

The Water Source

WELLHEAD PROTECTION

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT NO. 3

What is Wellhead Protection?

Wellhead Protection is a way to prevent drinking water from becoming polluted by managing potential sources of contamination in the area which supplies water to a public well. Much can be done to prevent pollution, such as the wise use of chemicals. Public health is protected and the expense of treating polluted water or drilling new wells is avoided through wellhead protection efforts.



Wellhead Protection Plan

A Wellhead Protection Plan is information that can help identify possible risks that could jeopardize drinking water and the environment. The purpose of a Wellhead Protection Plan is to educate and protect.

Who Should Participate on a Wellhead Protection Team?

Individuals volunteering to serve on a wellhead protection team should have an interest in protecting the ground-water resources. Ideally, a group of local citizens representing different interests regarding drinking water would provide us with valuable input in the development and implementation of a successful wellhead protection plan.

This team might consist of:

- PWSD #3 Staff
- Business Owners
- Land Owners
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Emergency Response Personnel
- Any Concerned Citizen

The more the community is involved, the more effective the plan will be.

What You Can Do to Help?

"If you want it done right, do it yourself". This old saying applies to protecting your community water supply. The best way to help protect your water supply is to do it yourself through local community involvement. Becoming a member of your local Public Water Supplies Wellhead Protection team enables you to protect the ground water you, your family, and your neighbors drink. Wellhead protection is designed to protect the area nearest the Drinking water supply wells from potential hazards. Contamination in this wellhead area could affect your water supply years in the future.

PWSD #3 is putting together a Wellhead Protection Committee. If anyone is interested in becoming part of a committee to protect our Public Drinking Water please inquire at our office.

Why Have a Wellhead Protection Team?

The development of a wellhead protection plan for a water system involves assembling information from numerous sources and using that information to make decisions pertaining to land uses in the wellhead protection area. For this reason, it is beneficial to include a wide variety of people with various experiences and knowledge to participate on a local wellhead protection planning team.

A planning team can help:

- assemble information;
- locate information about other wells in the area;
- provide information and input when determining the boundaries of the wellhead protection area;
- locate contaminant sources within the wellhead protection area;
- develop goals, objectives, and management strategies for the contaminants of concern.



Help Protect Wellhead Areas

Even if you do not live in or near a wellhead protection area it is important to take steps to protect groundwater. What you do today can affect local water quality tomorrow. These are some of the things you can do to protect your groundwater from contamination:

1. **Conserve water.** Not only is conserving water helpful to maintaining a constant supply of drinking water, too little water in a source can mean contaminants are more concentrated and, therefore, may be above acceptable levels.
2. **Recycle.** Recycling paper products, glass, metals and plastics cuts down on pollution and also reduces the amount of water we use. Manufacturing recycled paper uses 58% less water than making paper from virgin wood pulp. Making glass from recycled materials cuts related air pollution 20% and water pollution 50%.
3. **Dispose of hazardous waste properly.** Take unused paints, cleaners, pesticides, and medical prescriptions to your local hazardous waste facility. Take used engine oil to recycling facilities. Use drop cloths or tarps when working with hazardous materials such as paints, driveway sealers or wood stain to prevent spills from leaking into the ground. If a spill occurs, clean it up with an absorbent material such as kitty litter or sawdust and scoop the contaminant into a container.
4. **Use non-toxic products.** Remember that what you use in your house goes back down your drain.
5. **Clean up pet waste** which contains nutrients and pathogens that can run into storm sewers during a rain storm.
6. **Prevent pollutants from entering into runoff** by reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides, fertilizers, sidewalk salts and by not over-watering your lawn. If you run an agricultural operation and haven't already, consider developing and implementing a Nutrient Management Plan.
7. **Take care when refueling gas tanks** for cars, lawn mowers, chainsaws, weed trimmers, tractors or other machinery to avoid spilling fuel on the ground. Also take care when changing engine oil. One liter of gas or oil can contaminate a million liters of groundwater.
8. **Take your car to commercial car washes** designed to prevent pollutant runoff from entering storm sewers. Use commercial car washes that use water efficient sprays, reducing their water consumption.

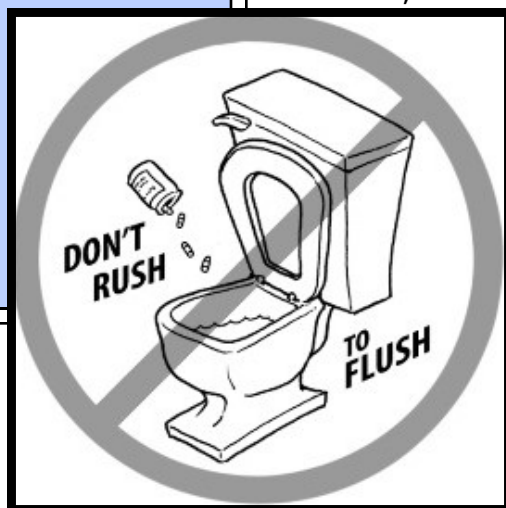
Potential Sources of Contamination

Pollutants from a variety of activities on the land can seep into the ground and move toward a well. Examples of activities that could negatively affect groundwater if not managed properly include:

- Chemical storage
- Spreading of sewage treatment sludge
- Storage and spreading of road salt
- Animal feedlots
- Use and spilling of fertilizers and pesticides
- Accidental spills of hazardous materials
- Septic systems
- Underground storage tanks
- Underground pipelines or sewers
- Landfills
- Private and abandoned wells

Dumping Products may be Contaminating Public Drinking Water

The earth's water is continuously recycled as it moves through the water cycle. It's important to keep it clean because the water we use today will someday be used by someone else. Wastewater treatment plants protect water quality by removing harmful pollutants before returning water to the environment, but the treatment process isn't designed to remove everything. Flushing things down the toilet, especially chemicals, could be harmful and eventually end up in the water supply. You can help protect water quality by knowing what *not* to flush, and using environmentally friendly alternatives for household cleaning. Below is a list of common household items that should never be disposed of down the drain or in the toilet.



What Not to Flush

- Medication
- Paint and paint thinners, strippers, and removers
- Oven Cleaner
- Grease and rust remover
- Mold and mildew remover
- Glue
- Fertilizer, pesticides, and insect killer
- Cooking oil and grease

Proper Disposal Methods

Remove the medicine from its original packaging and mix with coffee grounds or kitty litter in an empty can or plastic bag, then throw it in the trash. Flushing non-human waste down the toilet wastes water. Every time you flush the toilet, it wastes about three gallons of water.

You may be able to safely dispose of unused or expired medications by taking advantage of take-back programs in your area. Use the pharmacy locator to find a participating community pharmacy near you. www.disposemy meds.org

Johnson County Household Hazardous Waste Clean Up Day

Disposing of household hazardous waste can be done by participating in the Johnson County Household Hazardous Waste Clean up Day. This 1 day usually occurs the last Saturday in September or first Saturday in October. On this day residents are allowed to dispose of hazardous materials that are not accepted by regular disposal companies or landfills. Products are to be taken to the Johnson County Fair Grounds. For more information please contact our office.

**Public Water Supply
District No. 3 is now
online. Please visit our
website at pwsd3.com
and let us know what
you think.**

Just a Reminder

Public Water Supply District No. 3 provides after-hours, emergency-only service. When calling the office (660-429-2494) during after hours, a phone message will give you emergency numbers. Please call one of these numbers and leave a message that includes your name, telephone number, service address, account number, and a brief description of your problem. A service technician will return your call as soon as possible. Please do not call the emergency numbers for billing inquiries.

For billing questions please call during business hours of 8:30am—4:00pm.