

What You Can Do To Keep Your Drinking Water Safe

Be Aware of Your Water Source & Supplier

- Where does your water come from?
- Who is your water supplier?
- Has your water been tested recently?
- Is it tested regularly?
- How is it treated and protected from contamination?
- Have water shortages occurred in your community?
- Conserve water in the home or on the Farm
- Improve water use and management practices.
- Repair leaking faucets and toilets.
- Understand crop needs for water and irrigate appropriately.
- Water your lawn wisely.
- Take short showers.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
- Turn off the hose while washing your car.

Minimize the Production of Waste

- Compost vegetable waste.
- Recycle newspapers, aluminum cans, glass containers.
- Don't buy more of anything than you can use.
- Recycle used motor oil, batteries, paints, solvents, and chemicals.
- Think of the impact of what you do on water quality.

Wisely Use and Dispose of Household Lawn & Garden Chemicals

- Follow all directions carefully.
- Use only what you need.
- Sponsor or participate in pesticide collection/disposal activities.

Learn the Facts About Your Water

- Look for and read your consumer confidence report (annual water quality report). Call your water supplier to get a copy.
- Don't believe everything you hear or read in advertisements - get the facts.
- Review results of drinking water tests in your community.
- Attend public meetings.
- Follow the news about drinking water matters, such as the development of new standards.
- Learn about potential contamination sources of ground water and surface water.

Get Involved in Your Community

- Urge your water supplier and state and local regulatory and health officials to ensure that your water supply complies with all standards.
- Support efforts to educate the public and elected officials about the need to protect and improve the quality of drinking water.
- Express willingness to pay higher water rates, if necessary, to finance improvements in water quality.
- Support efforts to protect water supplies.

For More Information

To learn more about drinking water, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or visit the safewater web site at www.epa.gov/safewater.