

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is the area of land that supplies water to a given stream, lake, wetland, or other waterbody. Automotive businesses in the Pennichuck Watershed drain to the City of Nashua's and other towns' water supply.

Water Quality

As water from rain or snow travels over the surface of land and through the ground, it can carry contaminants into your drinking water supply such as:

- gasoline and oil products;
- spent solvents and cleaners; and
- detergents, degreasers, and spent washwater and rinsewater.

Keeping your water supply clean is important to your health and the health of others.



Source: Cooperative Extension Service,
Michigan State University

Be Informed and Prepared

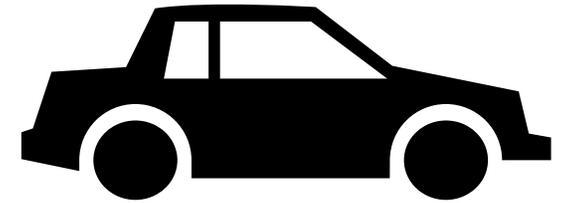
- Do** educate yourself and your employees on proper handling procedures for automotive fluids.
- Don't** wait for an emergency to plan your response. Keep information on chemical names, material safety data sheets, and emergency phone numbers at hand. This will help others avert a costly crisis.

You Can Take Action To Protect the Water You and Others Drink!

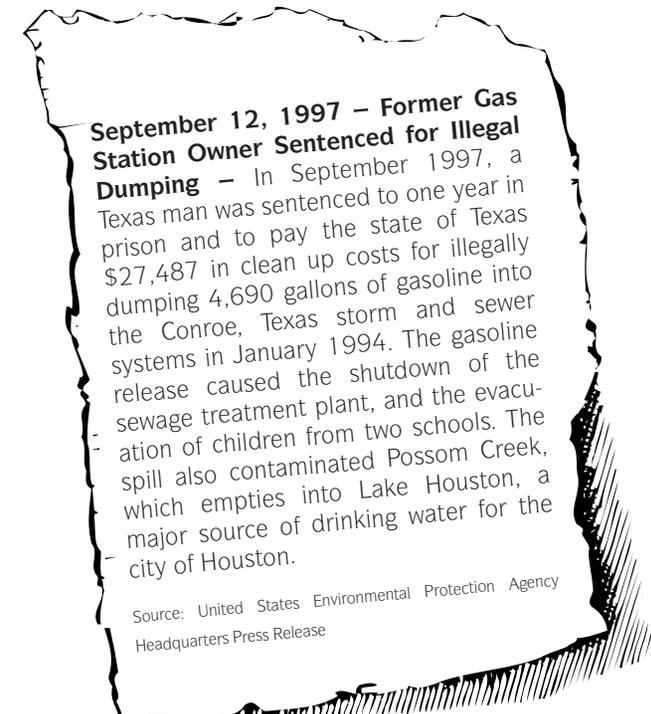
For additional information please
contact Rebecca McEnroe at
Pennichuck Water Works

(603) 882-5191

Are You Polluting Your Own Drinking Water?

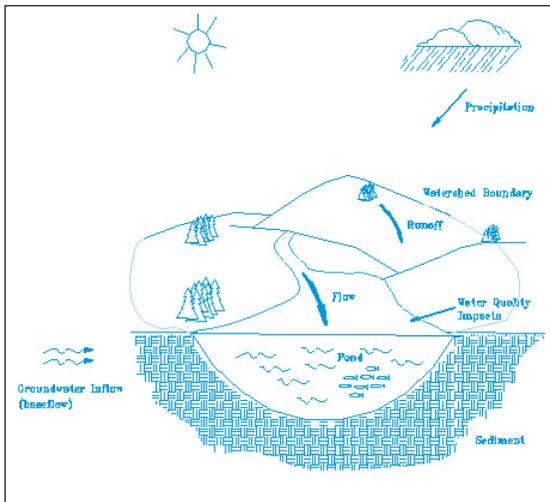


Information for Automotive Businesses



September 12, 1997 – Former Gas Station Owner Sentenced for Illegal Dumping – In September 1997, a Texas man was sentenced to one year in prison and to pay the state of Texas \$27,487 in clean up costs for illegally dumping 4,690 gallons of gasoline into the Conroe, Texas storm and sewer systems in January 1994. The gasoline release caused the shutdown of the sewage treatment plant, and the evacuation of children from two schools. The spill also contaminated Possum Creek, which empties into Lake Houston, a major source of drinking water for the city of Houston.

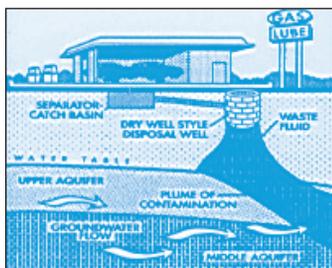
Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency
Headquarters Press Release



Automotive businesses can contaminate water sources. How can this happen, and more importantly how can you prevent it?

Automotive repair shops, service stations, and dealerships can pollute water supplies when automotive fluids are discharged to storm drains or floor drains, oil and gas products are spilled, and materials are improperly stored. By using better housekeeping methods and changing a few daily activities, you can help protect your own health and that of others in your community. In addition you can:

- **Reduce liability** at both on-site and off-site treatment, storage, and disposal facilities;
- **Gain customers** who know that the business they choose is helping to keep the watershed clean; and
- Be a **good neighbor** by protecting the water supply.



Source: EPA, Underground Injection Practices Council

What Can I Do?

Safely Fuel Vehicles

- Do** fuel vehicles on a sound concrete surface. Do install fuel pump shut-off systems.
- Don't** allow vehicle fueling in unauthorized areas. Don't hose down fueling areas for cleanup since this water can discharge to a floor drain or storm drain and enter the water supply.



Source: Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University

Properly Change Automotive Fluids

- Do** collect leaking or dripping fluids in drip pans or containers.
- Don't** drain or replace automotive fluids in areas with floor drains or storm drains.

Limit Your Disposal Needs through Recycling

- Do** store used material in separate containers since some chemicals may be recycled if separated.
- Don't** mix waste. Mixing can greatly increase disposal costs and reduce your ability to recycle it.

Safely Store Chemicals and Waste

- Do** locate your storage area on a concrete surface with a protective berm for spill containment. Do label waste containers.
- Don't** leave containers and storage areas uncovered or open to the weather. Don't let rainwater contact old parts or scrap metal since pollutants can wash off and enter the water supply.

Safeguard Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)

- Do** provide catchment basins at fill-pipes to contain spills from delivery hoses. Do perform corrective actions in response to leaks, spills or overfills.
- Don't** forget to check and maintain UST corrosion protection and leak protection systems.

Contain Spills

- Do** use rags for small spills and dry absorbent material for larger spills. Treat material as hazardous waste if appropriate or send spent rags to an industrial cleaner.
- Don't** allow drips and splatters to remain on the floor since they may eventually wash into underground or surface water sources.

Clean Parts and Equipment Efficiently

- Do** use water based parts cleaners. Do use enclosed parts washers that reuse the same solvent many times.
- Don't** dispose of spent solvents into the sewer or storm drain. They must be disposed of as hazardous waste.

Control Inventory

- Do** know when chemicals were purchased and use these materials before they expire.
- Don't** store large quantities of rarely used or toxic materials since this increases the chance of material expiration.

Dispose of Waste Responsibly

- Do** select a hazardous waste hauler and disposal company with care. Ask for customer references and review the hauler's permits.
- Don't** dispose of waste in sinks, storm drains, septic systems, or floor drains.

