

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 Oil City is a series of groundwater wells along the Allegheny River. To further strengthen our source water protection efforts, Oil City has volunteered to participate in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program (SWPTAP).

Through SWPTAP, a source water protection plan has been developed for the Oil City water system. This plan will guide Oil City's source water protection efforts in the future. The plan is available for review in the City's Engineering Office. We invite all of our residents and neighbors to learn more about how to help in assisting our source water protection efforts.

More Ways to Help

Oil City 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

- Look for environmentally-friendly or biodegradable products whenever possible. Minimize the use of potential contaminants.
- 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 site.
- 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 during dry weather. 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, as directed on the product label.
- Call the Department of Environmental Protection at 814-332-6945 immediately if you observe a chemical spill.

CITIZEN GUIDE

Proper Disposal of Pharmaceuticals



Oil City Source Water Protection Program

This program is funded by the PA Department of Environmental Protection

For more information

City of Oil City Engineering Office
21 Seneca Street
Oil City, PA 16301
814/678-3020

A Message from Oil City



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 Oil City Engineering Office at 814/678-3020.



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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. Some communities have pharmaceutical take-back programs or community solid-waste programs that allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central location for proper disposal. Where these exist, they are a good way to dispose of unused pharmaceuticals.
- Contact your county recycling coordinator or waste management department to find out if any take-back programs are available in your area.



For more information on the proper disposal of pharmaceuticals:

The Office of National Drug Control Website
http://whitehousedurgpolicy.gov/drugfact/factsht/proper_disposal.html

The Smarxt Disposal Campaign
<http://www.smarxtdisposal.net>