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of
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

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fact sheet

How can I protect drinking water sources?

How Residents Can Protect Drinking Water



Household Hazardous Waste

- ✓ Participate in Household Hazardous Waste Collection days or centers for used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other chemical disposal.
- ✓ Substitute less hazardous substances for products used in the home. See <http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/househol.htm>



Septic systems

- ✓ Never dispose of household hazardous waste to your septic system.
- ✓ Prevent failed septic systems by locating system components, maintaining, and inspecting your system regularly. See also <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/wastewater/septicsy.htm>



Underground and Aboveground Storage Tanks

- ✓ Upgrade fuel oil tanks to include proper containment and safety measures. Consult with the fire department before making changes, as any changes must comply with plumbing, building, and fire codes.
- ✓ Catch costly leaks by inspecting fuel lines and keeping a fuel log.



Car Care

- ✓ Check your car for oil leaks, and repair leaks quickly.
- ✓ Dispose of waste oil properly, never in drains or on the ground. Recycle oil at a car care center or hazardous waste center. See <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/usedoil/> and <http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/compliance/factguid.htm>



Lawn Care and Landscaping

- Apply pesticides and fertilizers minimally and properly. More information on environmentally sound lawn care is available at <http://www.mass.gov/agr/waterwellbeing/> and <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/compliance/camps.htm#fact>



Pet Waste

- ✓ Don't walk your pet near wells or reservoirs. Encourage the creation of pet waste stations for waste disposal in parks.
- ✓ Practice proper pet waste disposal, picking up after your pet and preferably flushing waste, or disposing of waste in the garbage.
- ✓

Do you already do all of this and want to do more to protect your drinking water?
Contact your local water supplier to volunteer.