

# Best Management Practices for Local Businesses

Problem	Why	Solution
Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)	National inventory shows approximately 542,000 USTs. Releases of petroleum fuel substances through corrosion of parts, improper installation, failure of piping systems, sloppy fuel deliveries, and improper operation and maintenance.	Ensure compliance with federal UST requirements <a href="http://www.epa.gov/oilspill">www.epa.gov/oilspill</a> Consider local registration programs for exempt tanks. Consider local land-use controls such as zoning, use restrictions, permits and setbacks.
Small Quantity Chemical Use	Chemicals of concern may reach ground and surface waters through improper disposal practices via discharge to sewers, septic systems, dry wells, or through improper handling, hauling and disposal. Includes chemicals used in cleaning, degreasing, polishing, paint preparation, rust removal, photo processing, and medical practices.	Avoid excess use of chemicals. Follow label directions on proper use, storage and disposal. Train employees on spill control and response protocols. Refer to manufacturer's material Safety Data Sheets for specific hazard descriptions
Vehicle Washing	Contaminants include used oil, degreasers, antifreeze and synthetic oils. Patrons may use solvents or degreasers at unmanned washing facilities, thereby contributing to contamination of rinse waters. Potential health effects from these contaminants include kidney damage, circulatory problems, increased cancer risk, and/or delays in physical or mental developments.	Use alternative cleansing agents such as phosphate free, biodegradable detergents. Discourage use of solvent and emulsifier based agents. Install water- recycling systems. Train employees on spill control and response to problems. Control and manage spills
Storm Water Runoff	Rain runoff carrying sediments and contaminants into surface or ground waters. Possible contaminants include gasoline, oil, automotive fluids, sediment, pesticides, nutrients, animal wastes, and hazardous wastes. Potential health effects include gastrointestinal illness, reproductive and developmental effects & increased cancer risk.	Basic pollution prevention practices such as erosion control and sedimentation control measures; land use controls; grassed swales; buffer strips; filter strips; storm water capture and detention ponds, and constructed wetlands.
Septic Systems	Improper siting, maintenance and use may contaminate both surface and ground water by percolation or runoff. Bacteria, protozoa, and viruses present in sanitary wastewater can cause gastrointestinal illness, cholera, hepatitis A and typhoid if consumed	Establish proper siting criteria. Specify appropriate design and construction criteria. Establish operation and maintenance protocols. Analyze assimilative capacity of soils and receiving water to determine appropriate density of septic system units. Consider connection to a public water system



Frequent testing can identify problems and prevent further contamination

### Well



Regular pumping of septic tanks is a preventative measure

### Septic Tank



Polluted surface waters often times will contribute to groundwater contamination

### Pollution



Identify and protect groundwater recharge areas in your community

### Groundwater



Identify household products that are hazardous to the environment

### Household Products



Encourage proper disposal of Household Hazardous Waste and start a HHW Pick-up Program in your community

### Household Hazardous Waste



Applying too much pesticides and fertilizer, or applying it to frozen ground will result in the excess becoming run off and contaminate waters.

### Pesticides & Fertilizer



Soil testing is inexpensive and will provide information as to how much or how little fertilizer is needed on your lawn or garden.

### Soil Testing



If pest control is necessary, use natural pest control near groundwater recharge areas.

### Pest Control



Take used motor oil and other Hazardous Household Waste to a recycling center

### Septic Tank



Topsoil acts as a filter for groundwater; a recharge area with healthy topsoil provides protection to the groundwater supply

### Topsoil



DO NOT Flush Unused or Unwanted Medication Down The Drain! Find a Prescription Drug Drop Box Location.

### Medication Disposal



# 12 Ways To Protect Your Drinking Water

# TO FLUSH OR NOT TO FLUSH?

How can you prevent pharmaceuticals from getting to our water resources?

Contact your water or wastewater utility regarding drug take back program and the date of the next take back day. Please use QR code or website link to see a map of dropboxes in your area.

Is flushing the only way these medicines are getting into the environment?

No, when we swallow medicines anything our body cannot use is released and makes its way to our septic or wastewater systems. Septic Systems and Wastewater Systems are not able to treat and remove these pharmaceuticals and therefore they are being released back into the surface waters, which seep down to the groundwater and into our drinking water.

What is the problem with disposing of your medicines by flushing down a toilet or sink drain?

Recent discoveries of pharmaceutically polluted waters and abnormal fish are raising fears that our abundant use of drugs may be harming the ecosystem in unforeseen ways.



For Prescription Drug Drop Box Locations visit:

<https://www.rxdrugdropbox.org/>



See other side for 7 easy steps to dispose of medications at home.



# 7 Steps to at Home Pill Disposal



Keep the medicines in the original container. This will help identify the contents if they are accidentally ingested.



Mark out your name and prescription number for safety.



For pills, add some water or soda to start dissolving the medication. For liquids, add something inedible like cat litter or dirt.



Close the lid and secure with duct tape or packing tape.



Place the bottle(s) inside an opaque (non-see-through) container like a coffee can or plastic laundry bottle.



Tape the container closed.



Hide the container in the trash. Do NOT put in the recycle bin.

See other side for reasons NOT to flush you medications