



March 8 – 14 is National Groundwater Awareness Week. Given the importance of ground water as a source of drinking water for so many communities and individuals and the cost and difficulty of cleaning it up, common sense tells us that the best way to guarantee continued supplies of clean ground water is to prevent contamination.

How Can You Clean Up Your Own Act?

Ground-water protection begins at home. Ask yourself these questions?

- How do my personal habits affect my community's ground-water quality?
- What can I, as an individual, do to protect my community's ground water?
- How do I dispose of the polluting materials used in my home?

You may be surprised to learn that the way you dispose of products you use at home can contribute to the contamination of your community's ground water. You may be even more surprised to learn that a number of the products you use at home contain hazardous or toxic substances. Examples of hazardous products include: motor oil, pesticides, leftover paints or paint cans, mothballs, flea collars, weed killers, house hold cleaners, and even a number of medicines. So, what can you do?

Don't Pour It Down the Drain or Flush it Down the Toilet!

Don't pour hazardous substances down the drain or flush them down the toilet. They will eventually contaminate the groundwater.

Don't Put it in the Trash!

Community landfills are generally not equipped to handle hazardous materials. As rain and snow pass through the land-fill, the water can become contaminated by these products and eventually carry them into the ground water and surface water.

Don't Dump it on the Ground!

Hazardous wastes that are dumped on or buried in the ground can contaminate the soil and either leach down into the ground water or be carried into a nearby body of surface water by runoff during rainstorms.

Dispose of Harmful Materials Properly

There are very few options for disposing of hazardous products used in your home. Community household hazardous waste collection days are the best option. Contact your county to ask about designated collections days in your area.

By following these tips, you will be making a major contribution towards protecting your community's ground water.