

CLEAN DRINKING WATER IS UP TO YOU!

Where does my drinking water come from? Your drinking water comes from groundwater. Groundwater is the water that flows through the spaces between soil particles and through fractures in rock. It comes from rain and snowmelt percolating through the ground.

Why should I be concerned? Contaminants (such as pathogens, oils, and toxic chemical compounds) can reach your water supply through direct discharges above and below the land surface and through storm water leachate and runoff.

DO	DON'T
Use non-toxic and less-toxic alternatives to household chemicals.	<i>Don't</i> buy more hazardous chemicals than you need.
Follow package directions on pesticides, fertilizers, and other household chemicals. Take leftover household chemicals to your community's household hazardous waste center.	<i>Don't</i> over-use household chemicals. More is <i>not</i> better. <i>Don't</i> use pesticides, fertilizers or herbicides near the well.
Inspect your heating tank <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check your heating oil tank frequently for leaks • Remove a deteriorating underground storage tank (UST) • Replace USTs with above-ground storage that has secondary containment and a cover over it 	<i>Don't</i> dispose of hazardous chemicals by pouring them down household drains, into the storm drain, or onto the ground. <i>Don't</i> locate new fuel storage tanks in the Zone I.
	<i>Don't</i> have your tank removed by a contractor who is not familiar with state guidelines for UST removal.
Take care of your septic system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep records of septic system maintenance • Inspect septic tank every year. • Have tank pumped every 2-3 years • Avoid damage to your leach field and distribution lines by keeping vehicles, livestock, and other heavy objects off the leach field 	<i>Don't</i> overload your septic system with solids by using a garbage grinder <i>Don't</i> pour grease or cooking oil down the drain; it will clog the soil and leaching system. <i>Don't</i> pour chemicals down the sink or toilet. <i>Don't</i> use septic system cleaners or additives.