

## What is Source Water Protection?

The goal of source water protection is preventing contaminants from entering waterways that serve as our drinking water sources. Protecting our source water from pollutants not only protects our drinking water supplies, but it also makes economic sense, as it can be extremely costly to remove pollutants from drinking water sources through complex treatments. Protecting our source water also helps protect the natural environment by providing a healthy habitat for countless species.

The source water for Reading Area Water Authority customers is from a surface water intake at Lake Ontelaunee.

Through a program administered by the PA Department of Environmental Protection, RAWA has developed a Source Water Protection Plan. The plan will guide RAWA's efforts to protect the drinking water for many customers.



## More Ways to Help

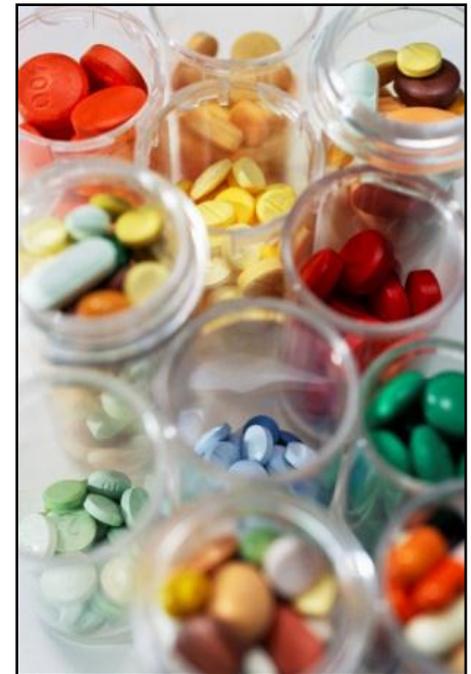
Reading Area Water Authority is working nonstop to provide our customers with a clean and reliable source of drinking water, and we could use your help!

### Steps to help us protect our water supplies

- Dispose of motor oil at a garage that will recycle it. Never pour oil on the ground or in a storm drain or sewer on the street.
- Bring household hazardous waste – such as paint, varnishes, and other chemicals – to a waste collection event. Check the Berks County Solid Waste Authority website for programs available. <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/SWA/Pages/default.aspx>
- Minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides on your lawn and garden.
- Do not dump swimming pool water into a creek or storm drain at the end of the season. If possible, direct the water into the sanitary sewer. Otherwise, wait until the chlorine diminishes and then direct water into grass, forest, or other natural area.
- Remember: Anything you throw or store on the ground can find its way into waterways. Anything you flush down the toilet or rinse down a sink will end up in a waterway. Store, handle and dispose of all chemicals properly.
- Call the Department of Environmental Protection at 877-333-1904 immediately if you observe a chemical spill.

## CITIZEN GUIDE

### Proper Disposal of Pharmaceuticals



#### Reading Area Water Authority Source Water Protection Program

#### **For more information**

Reading Area Water Authority  
1801 Kutztown Road  
Reading, PA 19604  
(610) 406-6300



## A Message from the Reading Area Water Authority



We work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. It is a task that we are proud of and take very seriously. We work hard to protect our water resources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

To maintain a clean, dependable water supply, we need your help. This brochure was developed to make our community aware of the importance of proper disposal of prescription medications.

Please read this brochure carefully. If you have any additional questions, please refer to the federal guidelines, cited in this brochure or contact the Reading Area Water Authority at 610.406.6300.



## Proper Disposal of Pharmaceuticals

- A few small steps can make a huge impact in safeguarding the environment.
- Take unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs out of their original containers and throw them in the trash.
- Mixing prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, such as sawdust or used coffee grounds or kitty litter, and putting them in impermeable, non-descript containers, such as empty cans or sealable bags, will further ensure the drugs are not diverted.
- Flush prescription drugs down the toilet only if the label or accompanying patient information specifically instructs doing so.
- If available, take advantage of community pharmaceutical take-back programs that allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central location for proper disposal.



**For more information on the proper disposal of pharmaceuticals:**

**Berks County Solid Waste Authority**

<http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/SWA/Pages/default.aspx>

**The Office of National Drug Control Website**

[http://whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/factsht/proper\\_disposal.html](http://whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/factsht/proper_disposal.html)

**The Smarxt Disposal Campaign**

<http://www.smarxtdisposal.net>