

# What YOU Can Do to Protect Your Source of Drinking Water

## Spill Prevention and Containment

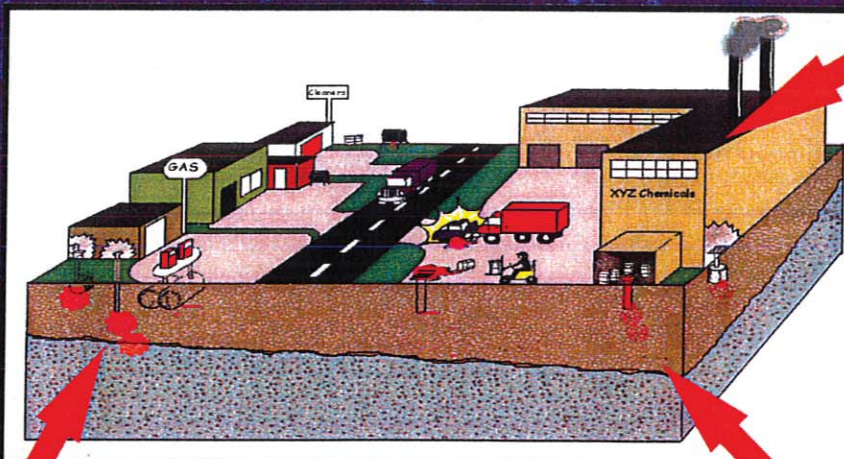
DO

- Provide impermeable 'Secondary Containment' structures for aboveground chemical and fuel storage tanks.
- Ensure that underground tanks are meeting standards set by Ohio's Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (614) 752-7938. In a Source Water Protection Area, underground tanks must be double-walled or have other forms of leak detection and prevention. Noncomplying tanks must be removed.
- Provide berms around chemical or fuel loading and unloading areas to help contain any leaks or spills.
- Provide storage areas for chemical drums that are roofed, set on an impermeable concrete floor without floor drains, and securely locked.
- Install systems to prevent overfilling of tanks, such as feed cut-off systems and by-pass systems to stand-by tanks.

## Contingency Planning

DO

- Have a contingency plan for accidents (fire, flood, explosion, collision, etc.) that may result in chemical spills.
- Notify the public water supply operator of any serious spills that may have



## Employee Training

DO Train employees to:

- Store and transport chemicals properly.
- Respond to spills quickly and correctly.
- Monitor chemical inventory.

## Plumbing/Septic Systems

DO

- Have your septic tank inspected annually and cleaned every five years.

**DON'T**

- X Pour chemicals down ANY drain leading to a septic tank.

## Drains

**DON'T**

- X Pour chemicals down drains that empty directly into the ground. Such drains may be illegal and should be sealed properly.

## Technology and Process Changes

DO

- Change process parameters, equipment or the process itself to reduce the amount of waste generated.
- Redesign or reformulate end products to be less hazardous.
- Reduce raw materials used in processes.
- Contact Ohio EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention (614) 644-3469 for FREE Pollution Prevention Technical Assistance.

For More Information about Source Water Protection, call:

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency/Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (614) 644-2752

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## Yard Maintenance

### DO

- Apply chemicals only as directed. More is not always better!
- Cultivate plants which discourage pests. This reduces pesticide usage.
- Leave lawn clippings on lawn or compost them.
- Pull weeds by hand.
- Clean up after pets.

### DON'T

- X Overapply fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides.
- X Use gas powered leaf blowers or weed wackers.



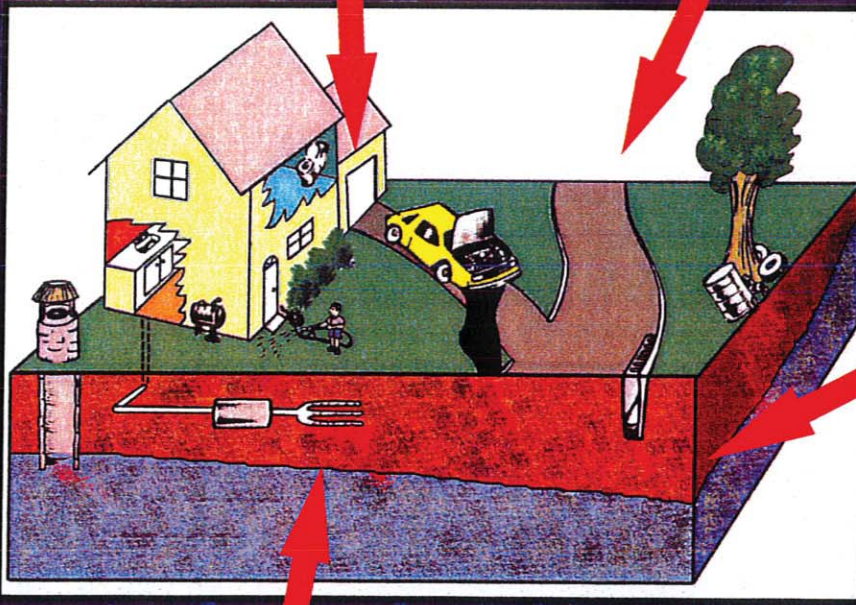
## Automotive

### DO

- Recycle used oil & antifreeze at service stations.
- Have automotive fluid leaks fixed.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Drive only when necessary.

### DON'T

- X Pour used oil, antifreeze, or other chemicals on the ground or down a storm drain.



## Storm Drains

### DO

- Take unwanted chemicals to hazardous waste collection sites.

### DON'T

- X Pour chemicals into storm drains or drainage ditches.



## Plumbing/Septic Systems

### DO

- Have your septic tank inspected annually.
- Have your septic tank pumped at LEAST every five years.
- Use phosphate free detergents.
- Take unwanted chemicals to hazardous waste collection sites.

### DON'T

- X Pour chemicals down the drain.
- X Use toilets as trash cans.
- X Use septic system additives or "cleaners."



## Additional Water Protection Ideas

- If you have a fuel oil tank, make sure it is not leaking. You can also install a concrete bermed pad under the tank to catch any accidental spills or leaks.
- Hire someone to seal properly all unused water wells on your property.
- Write or call your elected representatives about your interest in protecting water resources.

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## Livestock Yards & Waste Treatment/Storage

### DO

- Clean livestock yards regularly (at least once per week).
- Build a short-term waste storage area to reduce application during inclement weather and during winter months.
- Consider composting your manure before applying to fields (this greatly reduces pathogens).
- Check the side walls of earthen waste pits to ensure they haven't cracked or eroded. Repair any problem areas.
- Reduce the amount of water entering the livestock yard by creating terraces uphill of the yard and diverting roof gutters away from the yard.
- Install a runoff control system that collects livestock yards runoff, settles out manure solids and directs the remaining water to open fields or filter strips. You should store runoff for later land application.

### DONT

- X Bury dead livestock on your property. Compost the remains (poultry and swine only), or have them taken to a rendering plant or incinerator.



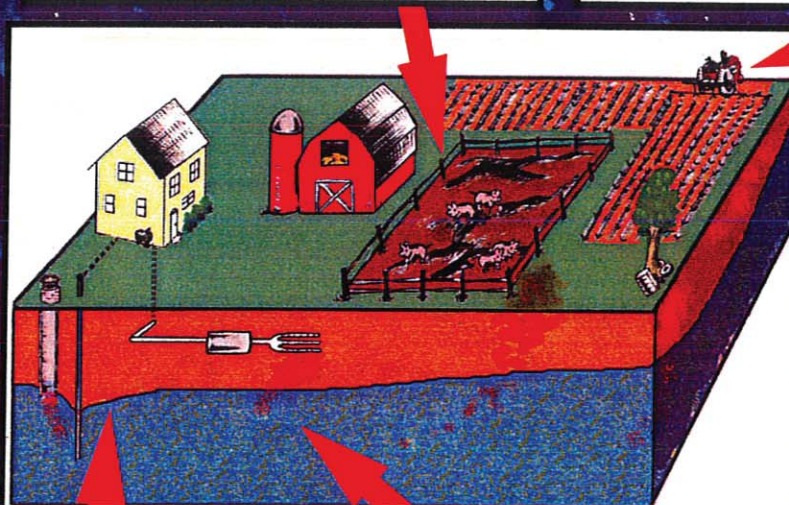
## Fertilizer/Pesticide Storage & Handling

### DO

- Store pesticides/fertilizers over an impermeable (waterproof) floor, such as concrete.
- Install a back-siphon prevention device on your well to prevent reverse flow of chemicals into your water supply.
- Use returnable containers & mini-bulks and return them to the dealer.
- Triple rinse plastic containers immediately after use & pour rinse water back into the sprayer tank for your next load.
- Use pesticides with less potential to leach into the ground.
- Take advantage of the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Collection Program. For more information call the Ohio Department of Agriculture at (614) 728-6987.

### DONT

- X Apply more fertilizer than proper agronomic rates.
- X Apply pesticides when conditions are most likely to promote leaching.
- X Use pesticides near (within a few 100 feet) of your well.
- X Rinse your sprayer in the same location every time. You should move the sprayer around or rinse in the fields.
- X Put the hose in the sprayer tank.
- X Burn or bury pesticide containers on the farm.



## Farm Equipment

### DO

- Recycle used oil, antifreeze and batteries at service stations.
- Reuse filtered waste antifreeze as water in other radiators.
- Contain oil and grease drips and use for future lubrication needs.
- Fix any fluid leaks on equipment.
- Clean up spills immediately.

### DONT

- X Use old oil to kill weeds around the farmstead.
- X Pour used oil, gasoline, antifreeze, or other chemicals on the ground or down your sink/drain.

## Petroleum Product Storage & Handling

### DO

- Place above ground tanks on an impermeable (waterproof) pad with a berm.
- Measure the fuel level in the tank monthly (or more frequently) to help detect leaks before major problems develop.
- Have your tank tested periodically for leaks.
- Remove old tanks that are no longer in use.



## Plumbing/Septic Systems

### DO

- Have your septic tank inspected annually.
- Have your septic tank pumped at LEAST every five years.
- Use phosphate-free detergents.
- Take unwanted chemicals to hazardous waste collection sites.

### DONT

- X Pour chemicals down the drain.
- X Use toilets as trash cans.
- X Use septic system additives or "cleaners."



## Additional Water Protection Ideas

- Make sure your well has a secure cap and no cracks; periodically test your well for bacteria & nitrates.
- Hire someone to properly seal all unused water wells on your property.
- If you spill pesticides, oil, or other chemicals onto the ground try to absorb as much of the spill as possible. Do not wash the spill into the ground.
- Install silo caps & divert water away from silos.
- Horizontal trench silos should have concrete or compact clay floors.
- Report the location of all agricultural drainage wells to the Ohio EPA Underground Injection Control Unit (UIC). For more information and technical assistance call (614) 644-2752.
- Ideally agricultural drainage wells should be closed and replaced with other water management efforts that are less likely to contaminate ground water.

For more information about Source Water Protection: (614) 644-2752

