

Pipeline

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

www.wsscwater.com

Learn About Your Water

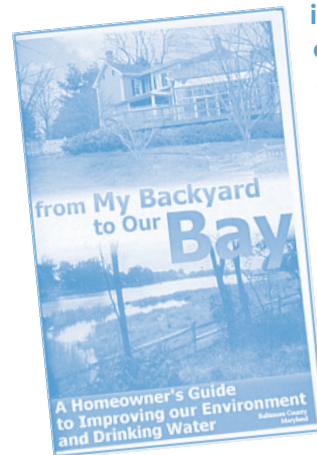
WSSC will distribute its Annual Water Quality Report to your front door this June through the Gazette (Montgomery and Prince George's county editions). Once again, in 2005, the water we produced met or exceeded all State and Federal Safe Drinking Water requirements. The Water Quality Report will arrive on Wednesday, June 7 and Thursday, June 8. To view the report online, please visit our website at www.wsscwater.com, or contact our Public Communications Office at 301-206-8100 / email: communications@wsscwater.com and we'll be happy to mail you a copy.



From My Backyard to Our Bay

"A Homeowner's Guide to Improving Our Environment and Drinking Water."

This is a brochure for suburban and rural homeowners in Maryland. It is available through the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District (BCSCD), Maryland Cooperative Extension and Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management. The Homeowner's Guide offers helpful tips on typical home and backyard problems, an overview of broader environmental issues and an introduction to agriculture in Maryland. Its message is that even a homeowner's backyard activities have an impact on drinking water supplies and the Chesapeake Bay. To view this brochure online, go to www.mascd.net/BCSCD or call Baltimore County Soil Conservation District at 410.666.1188 ext. 3 to request a copy.



Help the needy to receive life's most precious resource - water. Contribute to the WSSC Water Fund by rounding up your next water bill to the nearest dollar and donate the difference to the WSSC Water Fund. Every penny counts!

Spring Project Require Excavating? Call MISS Utility Before You Dig!

Landscaping or building on your property can be great, but before you start, make sure it's safe. And make sure anyone working for you knows it's safe. Remember, even do-it-yourselfers need to "dig it" safely and call Miss Utility at 1-800-257-7777 before you dig. If you don't call Miss Utility and hit an underground utility line, you may be liable for damages. Call 48 hours before you excavate. The service is free.



Check On Us!

Did you know that our water meters and remote reading devices are often located on your private property? When a WSSC employee comes to read your meter, check for the following:

- A visible WSSC photo identification badge; if not visible, request to see identification.
- WSSC uniform attire – blue uniforms or bright orange or light blue shirts with "WSSC" in plain view.



When we enter your property to obtain readings or to check our equipment, we want you to feel comfortable. *Check on us!*

The Facts on Mulch

Springtime is near, and soon many of you will be sprucing up your yard. Many of those yard projects will include applying mulch for decoration or plant health. Before you purchase and apply mulch, we would like to provide you with a few facts about mulch.

Why should I mulch?

- Adds a decorative look to your landscape.
- Reduces surface evaporation.
- Improves water penetration and air movement.
- Controls soil temperature fluctuations.
- Protects shallow-rooted plants from freeze damage.
- Improves soil structure and nutrient availability.
- Provides protection against heat.
- Retards weed growth.

How much mulch do I need?

The standard application rate is 1 cubic yard per 100 square feet.

There are several types of mulch - which one should I use?

There are basically two types of mulch: organic and inorganic.

- Organic mulch includes wood and bark chips, straw, grass clippings, and seed hulls.
- Inorganic mulch includes weed barrier fabrics, gravel and rock.
- If soil improvement is the goal, organic mulch may be the best choice.
- If the area is used primarily for flowers, it is often practical to use organic mulch that can be turned under in the fall.
- If appearance is the main goal, inorganic mulch may be the best choice.

Toxic Mulch Caution

- Toxic mulch known as "sour" mulch mainly occurs with hardwood bark mulches.
- This occurs when a mulch producer improperly composts mulch.
- Methane, alcohol, ammonia and hydrogen sulfide gases will build to toxic levels due to lack of oxygen and too much moisture.
- "Sour" mulch can kill your plants.
- "Recognize "sour" mulch by the vinegar or ammonia smell.

And The Winner Is...

WSSC's Small, Local Minority Business Enterprise (SLMBE) office received the coveted Public Sector Award from the Prince George's County Small Business Initiative. The award is presented to a public sector organization that demonstrates a genuine commitment to supporting minority and small businesses in Prince George's County with opportunities to help these businesses.

Cease the Grease

WSSC has an aggressive sewer maintenance enhancement program designed to protect health and the environment.

Whether you live in a single-family dwelling or a multi-unit dwelling such as an apartment/condominium, you can help us prevent sewer backups in your home or business by using the following tips.



- Don't ever put anything down the toilet except water and human waste.
- Don't ever flush feminine hygiene products no matter what the manufacturers say.
- Don't place fibrous foods in the garbage disposal such as: celery, broccoli, artichoke, whole corn husks, shrimp peels, and rice and pasta. To freshen up disposals use lemon and lime peels. Grinding ice helps blades stay sharp and clean.
- Do dispose of larger food items and table scraps in garbage cans.

Water Use It Wisely

Water Saving Tips

Outside

- Comply with your county's water restrictions, if any.
- Collect rainwater for later use.
- Keep grass 2-3 inches high. Longer grass blades reduce evaporation, which is helpful during the hot, dry months.
- Keep 1-3 inches of mulch around plants and shrubs. Mulch helps retain moisture and reduces the need for watering.
- Water your lawn early (if water restrictions allow). The sun evaporates water used during midday hours.
- Avoid watering in windy conditions.
- Wash cars with water from a bucket, or use a commercial car wash that recycles water.

