

Protecting the Ossipee Aquifer: what you can do

Here are some ideas for preventing hazardous materials from contaminating our water supply.

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

- Use hazardous chemicals sparingly or not at all
- Use nontoxic, biodegradable, or recycled cleansers such as white vinegar and baking soda
- Store chemicals in covered and contained areas
- Dispose of chemicals properly. Take advantage of household hazardous waste collection days. See <https://www.lakesrpc.org/serviceshhw.asp>
- If you have a spill, call the fire department, then NHDES at (603) 271-3899

YARD MAINTENANCE

- Apply chemicals only as directed. More is not always better!
- Test your soil to see how much fertilizer to apply. For information call (603) 447-3834 or visit <https://extension.unh.edu/>
- Leave lawn clippings on the ground or compost them to reduce the need for fertilizer
- Do not dump yard waste on the banks of a water body
- The Comprehensive Shoreline Protection Act prohibits the use of fertilizers except limestone within 25 feet of public waters
- Don't apply chemicals if rain is forecast within 24 hours
- Maintain taller grass length, which can filter sediments from runoff and reduce the need for watering
- Clean up after pets

AUTOMOTIVE

- Take used oil and antifreeze to a recycling facility
- Check for and repair fluid leaks from your vehicle
- Clean up spills immediately. Use cat litter or Speedy Dry to absorb liquids and dispose in the trash
- Keep salt and sand piles covered and contained to prevent runoff
- Avoid washing your vehicle near a storm drain

LANDSCAPING TIPS

- Reduce the size of your lawn by adding garden areas
- Rain gardens planted in low-lying areas of a yard naturally collect rainwater from your roof and driveway
- Native perennial plants are less expensive, require little or no fertilizing and provide benefits to wildlife

- Filter strips -- vegetated areas adjacent to water bodies -- help to prevent runoff and erosion
- Pull weeds to avoid using herbicides
- Inexpensive native seedlings can be purchased from the NH State Forest Nursery; see <https://www.nh.gov/nhnursery/> or call (603) 271-2217

(this material was adapted from “Best Management Practices for Homeowners,” published by Green Mountain Conservation Group)