

Where You Can Get More Information

Indiana American Water can provide information on what contaminants, if any, have been found in the public water supply, what the community is doing to protect the water, and how you can help.

- Contact your Solid Waste Management District (SWMD) to find out where you can recycle motor oil, antifreeze, chemicals, and other hazardous products. To locate your local SWMD call toll free 1-800-451-6027 (IDEM operator), or view the SWMD contact information on the Web at <http://www.in.gov/recycle/topics/swmd/contact.html>.
- Visit the Purdue Extension Web Site, "Safe Water for the Future," at <http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/SafeWater> for detailed information about wellhead protection, and what you can do to protect water quality.
- For additional information and resources, contact the Purdue Extension office in your county. Look in the phone book under county government, or call 1-888-EXT-INFO.

In Appreciation

Special thanks to Purdue University Extension for lending their expertise to this important Wellhead Protection information for this project.

Our Customer Charter

We Are...

- dedicated to service excellence
- focused on personalized solutions
- committed to our customers' health and welfare

therefore...

We Will...

- partner with our customers
- treat them with dignity and respect
- enhance their quality of life
- earn their loyalty
- exceed their expectations

protecting your
drinking
water



What Every Citizen Should Know About Wellhead Protection

What is Wellhead Protection?

Wellhead protection is a way to protect your drinking water by managing the area around your community's water supply wells to prevent contamination. By safely managing this important area, you can help ensure a safe water supply now and in the future.

Indiana American Water and Environmental Stewardship

Wellhead protection is another example of Indiana American Water's commitment to our communities to preserve the integrity and quality of our water resources so essential to the health and well-being of all we serve.

The Wellhead Protection Process and the Local Team

A local team of citizen volunteers guides the wellhead protection process. The team was required by Indiana law to:

- Form an action-oriented team comprised of concerned citizens and Indiana American Water to address protection of the local water source.
- Determine the size and shape of the area near the public well that should be protected.
- Identify potential sources of contamination, both past and present, that could be hazardous to a drinking water supply.
- Develop and implement a plan for managing the wellhead area.
- Develop action plans for communicating vital protection information to the local community.
- Develop a back-up water supply plan in the event of natural disaster, contamination, or other disruption.

What You Can Do

Wellhead protection depends on every citizen to prevent pollution. Here are some actions you can take to better protect your drinking water supply:

- Limit use of chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, and other hazardous products. Always follow the label directions. Use the least toxic product or method available for lawn, garden, and household pest and weed control.
- If you have a septic system, make sure it is inspected and serviced regularly. Avoid pouring products down the drain or toilet that will harm your septic system such as diapers, coffee grounds, or hazardous chemicals.
- Plug abandoned wells on your property. Old wells provide a direct channel for surface contaminants to reach ground water supplies without first being filtered by the soil. Contact the IDNR-Division of Water toll-free at 1-877-928-3755 for information on how to plug abandoned wells.
- Learn about ground water and your water source. Read your community's wellhead protection plan, and get involved in your community's wellhead protection efforts.
- Recycle used motor oil. If not properly handled, used motor oil can get into the ground water supply, causing serious contamination problems.
- Recycle used antifreeze. Antifreeze is toxic to people and animals. It can easily contaminate water. Never pour antifreeze into the environment.
- Recycle leftover hazardous products. Never pour these chemicals onto the ground or into storm drains, because they can contaminate the water supply.

