

**It's *YOUR*
Conservation District!**

We are committed to protect and conserve Berks County's natural resources for future generations. Our Vision Statement summarizes the District's Strategic Plan: "To become a leading professional conservation organization that provides high-quality programs and services to our future residents in our rapidly changing Berks County conservation environment."



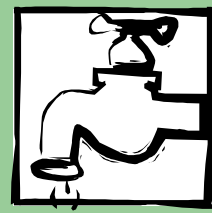
**Reduce
Reuse
Recycle**

Contact the District for more information on Agriculture, Erosion & Sediment Control, Watershed Protection, and Environmental Education programs!



STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

*A Homeowner's Guide to
Keeping Our Water Clean*



*1238 County Welfare Road
P.O. Box 520
Leesport, PA 19533*

Phone: 610.372.4657 x222
Fax: 610.478.7058
Email: cohare@countyofberks.com

Berks County Conservation District **Berks County Conservation District**

Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program





Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

WHEN IT RAINS, IT DRAINS!

Your whole family can help keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, and lawn care products out of our waterways! Rain water that has picked up contaminants from lawns, sidewalks, driveways, and roads can flow directly into a storm drain and affect areas used for swimming, boating, and drinking water reservoirs.

LAWN & GARDEN

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly! Avoid applying if the weather forecast calls for rain; otherwise chemicals could be washed into your local stream.
- Sweep up yard debris instead of hosing down dirty areas.
- Cover piles of topsoil or mulch to prevent sediment from blowing or washing off your yard.
- Blowing grass clippings in the street can also block storm drains or add pollutants to water.



PET CARE



- Remember to be a good neighbor and pick up your pet's waste! Leaving waste on the ground can be a health risk by the bacteria that can be washed into a storm drain with rain water.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

- Wash your vehicle on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty water flowing into a storm drain. Or take your vehicle to a wash facility....they recycle the water used!
- Check your vehicles for leaks and drips...these small drips on the road can be picked up with rainwater.
- Be sure to clean up spilled fluids to avoid contamination of water into storm drains.
- Recycle used motor oil or other fluids at a participating service station. NEVER pour these wastes down a drain!

HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- Sweep up debris before it can be washed away with storm water and obstruct the storm drain or contaminate a waterway.
- Increase the vegetated yard area to help with water filtration.

- Use paints or solvents in small amounts, and be sure to clean up spills and properly dispose of rags and brushes.
- Purchase non-toxic or biodegradable products whenever possible.

BECOME INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- Join a local Watershed association. Many groups have made a difference in their community through improvement projects.
- Organize a cleanup! Litter and other trash items clog up storm drains and pollute the stormwater flowing into streams.



COMMUNITY GROUPS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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