



# What can I do to protect my drinking water?



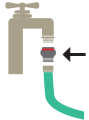
- Test well water once a year. <sup>1</sup>



- Inspect the well for any damage — cracks, holes.



- Only grow grass near wells. Plants with deep roots can damage your water lines.



- Install back-flow preventing valves on outside faucets.



- Pump your septic system every 3-5 years.

- Limit your use of pesticides and fertilizers.

- Do not store chemicals in the well house. Keep pesticides, fertilizers, solvents, paint, batteries, etc., **at least 100 feet away from your well.**



- Clean-up spills.



- Take unneeded chemicals and motor oil to a recycling center. <sup>2</sup>



- Don't pile yard waste, leaves, manure, or compost near your well.



- Keep animals and their waste away from the well.

- Never dispose of chemicals, medications, or other hazardous materials down your drain (only household detergents).



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<https://ecology.wa.gov/issues-and-local-projects/environmental-projects/lower-yakima-valley-groundwater-management-area>

## Questions



### <sup>1</sup> Where can I get my water tested?

Drinking Water Testing | Yakima County, WA

<https://www.yakimacounty.us/344/Drinking-Water-Testing>



### What can I do if my water is contaminated?

Contact Yakima Health District

Drinking Water | Yakima County, WA

509-575-4040



### <sup>2</sup> Where do I dispose of unwanted chemicals?

Yakima County Household & Small Business Waste Facility  
(*business waste by appointment only*)

7151 Roza Hill Drive, Yakima, WA 98901

509-574-2472

<https://www.yakimacounty.us/717/Hazardous-Waste>



To learn how we are tracking nitrate levels,

scan the QR code or type “[Eyes Underground: Lower Yakima Valley](#)” in your search engine.

## Protect your well water.

Keep contaminants away from your well.

