

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Please contact Union Township Utilities for information on where to dispose of the following items:

Electronics:

Computers, monitors & printers, Televisions, VCRs & stereos, Fax and small copy machines

Paints:

Latex or oil based

Flammables:

Gasoline, Used motor oil, Propane cylinders, Aerosol cans, Adhesives, Transmission fluid, Driveway sealer, Paint thinners, Polyurethane

Batteries:

Automotive & motorcycle batteries, Cell phone batteries, Alkaline batteries, Rechargeable batteries

Others:

Pesticides/herbicides, Used Antifreeze, Oxidizers, Poisons, Corrosives, Fluorescent bulbs, Swimming pool chemicals

Kitchen/Bath

Cleaners and Polishes, Old Medicine, Photographic Chemicals, Mercury Thermometers

Flammable Liquids, Aerosols, Smoke Detectors, Nickel Cadmium Batteries, Bug Spray

Garage

Antifreeze, Car Batteries, Oil Based Paint, Varnish, Transmissive or Brake Fluid
Used Motor Oil, Paint Strippers, Thinners and Solvents

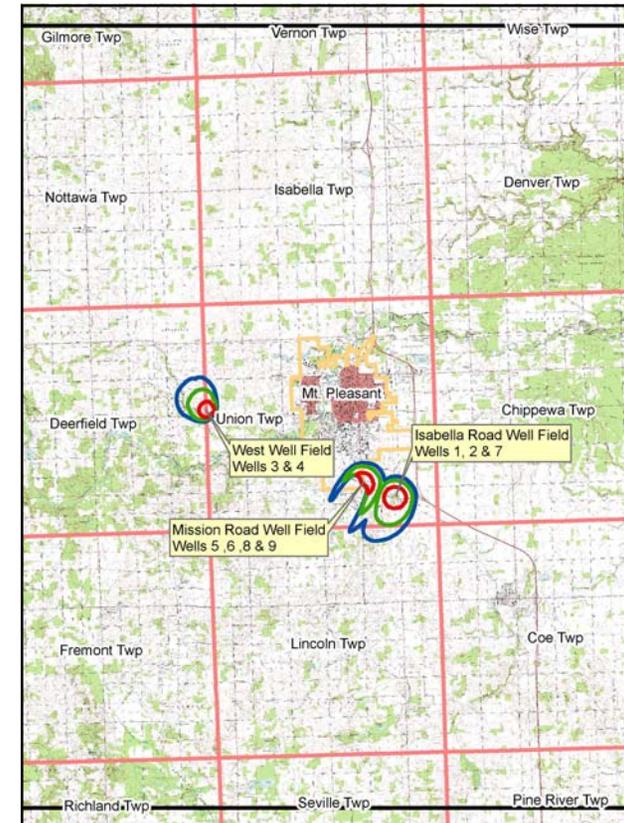


Please contact the Union Township Utilities Department at 772-4600 for additional Wellhead Protection information or to review the Wellhead Protection Plan

Charter Township of Union

Wellhead Protection

Program



1 Year WHPA	Red line
5 Year WHPA	Green line
10 Year WHPA	Blue line

*Assuring Safe Drinking Water
For Future Generations*

What is a Wellhead Protection Program?

The Charter Township of Union's Wellhead Protection Program is designed to protect the Township's water supply from present and future potential sources of contamination through effective planning, management and education.

Union Townships Wellhead Protection Program determined the Wellhead Protection Area as seen on the front of this brochure.

After the Wellhead Protection Area was determined, Union Township designed a Wellhead Protection Plan that includes a survey of potential sources of contamination, a management plan, a contingency plan, and an educational program to inform the community about the Program.

Wellhead Protection Program Benefits

- Proactive response for potential contamination issues.
- Enhance intergovernmental cooperation.
- Groundwater is the only source of drinking water for Union Township. Wellhead Protection provides a means to safeguard our drinking water.
- Protection of the community investment in the water supply system. Prevention of groundwater contamination is much less expensive than groundwater cleanup.
- A clean and reliable source of drinking water is a positive aspect of any community. It is a major selling point in attracting new businesses and industries and keeping the existing ones.

Union Township's Water Source

Union Township withdraws groundwater from seven (7) wells located in three (3) well fields. The groundwater comes from rain and snow that infiltrates the soil and unconsolidated material. All 3 well fields withdraw water from a sand and gravel aquifer to provide the community with a safe drinking water supply.

Agricultural Best Management

Practices (BMPs)

Reducing agricultural inputs (fertilizers, manures and pesticides) is an important part of pollution prevention. The less a potentially harmful substance is used in, the less likely it is to affect other parts of the environment.

Pesticide/Herbicide Application

The use of herbicides and insecticides can be minimized through Integrated Pest Management. This refers to a management strategy that includes an understanding of the target pest and use of a combination of physical, chemical, biological and cultural controls. Proper storage, mixing and handling of pesticides are also essential in minimizing risk to the environment.

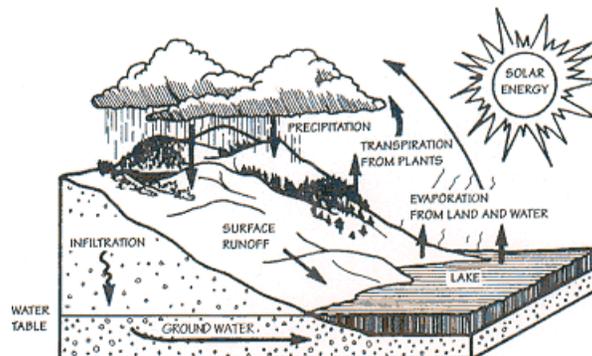
Erosion Control

Controlling erosion and runoff is an important best management strategy. Practices such as strip-cropping, shelterbelts and use of cover crops prevent erosion and reduce the movement of nutrients and pesticides from agricultural land. Residue management through conservation tillage and continuous cropping is also effective at controlling erosion, but requires higher inputs of fertilizer and herbicides. A balance between erosion control and protection of water quality may have to be established to maximize conservation.

Nutrient Management

Nutrient management is the practice of applying fertilizers and manures only in the amounts that can be taken up by a crop. Applications in excess of these needs have the potential to enter surface and ground water.

Water Cycle



How Can YOU Help Protect the Groundwater Supply?

Properly maintain private water wells.

Private wells are the responsibility of the homeowner.

- Have your water tested regularly for bacteria and nitrates.
- Survey the area around your well to identify potential problems.
- Set a regular maintenance schedule and keep up to date records.

Properly plug abandoned wells on your property.

These wells threaten groundwater because contaminants can directly enter the aquifer through the well. Abandoned wells that are open at the surface or have a deteriorated seal or casing below the surface are of particular concern.

IF YOU HAVE AN ABANDONED WELL ON YOUR PROPERTY PLEASE CONTACT THE CENTRAL MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT AT 989-773-5921

Proper pesticide use. The first and most important step is selecting the correct pesticide for the correctly identified pest. The next step is to follow directions and application amounts to prevent waste and to save money.

Properly maintain septic systems. Proper septic system maintenance helps prevent bacteria and nitrates from entering groundwater. The following are some things you can do to extend the life of your septic system:

- Pump your septic tank every 3-5 years
- Avoid planting trees around your system
- Do not drive on the absorption field
- Divert drainage away from absorption field

Give away products. Give products to a neighbor, church, or local organization. They may be pleased to share your leftover paint, fertilizer, cleaners, etc.

Be Proactive. Talk to your neighbors about Wellhead Protection !!!