

## What is Wellhead Protection?

Wellhead protection is a method of preventing contamination of a public water supply well by effectively managing potential contaminant sources in the area which contributes water to the well.

Your "Wellhead Protection Area" (WHPA) is the land surface surrounding the well where rainfall trickles down to the groundwater and is then pumped out by your wells. This "recharge zone" is the area that potentially affects your source water, and is also called the "Source Water Protection Area". A vast majority of the recharge zone for the wells that provide your drinking water are within your subdivision. This means that any activities on your property could potentially have an impact on your drinking water and is the first area of focus for wellhead protection.

Wellhead protection helps safeguard community water supplies; while your community has developed a wellhead protection plan, everyone needs to get involved for the plan to be successful.

### 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.

### What not to do:

- Do not apply fertilizers or fungicides outside of the manufacturer's specifications or when it is not necessary.
- Do not indiscriminately spray pesticide where a pest problem has not been identified.
- Do not dispose of used motor oil and other hazardous chemicals by pouring them on the ground or down the storm drain.

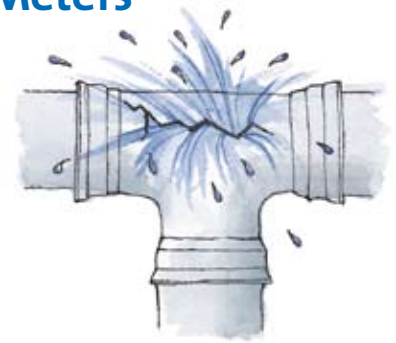
### Ways to get involved:

- Participate in clean-up activities in your neighborhood.
- Help identify potential sources of contamination in your source water protection area.
- Share this information with your neighbors and others about source water protection. Tell us how you're doing your part and we'll post your story on our website.

### ATTEND A LOUDOUN WATER BOARD MEETING

You are always welcome to attend our monthly Board meetings, usually held the second Thursday of each month at 3:00pm in the Boardroom of our Administration office at 44865 Loudoun Water Way, Ashburn, VA 20147.

## Winter Tips for Your Meters



Brrr, it's cold outside. During the winter season abnormally cold temperatures may cause freezing of water mains, meters and/or the service lines to your home. You can help prevent frozen meters and pipes by using the tips from the fall News-Leak (available online at our website, [www.loudounwater.org](http://www.loudounwater.org)) or by contacting us if you notice any meter lids that appear loose or improperly sealed. Loose meter lids can be a safety hazard and could allow cold air to seep in and possibly freeze the meter. You can report loose or broken meter lids by calling Customer Service at 571.291.7880.

Visit [www.loudounwater.org](http://www.loudounwater.org), for more information.

### WATER

### FUN FACT #4

Insulate pipes in unheated spaces. Hardware/building supply stores carry insulation designed to keep pipes in these areas from freezing.

# NEWS Leak

## HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE LATELY?



We're always looking for ways we can serve our customers better, which is why we've recently revamped our website. Now it's even easier to find information about your water, and we've made it more interactive using Web 2.0 technologies. We can interact with you through our new blog, called Water We Thinking, and you can sign up to receive alerts whenever we've updated the site. Of course, we still offer all the customer service information you need, bill payment options, water conservation tips and land development documents.

Beginning in April, the NewsLeak will only be available by email to customers who subscribe to it. This move answers your request and saves us money. We've heard from many customers who said they would prefer an email newsletter. Please visit our website to sign up for the email newsletter later this spring. Any special messages can still be found on your bill printed under Important Notice.

Join us at [www.loudounwater.org](http://www.loudounwater.org).

# Water You Thinking?<sup>®</sup>

As you're cooking over the holidays or throughout the year, we'd like to remind you that fats, oils and grease can clog more than arteries, they can damage your sewer line, too. A clogged pipe can cause a sewer backup in your home – not a good way to end the day. So toss the fat in the trash and keep it away from your drains.

Click on Contact Us on our website to request free grease bags, [www.loudounwater.org](http://www.loudounwater.org).

