

Paragraph for posting on websites/cable channels:

Is *Your* Drinking Water Safe?

Contaminated water supplies can mean loss of water and very expensive costs for users of the public water system. The Dillsburg Area Authority has recently distributed brochures* to its water customers, informing about groundwater protection and water conservation, warning about possible consequences from not protecting our water, and giving you opportunity to ensure the quality of your own water.

Copies of the brochure titled “Is *Your* Drinking Water Safe?” are available at the Authority office, 98 W. Church St, Dillsburg. The brochure is designed to educate readers about where their water comes from, what contaminates drinking water, and how everyone can help to protect it.

Here’s a sampling:

Things you can do to help protect your water supply:

- Avoid pouring dangerous chemicals down the drain (including storm drains).
- Ensure that abandoned or deteriorated wells on your land are properly closed and sealed.
- Allow streamside vegetation to remain untouched and restore vegetation and unstable banks along degraded waterways.
- Never dispose of trash in creek areas.
- Install fences to exclude livestock from streams.
- Reduce or eliminate pesticide and herbicide application to lawns and gardens.
- Limit your use of fertilizers and control its runoff.

You can help conserve water:

- Check toilets and faucets for leaks; repair leaky plumbing fixtures.
- Replace older plumbing fixtures and appliances with those designed to save water.
- Conserve water by not using more than you need.
- Match the washing machine water level to the size of laundry load.
- Wash only full loads in an automatic dishwasher.
- Water plants during the coolest part of the day to lessen evaporation & maximize absorption into the soil.
- Wash your car only with a hose that has an automatic shutoff nozzle.
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways instead of hosing them down.
- Cover spas and swimming pools to prevent water loss.
- Read your meter to help detect leaks in household plumbing.

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