

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

Eureka City has completed an Updated Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) Plan to protect our drinking water from contamination. You live within our DWSP zones. If you follow the suggestions listed below, groundwater is less likely to be contaminated:

Septic Systems (for Mammoth and Tintic Junction Residents)

1. Do not use garbage disposals. Garbage disposals add massive amounts of solids to the septic tank and are a leading factor of clogged systems.
2. Do not dispose of disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, paper towels, colored toilet paper or tissues in the septic system. These wastes do not decompose.
3. Do not put fat, grease, or oil (including cooking oil) down the drain. These items can pass through the septic tank and clog the leaching field.
4. Pump out septic systems every three to five years.
5. Conserve water. The less water is used, the longer the retention period in the tank and the more solids and bacteria can decompose. Install water saving devices.
6. Do not use enzymes or acid for treating your septic tank.
7. Avoid extreme peak flows by spacing out laundry loads, bathing and dish washing.
8. Do not put chemicals into the septic tank for the purpose of maintaining or declogging the leach field. There are no known chemicals, yeasts, bacteria, enzymes or other substances capable of eliminating or reducing the sludge and scum so that periodic pumping is unnecessary. Many of these cleaners contain highly concentrated organic solvents that are not biodegradable and pose a serious threat to groundwater.
9. Do not dispose of pesticides, disinfectants, acids, medicine, paint thinners and other household hazardous wastes in the septic system. These wastes will kill the helpful bacteria in the tank and may contaminate groundwater.

Insect Sprays and Weed Killers

Special precautions should be taken when disposing of empty containers. Rinse the container three times with water and use the rinse water in the same manner the original product was intended. Then wrap the container securely in plastic and dispose of it in the trash. Unused products should be taken to a solid waste facility.

1. Minimize the use of chemical products and use only as directed.
2. Consider using less toxic alternative products.
3. Consider "co-planting" using companion plants that act as natural deterrents to pests.
4. Use plant guards, such as paper or tin barriers to deter insects.
5. Consider using traps of various kinds to trap pests.
6. Hand pick weeds as much as possible or use weed killers in limited spot applications.
7. Use heavy mulching around plants to deter weed growth.

Fertilizers

1. Minimize the use of chemical fertilizers.
2. Water lawns normally after fertilizing rather than waiting for a rainstorm.
3. Allow grass clippings to remain on the lawn.

4. Mow high (about 2 inches), mow often and use sharp blades.
5. Water deeply but not too often.
6. Remove thatch build-up when it gets over ½ inch.

Household Hazardous Waste

The best way to handle household hazardous materials is to completely use the product before disposing of the container. If this is not possible, then the next alternative is to return unused portions to your community household hazardous waste clean-up day. Keep products in their original package with all labels intact. If the container is leaking, place it in thick plastic bag. Pack the products in a plastic-lined cardboard box to prevent leaks and breakage.

1. Do not flush household hazardous waste down the toilet.
2. Do not pour household hazardous waste down the sink.
3. Do not pour household hazardous waste down a storm drain.
4. Do not pour household hazardous waste on the ground.
5. Read label precautions and follow directions for safe use.
6. Recycle/dispose of empty containers properly.
7. Share what you can't use with friends or neighbors.
8. Store properly.
9. Use recommended amounts; more is not necessarily better.
10. Use the child-resistant closures and keep them on tightly.

Vehicle Service Area

Vehicle services generate regulated waste, such as fluid replacement, parts washing. Some common waste types include:

- Degreasers
- Engine fluids (oil, antifreeze)
- Floor dust
- Floor wash water
- Lead acid batteries
- Metal parts/scrap
- Oily waste sump sludge
- Spent solvents
- Paints and thinners
- Paper products (masking paper, cardboard, office paper)
- Rags and absorbents
- Refrigerants
- Tires

Good Housekeeping Practices:

- Implement spill prevention measures to reduce products from entering the environment.
- Perform preventative maintenance on equipment and vehicles.
- Check incoming vehicles for leaking fluids. Use drip pans to prevent spillage.
- Prevent non-hazardous material from getting contaminated by segregating waste streams.
- Monitor inventory in storage to reduce accumulation of over-age products.
- Look for ways to replace solvents with water-based cleaners.

Substitute Materials:

- Substitute detergent-based solutions for caustic solutions when cleaning.
- Substitute non-asbestos brake lining for asbestos brake lining.
- Use biodegradable floor cleansers.
- Use non-chlorinated brake cleaners.

Modify Processes:

- Pre-rinse parts with spent cleaning solution.
- Remove parts slowly after immersion in solvent solution to prevent spillage.
- Use a still rinse solvent sink rather than a free sunning rinse.
- Cover or plug solvent sinks when not in use to prevent evaporation.
- Replace solvent parts washers with a hot water washer or jet spray.
- Place cleaning equipment in a convenient location near the service bays to reduce drips and spills.
- Change spray painting process to high volume, low pressure process which will minimize paint lost due to overspray.

Recycle:

- Recyclable waste streams should be segregated to prevent cross-contamination.
- Oils and antifreeze should be collected and recycled.
- Lease or purchase solvent sinks and recycle solvent on or off site.
- Send tires, batteries, and metal parts to recycler.
- Contract a linen service which will supply clean rags and collect dirty ones for washing.
- Purchase a recycling system to recover refrigerant. Reuse containers within the facility or throughout a drum salvage company.

Livestock, Poultry and Horse Waste

If you have animals, please consider that animal waste contains many pollutants that can contaminate surface water and groundwater used as drinking water sources. Probably the greatest health concern associated with livestock, poultry and horse wastes is pathogens. Many pathogens found in animal waste can infect humans if ingested. Organisms like Cryptosporidium, Giardia lamblia and Salmonella can induce symptoms ranging from skin sores to chest pain. E. coli, which causes diarrhea and abdominal gas, had been the source of disease outbreaks in several states. Particularly virulent strains of E. coli can cause serious illness and even death. Cryptosporidium is of particular concern because it is highly resistant to disinfection with chlorine. This protozoan causes gastrointestinal illness that lasts 2 to 10 days in healthy individuals but can be fatal in people with weakened immune systems. Cryptosporidium was responsible for more than 50 deaths and an estimated 403,000 illnesses after contaminating a Milwaukee drinking water supply. Runoff from cow manure application sites was a suspected source of the Cryptosporidium.

1. Do not let runoff through animal waste accumulation areas flow off your property.
2. Establish a vegetative buffer zone down-slope to detain and absorb waste.
3. Any manure that has accumulated in piles should be periodically hauled off and spread out on pasture or crop land.

Thank you for your efforts in protecting our most valuable resources. By working together we can ensure that Eureka City continues to have a safe and adequate supply of water for many years to come. If you would like to review our Drinking Water Source Protection Plan, it is available at our office. Please call 435-433-6915, if you have questions or concerns.