A Message from the Department of Environmental Quality's Drinking Water Protection Team

How to Protect Your Drinking Water in the Home

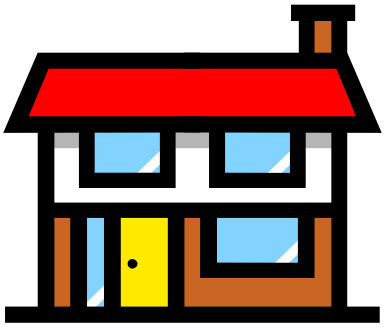
Listed below are some simple steps you can use in your home to protect your drinking water everyday:

- Dispose of wastes properly. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to treat harmful chemicals such as paint, oil, solvents, and pesticides. Therefore, it is important not to dump these substances down the drain, toilet, or sewer. Landfills also can not handle these substances so do not put them in the trash. You can dispose of these substances at your local household hazardous materials collection day.

- Limit use of hazardous products in the home. These products include oven cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, bleaches, paints, furniture cleaner, carpet cleaner, and glue, among others. Share what you do not use with churches, schools, or neighbors instead of disposing of it. Use non-hazardous products when possible. You can find "environmentally friendly" products or make your own cleaning solutions. **Recipe for all-purpose cleaner:** 1 gallon hot water, 1/4 cup household ammonia, 1/4 cup vinegar, 1 tablespoon baking soda.

- Use pesticides and fertilizers in moderation. Instead of using chemicals, consider pulling weeds or infected leaves by hand or using some type of biological control such as ladybugs.

- Avoid spilling or pouring automotive wastes such as oil or gas on the ground during maintenance. After changing oil, dispose of it at a local oil recycling center.



"Protect Your Water One Drop At A Time"

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