WHAT IS GROUNDWATER?

Groundwater is precipitation that has soaked into the ground and is stored in pores between the soil or in cracks in the bedrock. Mainland Currituck County uses groundwater it pumps from the ground using 31wells located in its service area.

THE WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN

Currituck County is developing a Wellhead Protection Plan to protect its water supply from contamination. As a part of the program, it has identified vulnerable areas around its wells called "Wellhead Protection Areas". Chemicals and other pollutants spilled or dumped in these areas can be drawn into the wells, possibly contaminating our community's drinking water supply. Residents and businesses in these areas must be very careful with chemicals and other potential pollutants.

POLLUTION SOURCES

Many things we do in our daily lives can pollute our surface and groundwaters. Sources of groundwater pollution include:

- Used oil, paint thinner, gasoline and other chemicals poured on the ground
- Leaking storage tanks (aboveground and underground)
- Overuse of pesticides and fertilizers on lawns, golf courses and agricultural fields
- Chemical spills at businesses, farms and along highways
- Illegal dumps and poorly managed landfills
- Failing septic tanks
- Leaking sewer lines
- Improperly abandoned wells
- Unlined waste pits, ponds and lagoons

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Currituck County Water Treatment Plant
252- 232-6061

NC Rural Water Association
www.ncrwa.com

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Water is our most valuable natural resource – we must protect it! You can help by doing your part to protect our supply and by supporting this program. Here are some tips:

- Never pour used oil, paint thinner or other hazardous chemicals on the ground or down the drain. Take them to a recycling center or to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. Additional information can be found at http://www.co.currituck.nc.us/Manned-Convenience-CentersDup3.cfm
- Check for and fix leaks in storage tanks (i.e. home heating oil/kerosene) at your home or business
- Inspect and pump your septic tank as needed
- Have any unused wells on your property properly abandoned
- Minimize your use of pesticides and fertilizers and store them properly
- Clean up junk and debris on your property
- Report all chemical spills immediately
- Encourage community leaders and businesses to do everything possible to protect our drinking water supply