

## “Did You Know”

### Facts from Bernards Township Environmental Commission

#### DID YOU KNOW?

##### LAWN PESTICIDES

- Lawn pesticides are the ONLY man-made toxic chemicals deliberately spread over large areas.
- Most pesticides are a product of World War II boom, based on chemical warfare. MANY were based on Nazi research for nerve gas.
- A National Cancer Institute study in the U.S. indicates that children are SIX TIMES more likely to get childhood leukemia when pesticides are used in the home and garden.
- Dogs from homes with lawns that have been sprayed with pesticides have a higher than average rate of the canine equivalent of lymphoma. Cancer is the #1 cause of death in dogs.

##### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- For every “pest” problem, there is a non-chemical alternative. Go Organic or use these products sparingly.
- Organize your neighborhood and declare your block a “Pesticide Free Zone”
- Visit [www.bernards.org](http://www.bernards.org) (Environmental Commission > Organic Lawn Care) for more information

##### CLEAN WATER

- Bernards Township storm water, resulting from rain and snow is a source that feeds into the Passaic and Raritan River Watershed.
- The health of our state's water resources is essential to our quality of life in New Jersey.

##### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Runoff can be kept clean by avoiding use of pesticides, disposing of hazardous substances properly, preventing chemicals, including pool discharge and sump pumps from draining into the street, gutter or storm drain.
- Use lawn fertilizer sparingly and sweep walkways clear of any spread chemicals.
- Wash your car at a car wash, not in your driveway.

- Use a pooper scooper if you have a pet.
- Plant trees and keep mature trees. Use native plant species.
- Do not litter!

## RECYCLE

- The most popular new light —the curlique, compact fluorescent light bulb, or CFL, each contain up to 5 milligrams of mercury .
- U.S. landfills release upward of 4 tons of mercury into the atmosphere and storm water runoff every year.
- New Jersey does not mandate recycling these fluorescent light bulbs.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- You can recycle/turn in these bulbs at Home Depot, Lowes and some Walmarts or Somerset County's Household Hazardous Waste collection days.

## LOCAL WILDLIFE

- Bernards Township is home to five endangered or threatened species?
- These include the Bog Turtle, Wood Turtle, Barred Owl, Red Shouldered Hawk and Blue Spotted Salamander

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Keep our environment (23 square miles!) pure.

## INDOOR AIR QUALITY

- Indoor pollution comes from sources that release gases or particles into the air generally from within homes. Inadequate ventilation can increase indoor pollutant levels by not bringing in enough outdoor air to dilute emissions from indoor sources and by not carrying indoor air pollutants out of the home. High temperature and humidity levels can also increase concentrations of some pollutants.
- There are many sources of indoor air pollution in any home including:
  - Combustion sources such as oil, gas, wood, and tobacco products

- Building materials, paints, furnishings, carpet, and cabinetry or furniture made of certain pressed wood products
- Products for household cleaning and maintenance, personal care, or hobbies
- Poorly maintained heating and cooling systems, and humidification devices
- Outdoor sources such as radon, pesticides, and outdoor air pollution which gets inside.
- In schools, poor indoor air quality can impact the health of students and staff, which, in turn, can affect concentration, attendance, and student performance.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Check out <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/> and <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/>
- Choose zero VOC paints.
- Choose green cleaners.

### **For more information:**

See [www.bernards.org](http://www.bernards.org) (Environmental Commission)

**Please stop by our booth on Charter Day!**