

## Protecting Your Groundwater:

### What to do:

- Recognize and manage possible sources of contamination on your property.
- Use hazardous products as directed and dispose of them properly.
- Conserve water.
- Use biodegradable soap when washing your car.
- Select plants in your yard that requires low fertilizer application.
- If you have a heating oil tank, check it regularly for leaks.



### What NOT to do to:

- Do not dispose of used motor oil and other hazardous chemicals by pouring them on the ground or down the drain.
- Do not indiscriminately spray pesticide where a pest problem has not been identified.
- Do not divert storm drains or basement sump pumps into septic systems.
- Do not dump any trash or waste near a stream.
- Do not use automotive antifreeze to winterize your plumbing and septic system.

### Ways to Get Involved:

- Participate in clean-up activities in your neighborhood.
- Help identify potential sources of contamination in your source water protection area.
- Help educate your neighbors and others about source water protection.

## A Quick Summary Review of Wellhead Protection:

- Your Community is privileged to have extremely high quality drinking water. Conservation of this water is essential.
- Your Community is taking a proactive approach to ensure that your drinking water stays safe and pure.
- You are living on top of your drinking water and your actions can affect the drinking water for the entire community.

### More Information is Available:

On Source Water Protection at:

[www.epa.gov/safewater/protect.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/protect.html)

On Septic Systems at:

[http://www.epa.gov/owm/septic/pubs/homeowner\\_guide\\_long.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/owm/septic/pubs/homeowner_guide_long.pdf)

On Water Conservation at:

[www.mwco.org/environment/water/watersupply/wisewater.asp](http://www.mwco.org/environment/water/watersupply/wisewater.asp)

### For questions regarding the Contentment Island Wellhead Protection

#### Plan contact:

Sarah Baumgardener,

Environmental Communications Coordinator

Western Virginia Water Authority

(540)853-5707

## Keeping Your Drinking Water Safe



Western Virginia Water Authority

Presents

Your Wellhead Protection Plan

for

Contentment Island

Proclamation for Jamestown, Virginia  
"There shall be no man or woman dare to wash any unclean linen, wash clothes,..... nor rinse or make clean any kettle, pot or pan, or any suchlike vessel within twenty feet of the old well or new pump. Nor shall anyone aforesaid within less than a quarter mile of the fort, dare to do the necessities of nature, since these unmanly, slothful, and loathsome immodesties, the whole fort may be choked and poisoned."

(Governor Gage of Virginia, 1610)

Prepared in cooperation with:



## What is Wellhead Protection?

Wellhead protection is a method of preventing contamination of a public water supply well by effectively managing potential contaminant sources in the area which contributes water to the well.

Your “Wellhead Protection Area” (WHPA) is the land surface surrounding the well where rainfall trickles down to the groundwater and is then pumped out from your well. This “recharge zone” is the area that potentially affects your source water, and is also called the “Source Water Protection Area” (SWPA).

Wellhead protection helps safeguard community water supplies; while your community has developed a wellhead protection plan, everyone needs to get involved for the plan to be successful!

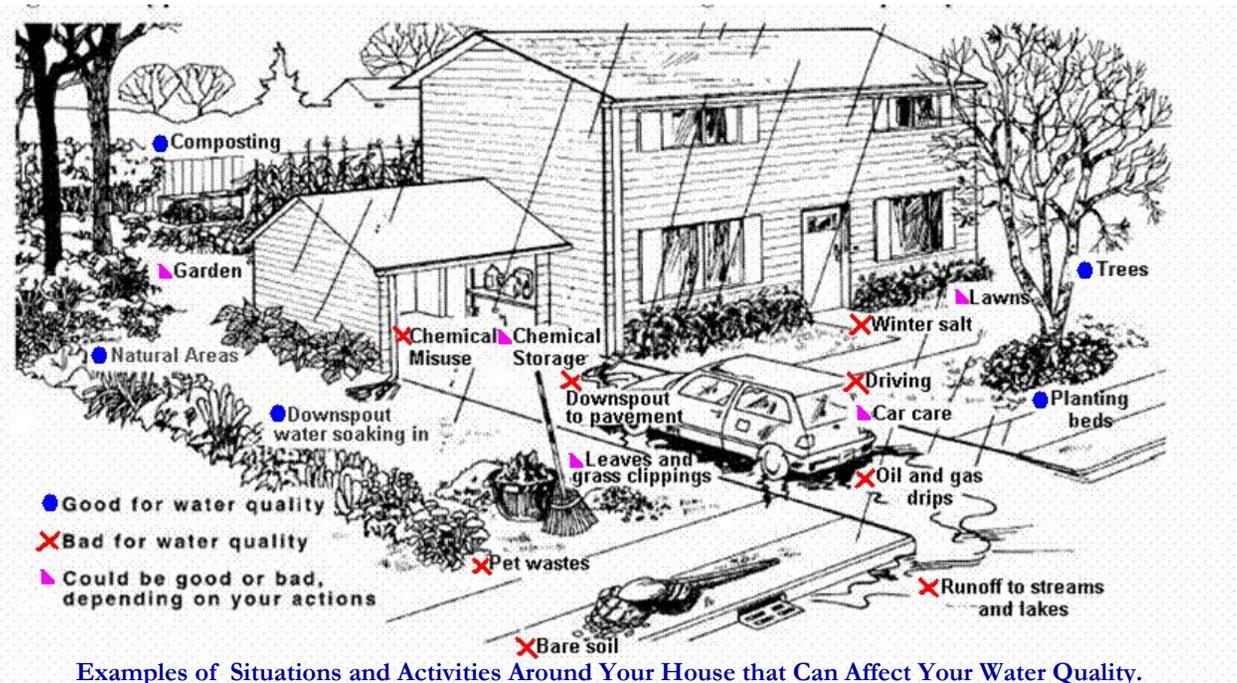
## Why Does Source Water Protection Matter to Me?

- The quality of drinking water affects public health.
- The quality of drinking water affects the economic well-being of our communities.
- Once water is contaminated:
  - Clean-up is costly and may not be feasible.
  - Required treatment adds to management and operating costs.
- Developing new sources is expensive.

### Did You Know?

**Just 1 gallon of gasoline can contaminate 1,000,000 gallons of water!**

## What Activities Could Affect My Drinking Water Quality?



Examples of Situations and Activities Around Your House that Can Affect Your Water Quality.

Contaminants introduced at the land surface may infiltrate to the water table and flow toward points of discharge such as drinking water wells and streams. Possible sources of contamination in your wellhead protection area include septic systems, private wells, and overuse of fertilizers and pesticides. Replacing a well can cost between \$200,000-\$400,000 and treating a contaminated well can cost even more.

Activities that occur in your home and your yard can affect everyone’s drinking water! The Contentment Island water system has always had a clean water supply that has met state regulations. There are some simple steps that we can take to keep our water supply safe for many years to come!

The photo below shows the Wellhead Protection Area for the Contentment Island water system.

