

*Prince William Soil and
Water Conservation District
(703) 594-3621*

Citizen's Action Directory for Water Quality In Prince William County



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS AND WHO TO CALL.

Printing of this directory is made possible by funds generated by the sale of Chesapeake Bay license plates.



Agriculture and Forestry

My neighbors and I have small acreage farms and/or own horses. Should we have agricultural conservation plans? As a landowner you understand the need to protect water quality and prevent soil erosion. Call the Soil and Water Conservation District to learn how you can protect the environment and possibly increase your bottom line. Call (703) 594-3621

Where can I get information about proper livestock manure management? Manure in runoff causes increased nitrogen in our local streams. The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District can advise you on ways to prevent this problem. Call (703) 594-3621

I have many types of wildlife on my property. What programs are available to improve wildlife habitat? The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District and the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service offer technical and financial assistance to create or enhance wildlife habitat. Call (703) 594-3621.

What is the best way (environmentally and economically) to provide drinking water for my livestock? The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District can advise what is best for your site and purpose. Call (703) 594-3621

I want to get livestock/horses. Who can help me prepare my property? The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District can help you. Call (703) 594-3621

Where can I get information on caring for horses? The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District can assist with pasture management problems and horse management questions. Call (703) 594-3621



I would like to plant trees on a previously cleared parcel. Who can advise me on reforestation, trees for soil stabilization, and forest management? Contact the Virginia Department of Forestry at (540) 347-6358

I store horse manure near the stream. During heavy rains it is flushed into the stream. Manure is natural, so it's ok for it to go into the stream, right? No. Manure contains bacteria and nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Nutrients cause overgrowth of aquatic plants, which eventually die. During plant decomposition the oxygen in the water is depleted. Excess nutrients cause algae blooms, fish kills, and deteriorating aquatic habitats. Call the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District for guidance on manure storage. (703) 594-3621

Water, Well, and Septic



I own property in the rural area of Prince William County and want to know how I can help protect local streams, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay?

A conservation specialist at the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District can give you advice specific to your site. Call (703) 594-3621

I can't find the phone number for the water company. County residents call Prince William County Service Authority at (703) 335-7900. Manassas City residents call (703) 257-8381.

How often should a septic system be pumped and who can I call if it does not seem to be working properly?

Have your system pumped at least every 3 to 5 years by a qualified contractor. For more information contact the Prince William Department of Health, Environmental Health Office at (703) 792-6310.



The stream running through my property has scum and bubbles on the surface of the water as well as a bad odor. Who can I notify? Contact the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Water Division, at (703) 583-3800.

I noticed a septic system that is overflowing. What can I do? Contact the Prince William Department of Health, Environmental Health Office at 792-6310.

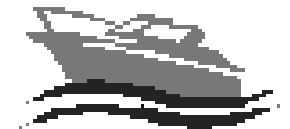
I noticed a large number of dead fish on the shore and in the water. Who do I report this to? Contact the VA Department of Environmental Quality at (703) 583-3800.

People are dumping in an abandoned water well in my neighborhood. Where can I report this? Contact the Prince William Department of Health, Environmental Health Office at (703) 792-6310.

My pond is choked with algae and all the fish are dying. What can I do? You can get information on this problem from the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District at (703) 594-3621.

I just purchased a home. Who can I contact to find out the output and depth of my well? If the well has been dug within the last 15 years the Prince William County Department of Health, Environmental Health Office may have records on your well. Call (703) 792-6310

Where can I find a pump-out station for my boat? You can use the pump-out station on the Potomac River at Leesylvania State Park Marina – free self service. Call (703) 670-0372



Protect your environment. Use only what you need, and reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Lawn Care and Landscaping

Where can I find information about environmentally responsible lawn and yard care? Call Virginia Cooperative Extension's Water Quality/Horticulture Helpline, (703) 792-7747, and speak with a trained Master Gardener volunteer.



Where can I call for information on composting? Call Virginia Cooperative Extension's Water Quality/Horticulture Helpline at (703) 792-7747 and ask about the composting programs.

I have heard that testing the soil before applying fertilizer is a good idea. How do I get my soil tested? A soil test kit is available from Virginia Cooperative Extension, (703) 792-6285. After collecting a small sample, mail the kit with a nominal fee enclosed to Virginia Tech for analysis and recommendations. A report will be sent to you in the mail.

I am concerned that fertilizer and pesticide-laden runoff from neighborhood yards is contaminating our local stream. What can I do to educate my neighbors? Call Virginia Cooperative Extension at (703) 792-6285 to find out more about the Water-wise Gardener Program and how it can help communities educate citizens to reduce such impacts to area waterways.

Composted horse manure is an excellent source of nutrients for my garden. Where can I find a local source? The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors an Urban Soil Enhancement (USE) Manure program. Call the Conservation District at (703) 594-3621 for a list of local horse owners with extra manure.

Do your part to make cleaner waters and greener pastures in Prince William County

Hazardous Waste and Spills

There is an old, leaky fuel tank in the ground on my property and I would like to remove it. What can I do? Contact Public Works, Mechanical Inspections at (703) 792-7054 for permits and inspections. Property owners are responsible for clean-up and proper disposal of all hazardous materials in accordance with applicable regulations.

I have several containers of old paint, pesticides, and household chemicals in my garage that I would like to dispose of. Where can I take them? The county landfill accepts hazardous waste on the third Saturday of each month from March to November. Call the Office of Recycling at (703) 792-4670.

Who do I call if I find abandoned barrels or drums on my property? Contact the Department of Fire and Rescue, Office of Disaster Preparedness, at (703) 792-6805. Property owners are responsible for proper disposal of all hazardous materials.



Recycling, Litter, & Solid Waste

Where can I get assistance with litter prevention and community clean up? The Prince William Clean Community Council sponsors community clean-up days throughout the county. Call (703) 792-6272

If I see litter thrown from a car or falling from the back of a truck, what should I do? Inquire about the Report-A-Vehicle Program at the Prince William Clean Community Council, (703)792-6272.

How can I find out what items are recyclable and where to take them? Call Public Works, Solid Waste, Office of Recycling at (703) 792-4670.

I like to service my own car. Where can I take my used oil and antifreeze for recycling? Oil and antifreeze can be recycled at the county landfill during normal business hours. For more information call Public Works, Solid Waste, Office of Recycling at (703) 792-4670.

My scout troop would like to do a community service project to help the environment. Who can I call? The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District is the local contact for Adopt-A-Stream, a stream cleanup program. Call (703) 594-3621. The Virginia Dept of Transportation and the Prince William Clean Community Council also sponsor litter clean-up programs.



Water quality preservation is everyone's responsibility.

Public Roads & Facilities

Who do I call when I see soil all over the road after a storm? Contact Prince William Department of Public Works, Environmental Services at (703) 792-7070.

There is debris and mud blocking a drain pipe in the ditch next to my property. Who has to clean it out? For drain pipes and storm drains on state roads only, call Virginia Department of Transportation at (703) 361-2151. For pipes and storm drains in townhouse and apartment developments only, call Public Works, Environmental Services at (703) 792-6666.

There are large pieces of debris blocking the road. Who do I call? Contact the Virginia Department of Transportation at (703) 361-2151.

A truck spilled some sort of liquid on the road and it is running into the sewer. Who do I call locally to report the spill? To report oil or chemical spills call 911. Trained personnel will assess the spill and notify the appropriate agencies for cleanup.



Soil and Erosion

A stream bank on my property is washing away. Who can give me advice on stabilizing the bank? Rural landowners can call the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District at (703) 594-3621. Residential landowners can call Virginia Cooperative Extension, Master Gardener volunteers at (703) 792-7747.

A swimming pool owner is draining his pool and causing soil to wash away. What can I do? The Department of Public Works, Code Enforcement Branch at (703) 792-6930 can determine if the pool owner is in violation of code.

The black silt fence around a building site near my house has fallen down. Where can I report this? For all problems call PWC Department of Public Works, Code Enforcement at (703) 792-6930.

Who do I call to report drainage of wetlands? Call the Army Corps of Engineers at (703) 221-6967 or PWC Department of Public Works at (703) 792-7070.

How do I find out if I have wetlands on my property? Contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Call (703) 594-3621 for an appointment.

Protect your environment. Report water quality and erosion problems.

Volunteer to Improve Water Quality



Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District
(703) 594-3621 FAX (703) 594-2998
www.pswcd.org

E-mail: pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org
Environmental Education Aids
Agricultural Best Management Practices Program
for farmers and horse owners
Adopt-A-Stream

Prince William County Department of Public Works
(703) 792-7070 www.pwcgov.org
Adopt-A-Stormwater Pond,
Stream Bank Restoration projects

Prince William Clean Community Council
(703) 792-6272
www.pwcleancouncil.org
Adopt-A-Spot, Enviroshopping,
Community Clean-ups



Virginia Cooperative Extension
(703)792-6285 www.ext.vt.edu
Master Gardner & Water-wise Gardner Programs

Audubon Naturalist Society
(703) 803-8400
www.audubonnaturalist.org/webbsanc.htm
volunteer@audubonnaturalist.org
Biological Stream Monitor Training

Virginia Department of Transportation
(703) 361-2151 www.vdot.state.va.us
Adopt-A-Highway

More Environmental Agencies

Prince William Department of Health
Environmental Health Office
(703) 792-6310 www.pwcgov.org/health

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality,
Water Division (703) 583-3800
www.deq.state.va.us