Protecting Your Surface Water: What to do:

- Recognize and manage possible sources of contamination on your property.
- Use hazardous products as directed and dispose of them properly.
- Conserve water.
- Use biodegradable soap when washing your car.
- Select plants in your yard that require low fertilizer application.
- If you have a heating oil tank, check it regularly for leaks.

What NOT to do:

- Do not dispose of used motor oil and other hazardous chemicals by pouring them on the ground, into a storm drain or down the drain.
- Do not indiscriminately spray pesticide where a pest problem has not been identified.
- Do not divert storm drains or basement pumps into septic systems.
- Do not dump any trash or waste near a sinkhole or streams.

Ways to Get Involved:

- Participate in clean-up activities in your neighborhood.
- Help identify potential sources of contamination in your source water protection area.
- Help educate your neighbors and others about source water protection.

Did You Know?
Just 1 gallon of gasoline can contaminate 1,000,000 gallons of water!

Hazardous Waste Disposal:

- Local automobile parts stores may recycle used oil and batteries
- County Landfills may provide hazardous household collection events

A Quick Summary Review of Source Water Protection:

- Your Community is privileged to have extremely high quality drinking water. Conservation of this water is essential.
- Your Community is taking a proactive approach to ensure that your drinking water stays safe and pure.
- You are living on top of your drinking water and your actions can affect the drinking water for the entire community.

More Information is Available:

On Source Water Protection at:
http://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection

http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/drinking-water/source-water-programs/source-water-protection-program/

On Septic Systems at:
http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/septic/

On Water Conservation at:
http://www.epa.gov/watersense/

On Watershed Management at:
http://water.epa.gov/type/watersheds/index.cfm

On Hazardous Waste Disposal at:
http://www.epa.gov/wastes/hazard/index.htm

For questions regarding the City of Salem's Source Water Protection Plan, please contact:

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SALEM VA

Source Water Protection

Keeping Your Water Supply Safe

Prepared in cooperation with:

CHA

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Protecting You and Your Environment

What is Source Water Protection?

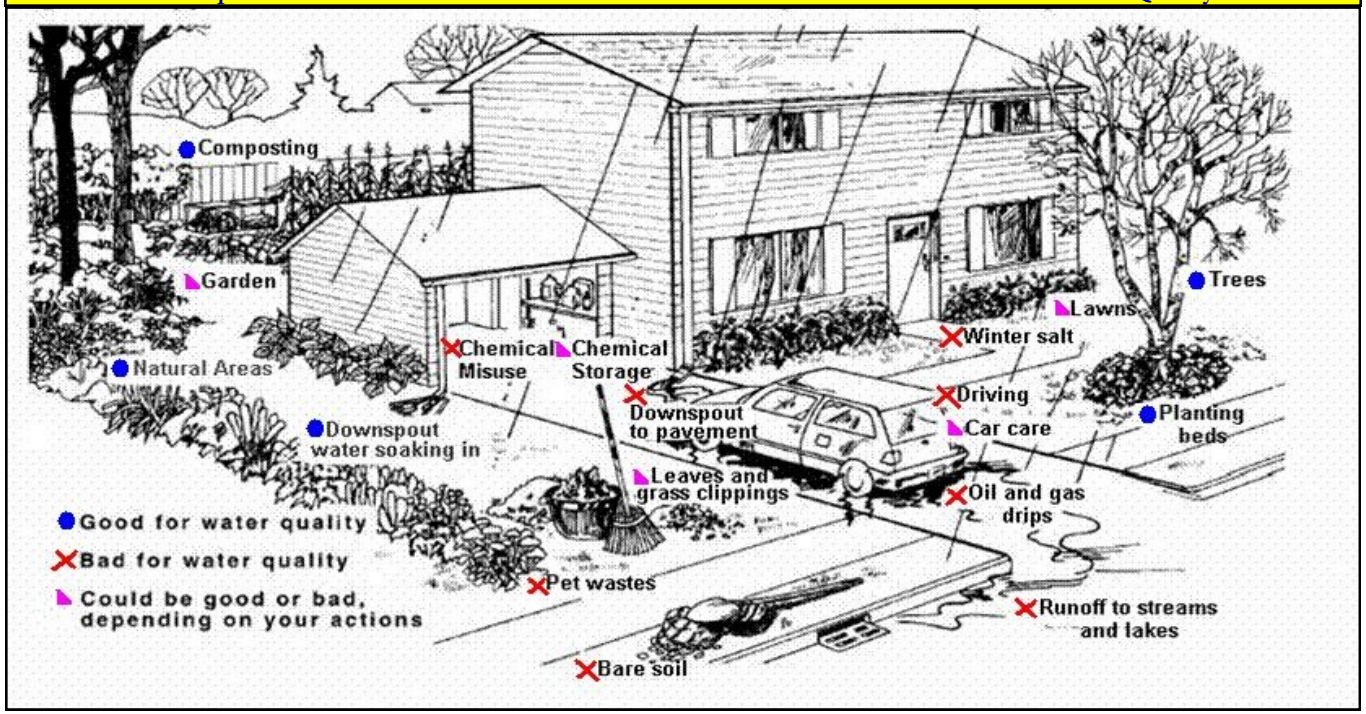
Source Water Protection is a method of preventing contamination of a public water supply by effectively managing potential contaminant sources in the area which contributes water to the surface water supply. This land surface area is called the Source Water Protection Area (SWPA) and encompasses the watershed.

The watershed is the area of land which captures all precipitation within its boundaries. Rainfall, snow melt, and storm water runoff all drain into the watershed; any of which could potentially negatively affect the source water with contaminants picked up along the way.

Source Water Protection Plan helps safeguard the water supply and everyone needs to be Involved for the plan to be successful!

What are the Threats to My Drinking Water?

Examples of Situations and Activities Around Your House that Can Affect Your Water Quality



Why Should Source Water Protection Matter to Me?

The drinking water that you receive from the City of Salem comes primarily from the Roanoke River and is supplemented by groundwater systems. Protecting these sources of water is an important part of providing safe drinking water to the public.

The public water supply represents a valuable resource and investment which, if it were to be polluted, could negatively impact public health and would be expensive to the restore or replace. Reducing or preventing chemical and microbiological contamination of source waters could allow the public water authority to avoid costly monitoring and treatments which in turn, could save your wallet.

How Does Source Water Become Contaminated?

Many normal day-to-day activities could have the unintended consequence of contaminating the water supply. Contaminants may enter or be washed into streams, reservoirs, and public water supply intakes. Potential threats in your SWPA include failing septic systems, private wells, hazardous materials transported along major roadways/railways, gasoline stations, aboveground/underground storage tanks, storm water runoff, timbering activities, and residential, industrial, recreational and agricultural uses of pesticides, fertilizers, chemicals, oil, etc. Treating a contaminated water supply can cost thousands of dollars, if not more. Preventing contamination is the key to keeping water supplies safe.

The figure below shows the Zone 1 Source Water Protection Area for the City of Salem.