

March 2014

Septic Systems

A **septic system** is used for households, mainly in rural areas, that do not have access to a public sewer system to dispose of household wastewater.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 <i>World Water Day</i>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

True or False. Dispose of leftover motor oil down your laundry room tub drain.

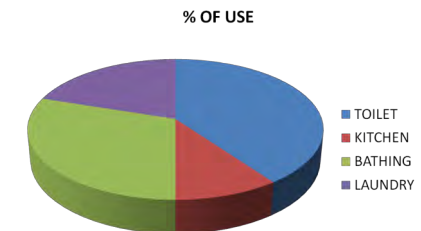
Household Wastewater

Wastewater comes from:

- Toilet Use
- Bathroom and Kitchen Use
- Laundry Use

It can contain:

- Human Waste
- Detergents
- Oils
- Chemicals
- Grease



It is important that the waste traveling through your septic systems is treated properly so local streams, rivers, and lakes are not polluted. This type of pollution can cause health problems for your family.



This joint compound was found on the banks of Neshannock Creek. During a flood event, the compound easily would have been under water.

Household wastes like chemicals used to control pests, paint, joint compound, cleaners, and motor oil can poison fish and insects living in streams. Animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or from drinking polluted water.

Disposal Methods

- Take Motor oil to a garage that will recycle.
- Bring these hard to recycle items to local waste collection events offered by your county recycling department.
- Follow product directions for proper storing methods.



HOW TO DIPOSE OF UNWANTED MEDICATION

CHECK YOUR LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE ANNUAL DRUG TAKE BACK DAY, USUALLY THE LAST SATURDAY OF APRIL.

IF A DISPOSAL EVENT IS NOT AVAILABLE:

1. Black out personal information and name of medication on the drug container.



2. Take prescription drugs out of their original containers.



3. Mix drugs with an undesirable substance such as cat litter, used coffee grounds, or dirt.



4. Put mixture into a sealable bag or a disposable container with a lid.



5. Place the sealed container with the mixture and the empty drug container in the trash.



April 2014

Household Hazardous Waste & Pharmaceutical Disposal

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 <i>Earth Day</i>	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

QUESTION OF THE MONTH: What is one type of undesirable substance that you can use to dispose of unwanted medicines?



The Problem

Unfortunately, septic systems, and wastewater treatment plants are not made to treat toxins or remove medications. Because of this, small amounts of chemicals from these toxins have been found in our waterways.

If the pollution from these materials becomes too toxic, signs, like the one below, will warn residents not to eat the locally caught fish.

There are no waterways within the Shenango River Watershed under a Fish Consumption Advisory issued by the PA Fish and Boat Commission.





Backyard gardening can range from a small patio herb garden to a large park, like Marti Park in New Wilmington. It is important to remember that if an area is not managed properly, runoff can transport non-point source pollution to the nearest stream.



BACKYARD BMPs



NEW WILMINGTON

Rainbarrels help reduce water pollution by reducing the amount of runoff leaving your yard. The rainbarrel, once installed, collects water from your roof and downspout that can then be recycled for use in your yard, whether watering your garden or washing your car. Either way, the rain water is now seeping into the ground slowly, rather than becoming stormwater runoff during a severe storm event.

May 2014

Backyard Gardening

When working in your backyard, it is important to limit the potential pollution that could leave your yard when it rains - for example, using too many chemicals to make your grass grow.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Follow the recommendations and if possible, use an organic product.
- Compost or mulch yard waste.
- Keep piles of dirt or mulch covered when landscaping to prevent rain events from washing materials away.
- Install a rainbarrel.



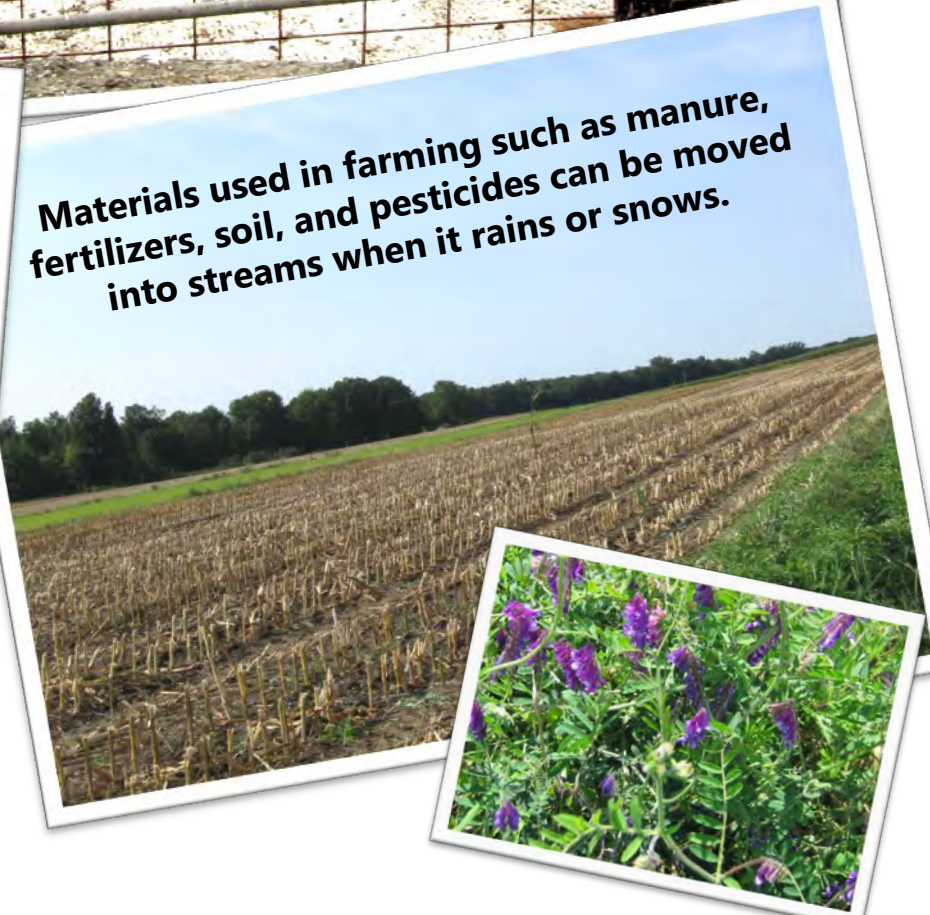
QUESTION OF THE MONTH: True or False. Grass clippings can act as non-point source pollution if they enter a storm drain or waterway.

Farmers can reduce erosion by 20 to 90 percent by applying management practices that control the volume and flow rate of runoff water, keep the soil in place, and reduce soil transport.

In the top picture, by fencing out the stream, the farmer could considerably limit both erosion pollution and manure pollution caused by animals walking through the stream.

In the picture to the far right, farmers can help reduce erosion by planting a cover crop such as hairy vetch.

In the picture to the near right, this stream could be fenced out of the pasture and a streamside buffer with small shrubs and trees could be created.



Materials used in farming such as manure, fertilizers, soil, and pesticides can be moved into streams when it rains or snows.