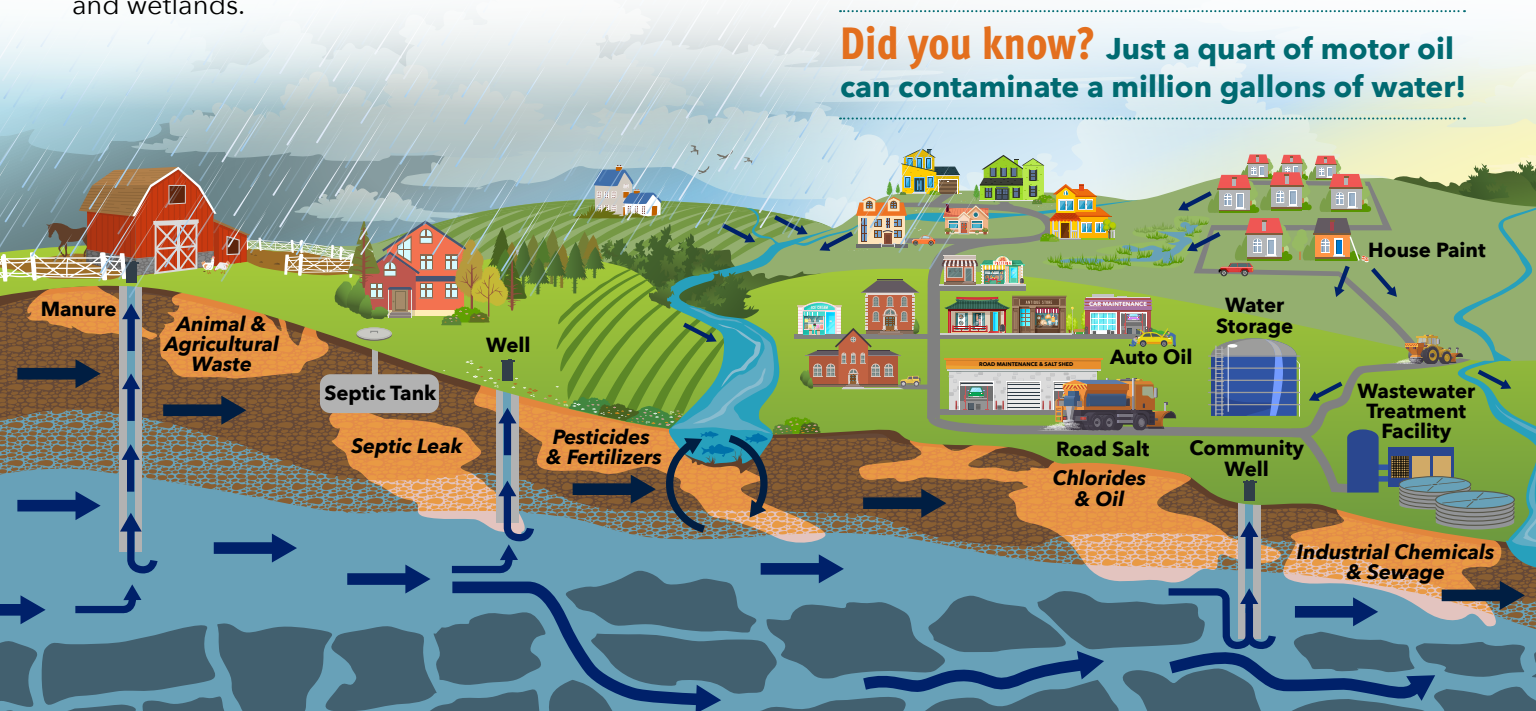
Source water protection also ensures good water quality for wildlife and recreational use and supports the availability and quality of water supplies for human use. If a source of drinking water is polluted, it can be very expensive to drill a new well or treat the polluted source.

How do our wells and springs become polluted?

Many people think our drinking water is protected from pollution. However, wells become polluted when harmful substances (like fuels and pesticides) get picked up by storm water runoff; the pollutants can then infiltrate into the groundwater with that storm water.

Water from contaminated wells can be dangerous to drink if the level of pollution rises above health standards. Underground connections of groundwater can lead to contamination spreading far and wide.

Did you know? Just a quart of motor oil can contaminate a million gallons of water!



What can you do to help?

Every day small choices can help protect drinking water for yourself and others!

- ☐ **Maintain your septic system.** A typical septic system should be pumped every 3-5 years.
- ☐ **Conserve water.** Excessive use of groundwater in an aquifer can lead to shortages in the groundwater supply.
- ☐ **Inspect fuel oil tanks for leaks and test for underground leaks if your tank is buried.** If possible, keep fuel tanks above ground.
- ☐ **Recycle used motor oil.** Many places that sell oil will also take old oil for recycling.
- ☐ **Dispose of household hazardous wastes (paint, cleaning products, pesticides, etc.) properly.** Don't dump them down the drain or on the ground. Call the PA Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at 800-346-4242.
- ☐ **Plant native species.** Native plants help filter pollutants in storm water, require less fertilizer and water than nonnative species, and can also help reduce soil erosion.
- ☐ **Reduce storm water and non-point source pollution at home** by installing rain gardens, pervious pavement, rain barrels, and other watershed-friendly practices.

You can make a difference!

Everything each of us does above ground can potentially affect someone's drinking water.

The [Pocono Source Water Protection Collaborative](#) aims to raise awareness about the protection and conservation of our groundwater resources.



For more information:



Pike County
Conservation District

556 Route 402 • Hawley, PA 18428

Tel: 570-226-8220

pikeconservation.org



PENNSYLVANIA
AMERICAN WATER

Funding for this project was provided
by American Water through their
2023 Environmental Grant Program.