

What Can You Do to Protect Your Drinking Water?

1. Inform the Village of Shelby and/or Shelby Township of any potential sources of contamination.
2. Properly plug abandoned wells on your property.
3. Be aware of dangerous household hazardous chemicals and never dump them directly onto the ground.
4. Consider alternatives to household products that contain hazardous chemicals.
5. Participate in a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.
6. Recycle used motor oil and brake and transmission fluid. Many service stations will accept used oil.
7. Pick up and dispose of animal waste.
8. Follow instructions and soil test recommendations for use of pesticides and fertilizers. Over-application is harmful.
9. If you have a private well, test your water annually.
10. If you have a septic system, have it checked every three years to ensure that it is functioning properly.
11. Get involved in the Shelby Source Water Protection Program.

For Further Information

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SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

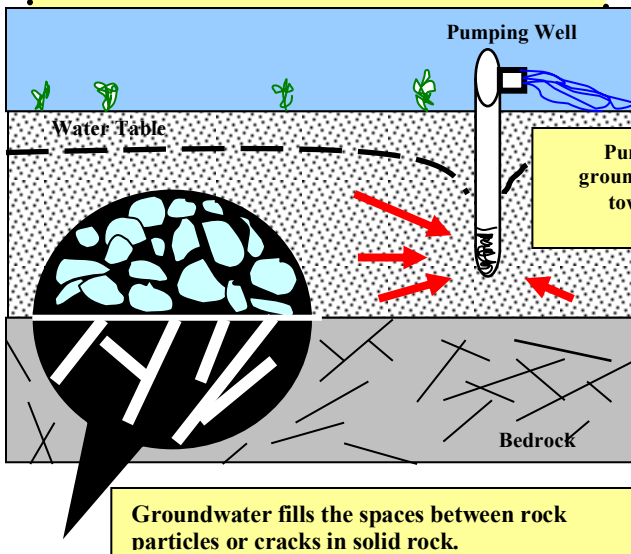
**COMMITTED TO
PROTECTING
YOUR DRINKING
WATER**

What is Groundwater?

Groundwater is the water that fills the small spaces between rock particles (sand, gravel, etc.) or cracks in solid rock. Rain, melting snow, or surface water becomes groundwater by seeping into the ground and filling these spaces. The top of the water-saturated zone is called the **water table**.

Water movement is cyclical and moves from the ground to the surface (springs, rivers, lakes, wells), to the air (evaporation) and back to the surface (precipitation) where it seeps into the ground and into an aquifer. An **aquifer** is any type of geologic material, such as sand or sandstone, which can supply water to wells or springs.

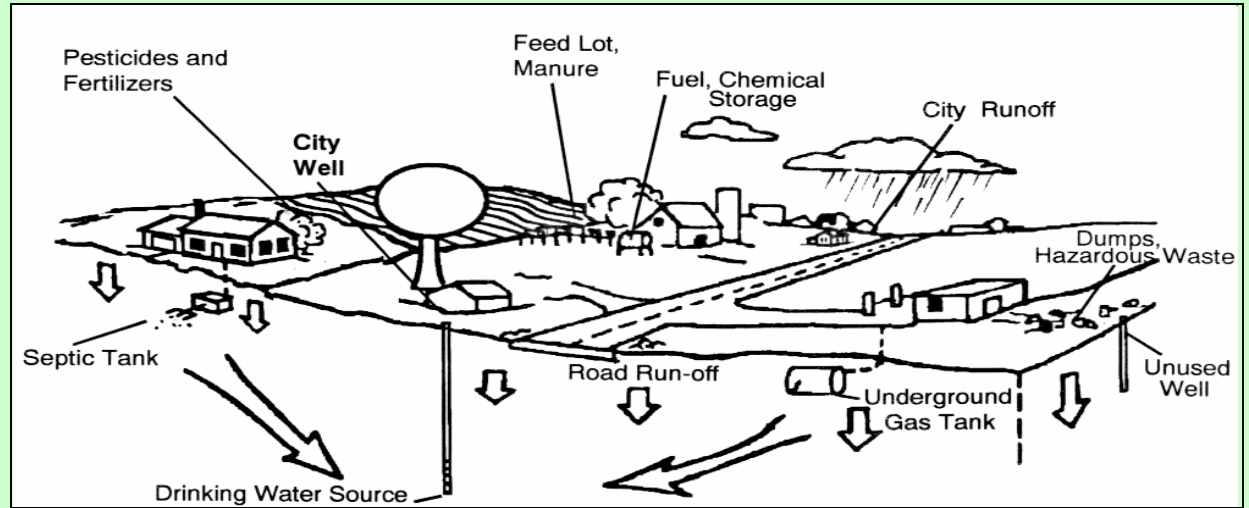
Groundwater, which supplies wells, often comes from within a short distance (a few miles) of the well. How fast the groundwater moves depends both on how much the well is pumped and what type of rock particles or bedrock it is moving through.



Pumping causes groundwater to move towards a well.

How Do Wells Become Contaminated?

Wells become contaminated when substances that are harmful to human health get into the groundwater. Water from these wells can be dangerous to drink when the level of pollution rises above health standards. Many of our everyday activities can cause contamination. The diagram includes potential sources of contamination.



Examples of Source Water Contamination

What is Wellhead Protection?

Because residents in the Village of Shelby and Shelby Township depend on clean, safe groundwater to supply homes, industries and recreational activities, a voluntary Source Water Protection Program (SWPP) was developed. The SWPP is a planning and management program aimed at protecting the Village's groundwater supplies from contamination. The Village established a SWPP team to oversee the program. First, Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs) were established. A picture of Shelby's WHPAs is shown. At the edge of each area, it would take ten years for contamination to reach the Village's municipal wells. To protect these areas, potential and existing sources of contamination were mapped, management strategies were adopted and public education activities were implemented.

