

Tips For The Workshop Or Garage

Absorbant: Always keep absorbent on hand to clean up spills and drips. "Store bought" absorbant works fine, or use cat litter or sawdust. Dispose of used absorbant in a plastic bag in the trash.



Antifreeze: Can be re-used indefinitely! If dirty, strain through a piece of nylon mesh in a funnel and put back in radiator.

Oil: A gallon of used oil can contaminate up to one million gallons of drinking water! When changing the oil or other fluids, collect the fluids in leak-proof containers and take them to a recycling center. The Rock River Water Reclamation District (RRWRD) accepts used oil at 3333 Kishwaukee Street from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturdays and noon - 4 p.m. on Sundays. Call 815-987-5637 for more information.

Paint: Use lead-free paint that doesn't contain mercury or mercuric compounds. Latex or water-based paints are safer than oil-based. If you have extra paint after a project, share with a neighbor, church or community group.

Sidewalk De-icer: Use sand or cat litter to provide traction on an otherwise icy sidewalk.



Questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the City of Rockford Water Division - Water Quality Section
1111 Cedar St
Rockford, IL 61102
(779) 348-7151

For more information, visit our website at
www.rockfordil.gov

Groundwater Protection

Inside The Home

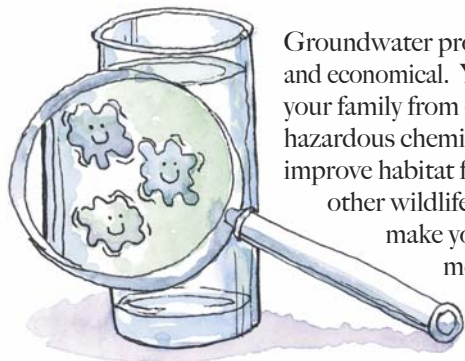


Groundwater Protection

Inside The Home

What Can I Do?

Groundwater protection is not just a concern for farmers, water system operators or private well owners. We all have a stake in protecting the amount and quality of our water. Many people are already trying to be "groundwater smart".



Groundwater protection is easy and economical. You will protect your family from exposure to hazardous chemicals, and improve habitat for birds and other wildlife. You will make your home safer, more attractive and easier to take care of.

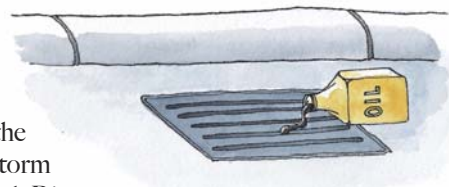
Stop Pollution Before It Starts

Some household products, like drain cleaners, are very poisonous. Many products like laundry stain removers and floor cleaners contain substances classified as priority pollutants by the Environmental Protection Agency. Water treatment plants can't detoxify all of the chemical compounds found in these products and, consequently, some end up in groundwater and surface waters. Here are some ideas that will help to protect water quality.

Shopping: Buy only what you plan to use within a year. This reduces fire hazards and groundwater contamination risk. It also assures that you will have fresh products to use. Some products deteriorate with age. Others absorb moisture from the air. Still others (like latex paint) should not be allowed to freeze.

Storage: Store chemicals over a concrete floor away from you furnace, and out of the reach of children.

Disposal: NEVER pour gasoline, oil paint or other chemicals onto the ground or into storm sewers. The Rock River Water Reclamation District (RRWRD) accepts certain wastes at 3333 Kishwaukee Street on Saturdays 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sundays noon - 4 p.m. Call 815-987-5637 for more information.



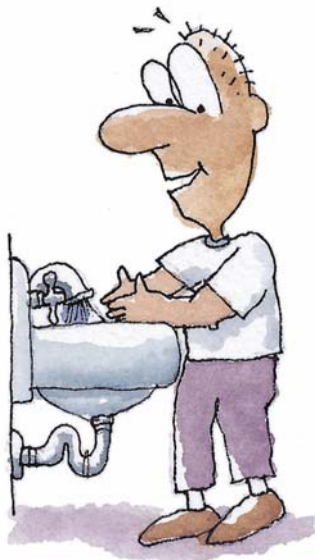
Groundwater-Smart Household Products

Here is a list of alternatives to chemical-based household products and common cleaning problems that are effective and safe:

Abrasive cleanser: Mix salt, baking soda and water into a paste.

Bleach: Substitute borax.

Disinfectants: Mix 1/2 cup borax plus 1/2 cup rubbing alcohol in 1 gallon hot water. Do not mix bleach and ammonia.



Fabric Softener: Add 1/2 cup baking soda to final rinse.

Laundry Stains: Use club soda to remove fresh blood stains and chocolate stains. Rub buttermilk into grass stains - wash as normal.

Oven Cleaners:

Dampen grimy spots and sprinkle with salt while oven is still warm. Scrape after oven cools. Greasy spots can be scrubbed with straight vinegar or a paste of baking soda and water.



Pet Stain Remover: Rub with 1/4 cup dish detergent in 1/4 cup vinegar. Blot dry, rinse with water.

Silver Polish: Soak in baking soda and buttermilk, brush with toothpaste or boil for 3 minutes in one cup water, one teaspoon baking soda, one teaspoon salt and a piece of aluminum foil. Rinse well in water and dry with a soft cloth.



Toilets: Use borax and a toilet brush.

Windows: Mix 2 tablespoons sudsy ammonia plus 3 drops dish detergent in 1 quart water. Or, use diluted white vinegar in a spray bottle.