

Ground Water Is:

- Easily Polluted
 - Our activities can pollute ground water. For example, improper handling or disposal of chemicals and wastes can harm it.
- Very Slow-Moving
 - Ground water often moves only a few feet per year through soil and rock. So, pollutants that get into ground water are not quickly flushed out or diluted.
- Difficult to Monitor
 - Pollution of ground water may not be noticed until it reaches a well. By this time, pollution may be widespread.
- Hard to Clean
 - Once groundwater becomes polluted, its difficult and expensive to clean. In some cases, cleaning may be impossible.
- Slow to Recharge
 - Water can be pumped out of an aquifer faster than it is naturally recharged.

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GOOD HOUSEKEEPING PRACTICES

*Keeping Our Drinking Water Clean
Now And For The Future*



**For More Information
Contact Your Local Water
Utility**

WHY ARE GOOD HOUSEKEEPING PRACTICES NEEDED?

Ninety percent of all drinking water in Florida comes from ground water supplies. Ground water is a fragile resource. Its purity and availability are often taken for granted. The fact is ground water can easily be polluted, moves very slowly, difficult to monitor, hard to clean, and slow to recharge. Protecting ground water is everyone's business. It's the only way to ensure clean plentiful water; a key to our health and way of life.



THREATS TO OUR WATER SUPPLIES

There are many types of pollutants that can contaminate water. Some water pollutants come from nature. Natural pollutants include chemicals (arsenic, radium, radon, and selenium) and pathogens (bacteria and viruses). Another source of pollution comes from household sources that include: pesticides and fertilizers, auto batteries and fluids, paints and solvents, cleaning chemicals, and medicines.

TIPS ON HOUSEHOLD HAZARDS

- Identify Hazardous Products
- Handle Products Wisely
 - Read labels. Heed warnings and use only as directed
 - Store products in original containers, keeping labels intact
 - Avoid leftovers— buy only what you'll use right away
 - Use non-hazardous products whenever possible
- Dispose of Hazardous Products Properly
 - Follow label directions
 - Take products to a hazardous waste collection site
 - Recycle when possible (motor oil and batteries can be recycled)
 - Never flush or pour products down the drain



TIPS ON WATER CONSERVATION

- Use water-saving shower heads, faucets, toilets and appliances

- Fix leaks and drips promptly
- Take short showers, not baths
- Turn water off while brushing teeth, shaving, etc.
- Wash only full loads of clothes and dishes



TIPS ON LAWN MAINTENANCE

- When using fertilizers and pesticides read all labels. Use only as directed. Remember less is best
- Remember the best time to water your lawn is between Dusk and Dawn.

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