

Preventing Non-Point Source Pollution

Pennsylvania waters are trashed by a sneak: Non-point source pollution (NPSP). NPSP comes from the waters running off the land after rain. This runoff picks up pollutants from many sources, like fertilizers, soil, manure from farms, soil and silt from construction sites, and oil and fertilizers from residential areas. Our yards and cities also contribute to NPSP. Check out the illustration below for possible problem areas around your home.

You Can Prevent Non-Point Source Pollution:

- ✓ Clean up after your pets.
- ✓ Recycle motor oil at official collection sites.
- ✓ Dispose of old paint and household chemicals properly.
- ✓ Use lawn fertilizers sparingly or not at all.

- ✓ Use fertilizers according to instructions. Don't over do it.
- ✓ Mow your grass to a height of three inches for a healthy lawn.
- ✓ Plant trees, shrubs and groundcover to prevent erosion.
- ✓ Save energy by turning off lights, TVs and video games when not in use.
- ✓ Use rechargeable batteries in your games and controllers. Recycle regular batteries.
- ✓ Join a local stream clean-up or watershed association. It's great community service!

For more information about NPSP, check out the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts at <http://pacd.org/resources/nps/goodneighbors.htm> and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and www.depweb.state.pa.us/watershedmgmt/site/default.asp.

