



Preventing Groundwater Pollution JUNK - Haul It Away!

We need to be mindful of the things we do that may pollute groundwater. That is because the groundwater beneath us may travel great distances to eventually feed springs or wells used for someone's water supply. Once polluted, groundwater is very difficult and expensive to clean up. *It is always best to prevent groundwater pollution in the first place!*

What Can You Do to Prevent Groundwater Pollution?

This fact sheet provides some best management practices (BMPs) that may be implemented to prevent potential groundwater pollution from activities that commonly occur when homeowners store old automobiles, appliances, or other household wastes on their property. Keep in mind that this fact sheet does not include all the pollution prevention methods available, but is designed to help you, the homeowner, manage your waste storage so that it does not present a pollution risk.

- ◆ **Haul it away!** The best method for preventing pollution is to haul the materials off your property. Junk cars and trucks may be hauled away by salvage yards operating in the city, or donated to charity. Appliances may be taken to the Metro Waste Reduction Center. (See box.)

If you can't haul the junk away, then you can

- ◆ Remove and collect all fluids and oil filters;
- ◆ Dedicate a single area of the yard to vehicle disassembly and fluids removal. This area should have an impervious tarp on the ground, have a dike, or raised area to prevent escape of fluids, and be under cover. Should the area be serviced by a drain, the drain should lead to a closed-loop recovery system, or be plugged so as to prevent any hazardous fluids, such as antifreeze, oils, solvents, or hydraulic fluids, to enter the ground or a septic system.
- ◆ If hazardous fluids or wash water containing any hazardous fluids are currently being dispensed through an on-site septic system, the activity must stop immediately and the drain plugged.
- ◆ Keep the disassembly area free of stacked vehicles and parts so that disassembly is always conducted in the 'safe' area.
- ◆ Have the appropriate equipment available and in good working order to collect fluids.



- ◆ Store all hazardous materials in sealed, leak-proof containers. When not in use, these containers should be closed. Dispose of hazardous materials at HazBin, or recycle the fluids when possible.
- ◆ Store all engines and transmissions that have been drained of fluids under cover and over an impervious floor having no cracks. Use an impervious tarp if needed. Use drip pans to collect residual fluids.
- ◆ Reuse, to the greatest extent possible, all hazardous materials that would otherwise require disposal, such as gasoline and antifreeze. Recycle antifreeze once you are finished with it.
- ◆ Doors to appliances must be removed to prevent children from getting trapped in the appliance.
- ◆ Store batteries under cover and take them to HazBin as soon as possible.
- ◆ Spill cleanup and a containment kit must be available in locations where leaks of potential pollutants could reach the ground or the groundwater.

[If you have a spill, call 911 immediately. For spills of more than 25 gallons, call Kentucky Emergency Response Team at 800-928-2380](#)

Remember:

"Property owners are responsible for keeping their residences maintained in a clean and safe manner. Louisville Metro Department of Inspections, Permits, and Licenses is committed to enforcing property maintenance, nuisance, and zoning codes, which outline the minimum health, safety, and use standards for all properties within the metro area. This includes high weeds, trash, junked vehicles, disrepair, etc."

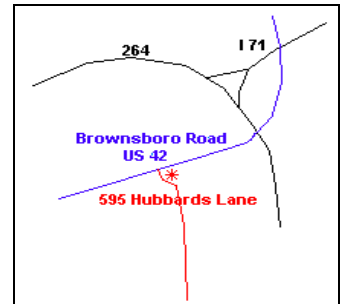
--- Louisville Metro Government Web Site

Recycle/Reuse to prevent pollution! (See WHPP 918)

Prevent pollution by using the three R's: **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.**
Homeowners can use the Recycling Drop-off Center to recycle many items.

Recycling Drop-off Center
595 Hubbards Lane
Louisville, KY

Open Tue. through Sat., 10 am-5pm

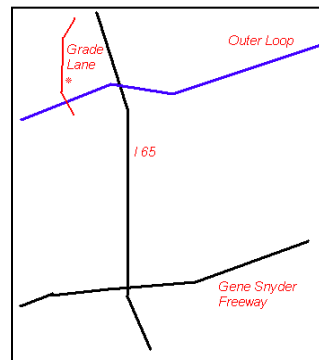


Take Hazardous Materials to HazBin? (See WHPP 919)

Use HazBin to dispose of hazardous materials safely.

HazBin
7501 Grade Lane
Louisville, KY

Open Wed. & Sat. 9am-3pm



For bulk wastes, homeowners can use the Louisville/Metro Waste Reduction Center:

Metro Waste Reduction Center
636 Merriweather Ave.

Open Tue through Fri, 8am-5pm; Sat, 8am-3pm

Call 574-5000 for more info.

