

KEEPING YOUR STREAMS AND CREEKS HEALTHY...

1. GET YOUR LAWN AND GARDEN OFF DRUGS!

- Limit the use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers — and avoid using chemicals entirely in wet weather.
- Pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers run off into creeks and streams. Fertilizers add excessive nutrients to natural waters that lead to algae bloom, bad odors from lack of oxygen, and fish kills. Pesticides and herbicides kill fish and their food sources.
- Consider using compost instead of fertilizer and natural means to control pests and plant disease.

2. FEED YOUR STREAM RIGHT

- Never pour oil, grease, detergent from car washing, gasoline, antifreeze, paint products, carpet-cleaning chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, or other toxic substances down street storm drains. Storm drains flow directly into creeks and streams. All of these substances are toxic to fish and other stream-dwelling organisms. Grease and oil coat fish gills, deplete the oxygen supply, and smother bottom-dwelling organisms.

3. DON'T PLUG YOUR ARTERIES

- Dispose of garbage at your curbside pickup or landfill — not in creeks or streams. Some people think of creeks as garbage dumps. Look in our streams, and you'll find shopping carts, mattresses, car parts, plastic, cans, Styrofoam, yard debris, and paper litter. Debris creates dams that cause flooding and erosion. Litter is mistaken by wildlife for food and can be toxic or cause starvation. Backed-up water is a breeding place for rodents and mosquitoes. If you need help removing or disposing of debris, contact your Borough, Township, or Chamber of Commerce, who can direct you to local volunteer organizations.

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For more information on stream health:

- <http://pa.lwv.org/wren/>
- <http://www.epa.gov/>
- <http://dep.state.pa.us/>



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