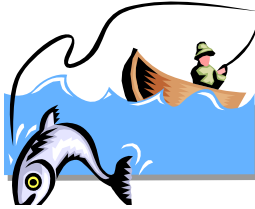


# What is a source water protection plan?

A source water protection plan is a management plan that addresses specific concerns and potential threats to the quality and quantity of the public water supply.

A hydrogeologic study was done to delineate the areas which impact the surface and underground water which contribute to the public water supply. Based on these delineations and potential sources of contamination within that area, a plan was developed with an emphasis on land use planning and public education.



# How do you benefit?

If you do not use Springtown’s public water supply, you may think that this plan does not apply to you. But that is not true.

The benefits of the source water protection program affect not only the customers of the public water supply but also the individual well owners within the protection zones. Because groundwater and surface waters are connected in one water cycle, all users within the watershed benefit from source water protection.



## To Learn More:

- Pennsylvania DEP [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us)
- Cooks Creek Watershed Assoc [www.cooks creekpa.org](http://www.cooks creekpa.org)
- Watershed Protection [www.epa.gov/owow/](http://www.epa.gov/owow/)
- Maintaining your septic system [www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/homeowner\\_guide\\_long\\_customize.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/homeowner_guide_long_customize.pdf)
- Groundwater and Karst [www.water.ky.gov/gw/gwtech/karst/](http://www.water.ky.gov/gw/gwtech/karst/)

# Other ways you can help

- Dispose of motor oil at a garage that recycles it, including Steve’s Garage on Route 611 in Reigelsville, Superior Auto on Main Street in Hellertown, and Britts Tire on Main Street in Hellertown.
- Pump out your septic system every two or three years. Look under “Septic Tanks” in the Yellow Pages to find a contractor.
- Bring household hazardous waste – such as paint, varnishes, pesticides and other chemicals to a hazardous waste collection event. Contact the Bucks County Planning Commission office of recycling at 215-345-3400 to find out when the next event is planned.
- Avoid using pesticides and herbicides on your lawn and garden.
- Do not dump swimming pool water into creeks at the end of the season. Wait until the chlorine diminishes (when algae starts to grow) and then direct pool water onto grass, forest, or other natural area.
- Call 911 or the Department of Environmental Protection at 484-250-5900 immediately if you observe a chemical, fuel or other spill.

## For More Information:

Contact Scott Douglas at 610-346-6700 Or attend a Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting held on the second Thursday each month at 7:30 pm in the Springfield Township building at 2320 Township Road, Quakertown, PA



Or attend a Lower Saucon Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting held on the first Tuesday each month at 7:00 pm in the Lower Saucon Township building at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA.

# Help Protect Your Drinking Water



Do you know where your drinking water comes from?

Do you want to help keep your water safe to drink?

Turning on the faucet and getting safe drinking water is something we take for granted, but shouldn’t.

That is why Springfield Township has developed a **Source Water Protection Plan** for Springtown.

## Do you know where your drinking water comes from?

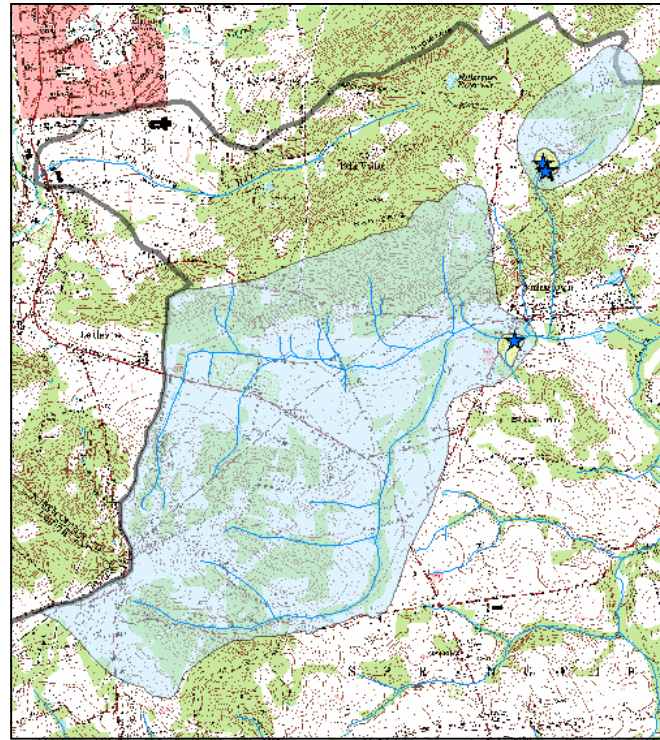
Springtown obtains its drinking water from wells and springs. But where does that water actually come from? When water seeps in from the surface and reaches the water table, it begins moving towards points where it can escape, such as wells, springs, rivers, or lakes.

A spring occurs when the water table meets the land surface, allowing groundwater to naturally flow out of the ground.

An aquifer is any type of geologic material, such as sand, sandstone or limestone that can supply water to wells or springs.

The groundwater, which supplies wells, often comes from within a short distance (a few miles) of the well. How fast groundwater moves depends on how much the well is pumped and what type of rock particles or bedrock it is moving through.

In areas with limestone (sometimes called *karst*), groundwater can move rapidly through dissolved channels in the rock. This rapid water movement makes limestone areas very sensitive to pollution.



This map depicts the areas included in the source water protection plan. As you can see a large area of land has been shown to directly contribute to the water supply. Can you locate your home?

## How can you help keep your water safe to drink?

Replace harsh household detergents and cleaners with natural products such as vinegar and baking soda.

Keep litter, pet wastes, leaves and debris out of street gutters and storm drains – these outlets drain directly to lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands.

Dispose of oil, antifreeze, paints and other household chemicals properly, not in storm sewers or drains. Remember: anything you throw or store on the ground can find its way into the groundwater. Store and handle chemicals properly.

Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease, and antifreeze. Do not hose them into the street or dump them on the ground where they can eventually reach local streams and lakes.

Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.

Participate in your local watershed cleanup events.

## Do you know what's in your water?



Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution is the leading cause of water quality problems. These pollutants have harmful effects on drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife.

NPS pollution results from a wide variety of human activities on the land. Each of us can contribute to the problem without even realizing it.

Unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, NPS pollution comes from many diffuse sources.

NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and even our underground sources of drinking water. These pollutants include:

- Excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides from agricultural lands and residential areas.
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban runoff and energy production.
- Sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands, and eroding stream banks.
- Salt from irrigation practices and acid drainage from abandoned mines.
- Bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes, and faulty septic systems.

