

awareness • education • protection

You can't think about life in Louisiana without thinking of water. We drink it, cook with it, and play in it. But over the years, Louisiana's water supply has been subjected to the constant threat of contamination. Drinking water contamination is preventable, and the key to getting it done is you!

who?

Business Owners
Local Citizens
Government Officials
Industry Leaders
Local Educators
Water System Operators

One-third of Louisiana's residents get drinking water from surface water sources such as lakes, rivers and streams, while two-thirds of Louisiana's residents get drinking water from groundwater sources. We use products everyday that could potentially contaminate our drinking water. Gasoline, oil, household cleaners, malfunctioning septic systems, fertilizers and pesticides are all possible contamination sources. These substances can seep into the groundwater or runoff into surface water.

Once contaminated, it is expensive and difficult to treat water to meet drinking water quality standards. We all need to do our part to ensure that the water we drink remains clean and pure. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality specifically designed the Drinking Water Protection Program to assist local communities in protecting their drinking water sources.

The Drinking Water Protection Program (DWP) Team uses these program elements to meet drinking water protection goals:

A. Public Education—Brochures, videos, highway signs, public service announcements, fact sheets and other materials to educate people about drinking water protection.

B. Community Involvement—Local community members work together with the DWP team on various activities such as recycling, community outreach, and education.

C. Ordinances—Statutes are adopted by the city or parish government with the purpose of protecting drinking water sources.

D. Contingency Planning—The DWP team works with each individual water system or community to develop a contingency plan to deal with a potential loss of their normal water supply.

Get involved! Help Louisiana protect its drinking water. We need volunteers to serve on local Drinking Water Protection Committees. The committees, established in each Louisiana parish targeted by the program, work with DEQ to meet drinking water protection goals. Remember, it is up to all of us to protect drinking water in our community. For more information, please contact the DEQ Drinking Water Protection Team.



BUSINESS GUIDE

for drinking water protection



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HOW TO PROTECT YOUR DRINKING WATER *in your business*

Did you know that your business is located in the vicinity of a drinking water well or intake? Drinking water comes from ground water stored in aquifers, underground formations of sand and gravel, or from surface water sources such as lakes, streams, or rivers. Our drinking water can become contaminated when substances that we use everyday run off, or flow, into our surface water sources, or seep into the ground and into our aquifers.

Many ordinary businesses use fuels and chemicals and produce chemical waste that can potentially contribute to the pollution of drinking water. These include solvents, corrosives, dry cleaning agents, heavy metals and inorganics, inks and paint, lead-acid batteries, plating chemicals, cyanide, and wood-preserving agents. Listed below are some simple pollution prevention measures you can use in your business to protect your drinking water:

- Use chemicals as per directions and dispose of chemicals properly.
- Use the least hazardous or least concentrated products available to accomplish their processes.
- Do not dump solvents, used oil, or toxic chemicals down storm drains. Seal floor drains.
- Do not dump waste that contains organic chemicals or metals into septic systems. These must be recycled.
- Store chemicals in covered areas and in areas with paved or impervious surfaces.
- Use secondary containment around containers to catch spills or leaks.
- Make sure all chemicals and other materials are labeled and are stored in proper containers. Containers should not be corroded or leaking and should be sealed to prevent spills.
- Monitor use of all raw materials and wastes. Purchase responsibly to decrease the amount of stored chemicals and waste.
- Use measures to prevent overflow of tanks.
- Place drip pans where chemicals are stored or where they might leak, for example, under machinery. Recycle or dispose of the substance properly.
- If a liquid chemical spills, clean it up with a dry absorbent. Do not wash down drain.
- Use spring loaded funnels or pumps to dispense and collect fluids such as antifreeze, solvents and used oil.
- Use non-chlorinated compounds for parts cleaning.
- Remove parts slowly from solvent to prevent spills.
- Use a filter on parts cleaner to extend the life of the solvent.
- Recycle as many substances as possible such as antifreeze, solvents, and used oil.
- Keep hazardous and non-hazardous wastes separate.
- Maintain an accurate inventory of materials and disposal records.
- Have a spill control and response plan and keep it where it can be easily viewed by employees.

POTENTIAL CONTAMINATION SOURCE CONTROL CONTACTS

| SOURCE | CONTACT |
|--|---|
| Abandoned Water Wells | Department of Natural Resources Office of Conservation Post Office Box 94275 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275 (225) 342-5515 Environmental Division Director |
| Abandoned Wells other than Water Wells | Department of Natural Resources Post Office Box 94275 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275 (225) 342-6397 Manager of Oilfield Site Restoration |
| Accidents, Security Issues, Criminal Activity, Spills, Waterway Closures For Navigable Waterways | U.S. Coast Guard 8th Coast Guard District Command Center 501 Magazine St., Suite 1330 New Orleans, LA 70130 (504) 589-6225 Commander of Operations |
| Active And Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites- Operating Facility | Department of Environmental Quality Remediation Services Division Post Office Box 4312 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312 (225) 219-3536 Environmental Manager |
| Agriculture | Department of Agriculture and Forestry Post Office Box 3596 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3596 (225) 925-3768 Director of the Pesticides and Environmental Programs |
| DEQ Citizen 24-hour Hotline (Environmental Complaints & Spills) & Customer Information Number | Department of Environmental Quality (225) 342-1234 or (888) 763-5424 |
| Drinking Water | Department of Health and Hospitals P.O. Box 4489 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4489 (225) 342-7499 Chief Engineer |
| Inactive & Abandoned Sites | Department of Environmental Quality Remediation Services Division Post Office Box 4312 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312 (225) 219-3536 Environmental Manager |
| Oil Spills | Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office 625 North Fourth St., Suite 800 Baton Rouge, LA 70802 (225) 219-5800 Oil Spill Coordinator |
| Pipelines for Natural Gas, Crude Oil, & other Fluids | Department of Natural Resources Pipelines Division Post Office Box 94275 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275 (225) 342-5505 Chief of Pipeline Safety or call collect the company listed on pipeline marker |

| SOURCE | CONTACT |
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| Solid Waste | Department of Environmental Quality Remediation Services Division Post Office Box 4312 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312 (225) 219-3536 Environmental Manager |
| Source Water Assessments and Drinking Water Protection Program | Department of Environmental Quality Business Community Outreach Division Post Office Box 4301 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301 (225) 219-3510 Geologist Supervisor |
| Spills (National Initial Contact Emergency Number) | National Response Center (800) 424-8802 or (202) 267-2675 |
| Surface Discharge | Department of Environmental Quality Office of Environmental Compliance Inspection Division Post Office Box 4312 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312 (225) 219-3615 Administrator |
| Underground Injection | Department of Natural Resources Oilfield Waste and Underground Injection Wells & Mining Division Post Office Box 94275 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275 (225) 342-5515 Director of Injection and Mining |
| Underground Storage Tanks | Department of Environmental Quality Remediation Services Division Post Office Box 4312 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312 (225) 219-3536 Environmental Manager |
| Waste Impoundments - Oil & Gas Industry | Department of Natural Resources Engineering Division, Environmental Section Post Office Box 94275 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275 (225) 342-5524 Division Manager |
| Water Quantity Issues | Department of Natural Resources Office of Conservation Ground Water Resources Division Post Office Box 94275 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275 (225) 342-5515 Environmental Division Director |

