
For More Information

For information on the use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes, please contact:

DEP Division of Hazardous Waste
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 292-5853

For information on service station areas with floor drains, contact:

DEP Underground Injection Control Program
Division of Water Supply
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 556-1165 or 292-5859

For information on underground storage tanks containing fuel oil, contact your local fire chief or:

Department of Public Safety UST Program
One Ashburton Place, Room 1310
Boston, MA 02108-1618
(617) 727-3200 ext. 645

Prepared by the Massachusetts
Department of Environmental
Protection, Division of Water
Supply, One Winter Street,
Boston, MA 02108. Revised June
1996. Printed on recycled paper.



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Supply
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

Do's and Dont's...

Tips for Protecting Your Drinking Water Supply



The Commonwealth of
Massachusetts

Executive Office of
Environmental Affairs

Department of
Environmental Protection

Division of Water Supply

Following these simple instructions will keep your drinking water clean and safe to drink.

Septic Systems

- ✗ DO NOT use commercial septic tank cleaners.
- ✗ DO NOT pour hazardous materials such as paint, paint thinner, solvents, industrial cleaners, disinfectants, pesticides, or waste oil down toilets or sinks.
- ✗ DO NOT pour grease or cooking oil down the drain. It will clog the soil and leaching system.
- ✗ DO NOT overload your system with food waste from the garbage disposal.
- ✗ DO NOT dispose of nonbiodegradable objects such as disposable diapers down the toilet. They do not decompose.
- ✗ DO NOT use chlorine bleach.
- ✓ DO pump out the septic tank every two or three years.
- ✓ DO keep records of septic system maintenance.

- ✓ DO be alert to signs of a failing system such as the presence of wet areas above the leaching field and backing up of wastewater following periods of heavy water use.

Hazardous Materials/Wastes Storage & Use

- ✗ DO NOT dispose of hazardous materials or wastes such as solvents, degreasers, waste oil, commercial cleaners, pesticides, paint thinner, or radiator fluid by pouring them down a floordrain, sink, or toilet.
- ✗ DO NOT dispose of such materials or wastes by pouring them on or burying them in the ground or by pouring them down storm drains.
- ✗ DO NOT use pesticides or herbicides near the well. Minimize the use of fertilizers near the well.
- ✗ DO NOT park cars near the well or next to storm drains that empty to a dry well.
- ✓ DO dispose of toxic and hazardous materials or waste properly. For

household hazardous waste, contact your community for information on collection days.

- ✓ DO practice good “housekeeping” in automobile/shop maintenance areas. Pick up spills with absorbent material and dispose of properly.
- ✓ DO conduct regular employee training sessions on “best management practices” for handling and disposing of toxic or hazardous materials or washes.

Fuel Storage Tanks

- ✗ DO NOT locate new fuel storage tanks in the recharge area of the well. Existing above-ground storage tanks should have containment structures and be protected from the weather. Existing underground storage tanks should be regularly tested and carefully monitored for leaks.
 - ✓ DO check with your local fire marshal for regulations pertaining to testing leak detection devices and other requirements for fuel storage tanks.
 - ✓ DO remove deteriorating fuel storage tanks.
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