

# Partners in Watershed Protection

As a resident living in the Wallingford Watershed Protection Area you are an important partner in maintaining the health of our community. While your family's water may come from your private well, tens of thousands of persons in Wallingford depend on drinking water supplied by the Wallingford Water Division from raw water sources located in your neighborhood. Preserving the integrity of the soil and the quality of the streams and rivers that flow into the town's reservoirs begins with responsible stewardship in your own backyard.

Preventing pollution on the premises protects the purity of both your well's water and the public water supply. To assist us in safeguarding Wallingford's drinking water resources please review the following check list of concerns which our Watershed Inspectors have encountered and follow the safe storage guidelines to best prevent an accidental release of hazardous materials.

## 10 Common Pollution Concerns

- Oil, gasoline, antifreeze and engine fluids
- Batteries
- Pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers
- Unregistered motor vehicles
- Motorized equipment (yard, recreational, and construction use)
- Household hazardous chemicals and waste
- Septic system malfunction
- Soil erosion
- Leaking outdoor oil or gas tanks
- Storage drums



## Safe Storage Guidelines

Please keep all hazardous materials under cover on an impervious surface and properly dispose of waste products promptly. If indoor storage of materials is not possible, a secondary containment system should be used in the event of the primary container failing. Sun exposure, cold, heat and age can deteriorate plastic and metal containers which may result in failure. Such responsible actions will prevent runoff into the local waterway that causes a threat to the public water supply, private wells and the environment.

Motorized equipment and unused vehicles pose a risk to the watershed because of the potential for leakage of gasoline, oil and other hazardous fluids. If a vehicle or piece of motorized equipment is no longer used, it is recommended that you remove it from the property or empty it of all fluids which are then disposed of properly. If these engine powered machines are still used and cannot be stored indoors, it is recommended that something impervious be placed underneath it to safely confine potential drips and that a cover is placed over it. A small quantity of waste oil can potentially contaminate a large volume of drinking water.

## A Healthy Yard and Landscape

Every year, tons of fertilizers keep lawns greener than normal or necessary. Incorrect or excessive fertilizer application contributes to surface and ground water pollution. Have your soil tested to determine your soil's needs before fertilizing.

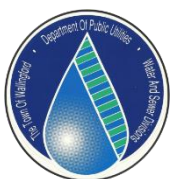
### **Grass clippings and compost go a long way toward promoting the health of the lawn and garden.**

If you feel you must apply fertilizer, an organic choice is recommended. When fertilizing your lawn, avoid applying it before a rainstorm.

The nitrogen in the fertilizer used should be a slow release source that is water insoluble. This provides nitrogen over a longer period and results in more uniform growth and deeper roots. Grass clippings contain about 4% nitrogen and, left on the lawn, will provide one-third to one-half of your lawn's nitrogen needs.

## How You Can Help

- Pick up your pet's waste. Flush it or bag it for trash.
- Be phosphate free with fertilizer and cleaning agents.
- Check the car for leaking oil and antifreeze.
- Please do not store gas, oil and other hazardous fluid containers outdoors on the ground.
- When fertilizing your lawn, avoid applying it before a rainstorm, use it sparingly, and use organic, slow release fertilizers.



For more information please contact the Water Quality Office at 203-949-2666.