

## 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 the Reading Area Water Authority is from Lake Ontelaunee.**

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 Pharmaceuticals



Reading Area Water Authority

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

## DID YOU KNOW:

Pharmaceuticals can impact the quality of your drinking water if not disposed of properly.

It can be very difficult to remove even trace amounts of pharmaceuticals from groundwater or surface sources. To maintain a clean, dependable water supply, your water system needs your help.



## Proper Disposal of Pharmaceuticals:

*A few small steps can make a huge impact in safeguarding the environment and improving water quality.*

### ✓ Do this:

Plan or participate in a community take-back program. Programs such as these allow the public to bring unused drugs to various locations for proper disposal.

### ✗ Not this:

Do not flush any unwanted or leftover medications down the toilet or sink drain. Doing so may affect groundwater and private drinking wells.

### ! Remember:

Never give your unwanted medicine to someone else. Having unwanted medications around the home presents a danger to children, guests, and pets that could accidentally ingest them.



#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCE **The National Take-Back Initiative**

*Scan with your smart phone camera.* Find out more about local collection events and year-round drop-off boxes.



#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCE **The Office of National Drug Control Policy**



#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCE **The SmaR<sub>t</sub> Disposal Campaign**

**Reading Area Water Authority**

1801 Kutztown Road | Reading, PA 19604

610-406-6300 | <https://www.readingareawater.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.