

# The Wellhead Word

## What is Wellhead Protection?

The Oklahoma Wellhead Protection program is part of a federal program geared to improving drinking water quality by protecting the sources of drinking water. The goal of Oklahoma's Wellhead Protection program is to minimize the risk of pollution by limiting activities on the land around drinking water wells.

## What is groundwater?

When rain falls to the ground, it keeps moving! Some of the water flows over the land into streams or lakes, some of it is absorbed by plants, some of it is evaporated and returns to the atmosphere and some of it sinks into the ground. Groundwater is the water that sinks into the ground and is usually stored in underground lakes called aquifers. As water flows through layers of rock and soil in the ground, it dissolves or absorbs the substances that it touches.

## What are the potential threats to groundwater?

Sources of contaminants might be in your neighborhood or many miles away. Potential sources of concern for source water include underground and above ground storage tanks, landfills, septic systems, storm water runoff and pesticide and herbicide application. Homeowners can contribute to ground water contamination as well, by improperly disposing of household chemicals.

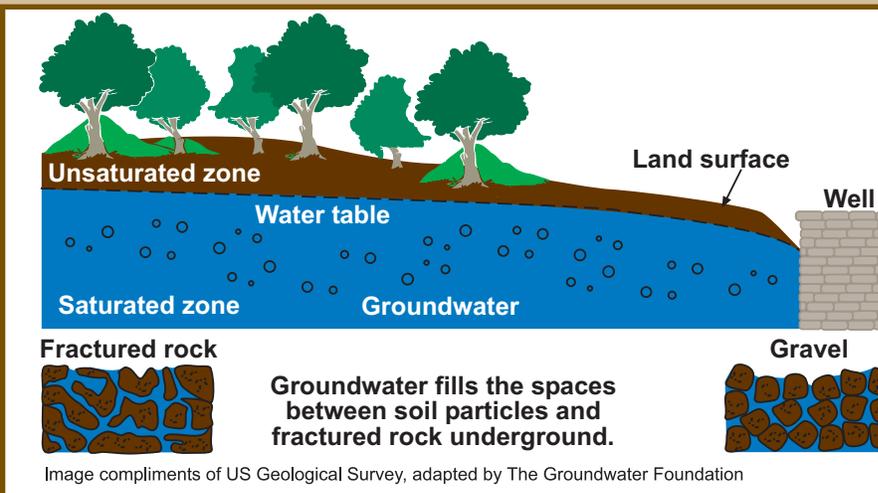


...for a clean, attractive, prosperous Oklahoma

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Protecting Groundwater Supplies Through Wellhead Protection

November 2007

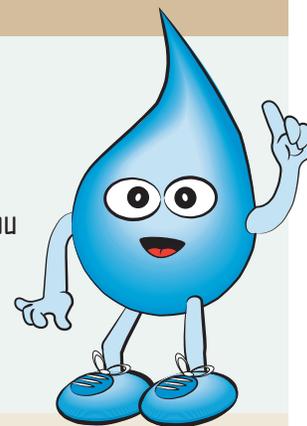


## WATER FACTS

- Only 1 percent of all the world's water can be used for drinking.
- Approximately 1/4 of all fresh water used in the U.S. comes from ground water.
- Groundwater is one of the most important sources of irrigation water.
- What is poured on the ground today, can end up in your drinking water supply years from now.
- One quart of oil can contaminate 2 million gallons of drinking water.

## H<sub>2</sub>O Joe says protect your water by...

- Disposing of chemicals properly.
- Limiting the amount of fertilizers and pesticides you use on your lawn and in your garden.
- Taking used motor oil to a recycling facility.



Utilize your community's resources to get the word out on protecting source water. Mobilize the efforts of your local watershed organization such as, Oklahoma Water Watch, a citizen volunteer water quality monitoring program. Work to inform your friends and neighbors about the importance of wellhead protection and about what you can do as a community to identify potential contaminants.

## Next Issue: Contingency Plans

# Environmental Complaints and Local Services Wellhead Protection Contacts

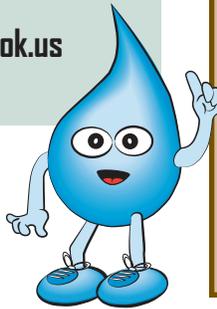
For more information about the Wellhead Protection Program contact your local DEQ office or the Oklahoma City Technical Support Unit.

## Groundwater Technical Support

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## Local Offices

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Alva.....(580) 327-2649	Oklahoma City.....(405) 702-6100
Ardmore.....(580) 226-2554	Ponca City.....(580) 762-1907
Bartlesville.....(918) 333-2734	Poteau.....(918) 647-5734
Burns Flat.....(580) 562-4394	Purcell.....(405) 527-8738
Chouteau.....(918) 476-8588	Tulsa.....(918) 293-1600
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Duncan.....(580) 255-6068	Shawnee.....(405) 275-7967
Durant.....(580) 920-2037	Stillwater.....(405) 372-7387
Enid.....(580) 234-0997	Tahlequah.....(918) 456-5714
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