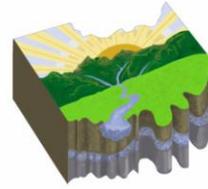


## National Ground Water Awareness Week



*Protecting*  
Ohio's Drinking  
Water Sources

**March 7-13, 2010**

Did you know nearly ninety percent of communities in Ohio use ground water as their source of drinking water? Yet only about fifteen percent of those communities have voluntarily developed a plan to protect the quality of their source of drinking water. Is yours one of those communities?

While most ground water resources are naturally protected, contamination does occasionally occur and a contaminated aquifer is extremely difficult and expensive to clean up. And while major chemical spills from trains and trucks passing through well fields are always a concern, the most common ground water contamination situations typically are related to ongoing activities in the area surrounding the local well fields. Such activities include applying fertilizers and pesticides, leaching from sewer lines and septic systems, leaking chemical storage tanks, discharge from old waste management facilities, and poorly managed sludge or manure. Taking some time now to address the threats posed by potential contaminant sources makes good economic sense, and is an investment in your community's drinking water resources.



Ohio EPA's Source Water Protection Program provides assistance to local community officials developing plans to protect ground water resources for the area surrounding the wells. The program helps communities identify potential sources of contamination and develop local strategies to ensure a long-term sustainable ground water resource.

How can you help?

- Ask your water supplier if you can assist in development/implementation of a source water protection plan for your community.
- Learn more about your water system; review your annual consumer confidence water quality report.
- Be a good steward of the land; do not over apply fertilizers and pesticides.
- Maintain your septic system.

- Properly dispose of household chemicals and paints.
- Properly dispose of expired pharmaceutical drugs – do not flush them down the drain.

For more information on Ohio EPA's Source Water Protection Program and a list of communities that have developed a source water protection plan, visit the [Source Water Protection](#) web site.

Additional National Ground Water Awareness Week information:

[Ohio Department of Natural Resources](#)

[U. S. EPA Office of Water](#)

[National Ground Water Association](#)