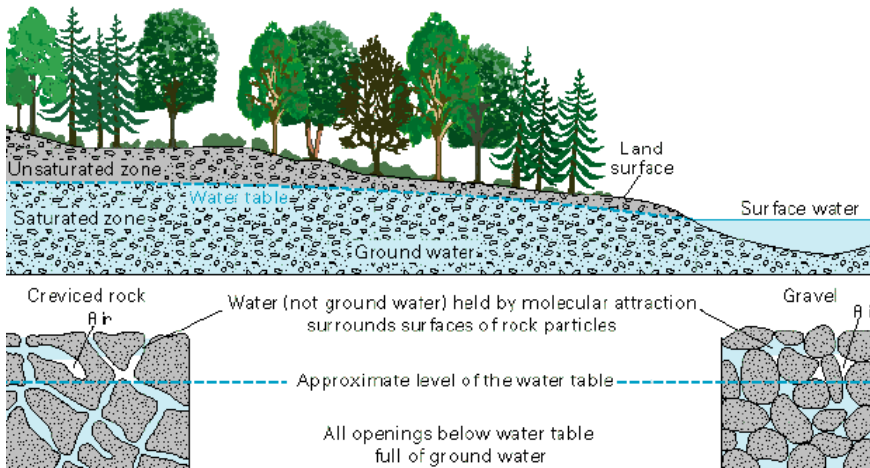


# Groundwater Protection Plans For Homeowners\*

\*Developed from "Groundwater... Protecting it is now the law", KY DOW

## What is Groundwater?

Groundwater is the water that lies beneath the surface of the earth, filling the open spaces between the grains of soils, sands, gravels, or other materials. Every time it rains, water seeps into the ground, percolating downward until it becomes a part of the groundwater reservoir.



## Why is Groundwater Important?

Groundwater is a part of your drinking water supply. The Louisville Water Company has developed a Wellhead Protection Plan to help protect the groundwater that surrounds the collector well at the B. E. Payne Plant in Prospect, KY. If your property is within the Wellhead Protection Area, your activities can affect the drinking water supplies of the City of Louisville.

## What is a Groundwater Protection Plan?

A Groundwater Protection Plan, (GWPP), is a strategy for protecting the groundwater that lies beneath your property. It involves understanding the different ways that groundwater can become contaminated, and the materials that can contaminate the groundwater. It also involves an understanding of specific methods or practices used to prevent contamination of the groundwater.

## Why is a Groundwater Protection Plan Important?

A GWPP demonstrates that the property owner understand the possible consequences of every day activities that may adversely affect the groundwater. The plan lists Best Management Strategies and special activities for specific problems that will help to minimize the potential for contamination of the groundwater, and promote the health, safety, and well-being of the homeowner and his neighbors.

An important portion of the plan is the Certification page. This shows that the homeowner agrees to do everything possible to minimize the potential for contamination of the groundwater. In many cases, the activities recommended are more a matter of refraining from using a practice or method that could be harmful to the groundwater. For example, the homeowner could stop pouring used oil down the kitchen sink that would enter a septic system, or disposing of unwanted pesticides by pouring them down a well.

## Is it required by law?

Yes. Kentucky law 401 KAR 5:037 requires that a Groundwater Protection Plan be completed for certain activities that may offer a potential for contamination to the groundwater.

For homeowners, it is a matter of bulk quantities. If a homeowner has more than 55 gallons of a liquid or 100 pounds of dry weight of a potentially polluting substance on site, a site-specific GWPP must be completed. In addition, a GWPP is required for the following activities:

- ◆ Home Heating Oil Tanks
- ◆ Home Fuel Storage Tanks
- ◆ Domestic Water Wells
- ◆ Septic Systems
- ◆ Monitoring Well Owners
- ◆ Poultry Facility on less than 10 acres
- ◆ Construction of Water or Monitoring Wells

### How can you, as a Homeowner, Comply with the law?

Complying with the law is very easy! Generic GWPPs are available from the Kentucky Division of Water. All you have to do is follow the steps:

- ✓ Read the *Generic Groundwater Protection Plan*;
- ✓ Think about the activities the plans suggest, and how you may put them into practice;
- ✓ Implement your plan and keep records of your activities;
- ✓ Sign and date the *Certification Page*;
- ✓ Keep the original for your records; and
- ✓ Update your plan every three years, or every time to make a change to your system.

Be sure to keep a copy of the *Groundwater Protection Plan* for your records! KY Division of Water personnel may wish to see a copy of the plan for approval.

### For additional information, you may contact:

David Jackson  
Groundwater Branch  
DEP Division of Water  
300 Sower Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 564-3410  
david.jackson@ky.gov

OR you may visit the KY DOW website about *Groundwater Protection Plans*:

<http://water.ky.gov/groundwater/Pages/GroundwaterProtectionPlans.aspx>

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For more information about LWC's *Wellhead Protection Plan*, please contact:

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(502) 564-3600, ext. 1809  
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