

Do's and Don'ts to protect your drinking water

DO use non-toxic and less-toxic alternatives to pesticides and household chemicals.

DO take leftover household chemicals to your town's household hazardous waste collection day.

DO test soil every two years to determine existing nutrient levels and pH before applying fertilizers.

DO use slow or controlled release nitrogen sources of fertilizer.

Keep these Household Hazardous Wastes Out of your Drinking Water

Automotive fluids, auto batteries, used motor oil, paint, paint thinner, other solvents, pesticides, and cleaning products

DO follow package directions on pesticides, fertilizers, and other household chemicals.

DO check your underground fuel storage tank (UST) frequently for leaks. Have an UST removed if it is more than 20 years old. Replace it with an aboveground storage tank that has a concrete slab underneath it, a cover and secondary containment.

DO take care of your septic system. Inspect the septic tank every year and have it pumped out every 3-5 years.

DO avoid damage to your leachfield and distribution lines by keeping vehicles, livestock, and other heavy objects off of it.

DO measure the area of your lawn to be fertilized to determine how much to use.

DO calibrate or adjust spreader settings to match the recommended rate for fertilizers.

DO use drip pans large enough to contain motor vehicle or power equipment fluids being replaced or drained.

DO fully drain oil over a drip pan or pail before disposal. Most solid waste transfer stations accept used oil filters for recycling. Store and transport used oil filters in a covered leak-proof container until disposal.

DO keep absorbent materials such as rags, pads, speedee-dri, kitty litter, or other clay-based products handy to the work area and clean up all spills as soon as they occur. Dispose of all used absorbents immediately in a leak-proof container.

DO refuel or repair engines over an impervious surface such as a concrete floor or tarp.

DO drain all fluids from motor vehicle parts before removing them from the vehicle.

DON'T buy more pesticides or hazardous chemicals than you need.

DON'T dispose of hazardous chemicals by pouring them down the drain or onto the ground.

DON'T over-use pesticides or household chemicals. More is not necessarily better.

DON'T have your UST removed by a contractor who is not familiar with state guidelines for UST removal.

DON'T overload your septic system with solids by using a garbage disposal, unless the system is specifically designed for one.

DON'T pour chemicals down the sink or toilet.

DON'T use septic system cleaners or additives containing acids or chemical solvents such as trichloroethylene (TCE).

DON'T use fertilizers if heavy rains are anticipated as the nutrients will be flushed from the lawn into drains and low areas.

DON'T apply fertilizers within 10 feet of culverts, drainage ditches, wells, roadways, and walks, or 25 feet of most lakes and streams as required by the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act, RSA 483 B:9.

Reduce - Reuse - Recycle

For more information about what you can do, please contact the Drinking Water Source Protection Program at (603) 271-7061 or visit our website at www.des.nh.gov/dwspp.