

Benefits

Wells with an approved wellhead protection program are eligible for money-saving chemical monitoring waivers. Also, protecting your source saves you the added expense of water treatment associated with contamination. Ultimately, the protective measures you take help protect your investment, ensure healthy drinking water, and improve consumer confidence!

For more information on drinking water source protection, please contact:

Source Water Protection Program
 Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau
 N.H. Department of Environmental Services
 PO Box 95
 Concord NH 03302-0095
 (603) 271-0688
www.des.nh.gov/dwsp

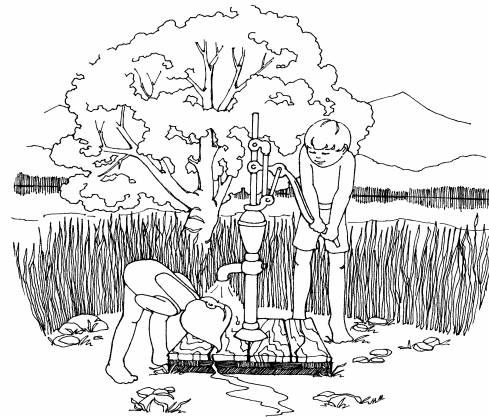


For More Information about ...

Land Conservation	http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwqb/dwsp/land_acqui/index.htm
Chemical Monitoring Waivers	http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwqb/dwsp/waivers/index.htm
Land use Controls	http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwqb/dwsp/ordinance.htm
BMPs for Groundwater Protection	http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwqb/dwsp/bmps/index.htm
Source Protection for Municipalities	http://www.neiwpc.org/sourcewateroutline/

Wellhead Protection Basics

Five Steps to Protect Your Source(s) of Water



A Reminder for Public Water Systems – Protection Begins with the System Owner and Operator.

To achieve better source protection, follow these five, which are explained in further detail below:

1. *Familiarize yourself with the established protection areas around the well.*
2. *Examine activities in your protection areas.*
3. *Practice good management procedures.*
4. *Talk with municipal officials.*
5. *Educate staff and water users about the importance of clean water.*

1. Be Familiar with Protection Areas

Sanitary Protective Radius

This area should receive the greatest attention. The sanitary protective radius is a 75- to 400-foot radius around the well that under current law *must* be controlled by the water supplier through ownership or easements. The extent of the sanitary protective radius depends on the maximum daily amount of water withdrawn from the well. Know the extent of your sanitary protective radius, and be sure only activities that are both directly related to your water system and non-threatening to the water quality occur within the radius.

Wellhead Protection Area

The area under which groundwater flows to a producing well is known as the wellhead protection area (WHPA). For bedrock wells, the WHPA is a circle whose radius depends on the maximum daily amount of water withdrawn from the well. For till and gravel wells, the WHPA has been calculated based on existing hydrogeologic information.

Sanitary Protective Radius for All Community Wells

Daily Volume (gal)	Min. Radius (feet)
0-750	75
751-1,440	100
1,441-4,320	125
4,321-14,400	150
14,401-28,800	175
28,801-57,600	200
57,601-86,400	250
86,401-115,200	300
115,201-144,000	350
>144,000	400

Wellhead Protection Area for Bedrock Wells

Daily Volume (gal)	Radius (feet)
0-7,200	1,300
7,201-14,400	1,500
14,401-28,800	2,050
28,801-43,200	2,850
43,201-57,599	3,600
>57,599	4,000

2. Examine Activities

DES considers certain activities and types of businesses potential contamination sources (PCSs) because they store or handle significant quantities of substances that can contaminate groundwater. Public water supply wells with PCSs in their wellhead protection areas are more likely to have detectable amounts of contaminants in their water.

Hazardous substances such as gas, oil or solvents that spill or leak onto the ground can contaminate groundwater, increase treatment cost and/or impact public health. Determine where these threats are located and the risk they pose to your source. To help you, DES has compiled *Source Assessment Reports* for each PWS. To view these reports visit www.des.nh.gov/dwsp/dwsap.htm, or call DES at (603) 271-0688.

