

## Is Gasoline Contaminating Your Drinking Water?

Gasoline is one of the most dangerous products commonly found around the home, yet people often store and use it with little care. Some of the chemicals in gasoline have been found in drinking water with increasing frequency, including benzene, toluene and MtBE (Methyl t-Butyl Ether), which is *easily dissolved in water* and is a possible carcinogen. Even a gasoline spill as small as a gallon can contaminate your drinking water wells or a public water supply.

## To Protect Your Drinking Water from Gasoline

### Avoid Spilling Gasoline on the Ground, Especially Near Wells

- Don't drain gasoline from lawn mowers, snow blowers, etc. onto the ground.
- Don't burn brush with gasoline.
- Don't top off your fuel tank.
- Keep refueling and engine work away from water supply wells, and if possible, over a concrete floor or similar barrier. Immediately clean up any gas or oil spills.

### Avoid Spilling Gasoline in Lakes, Ponds and Rivers

- Keep special gasoline-absorbing pads on your gas-powered boat and know how to use them.
- If you own a larger boat, make sure it has no-spill tank vents.
- Fill portable tanks from outboard boat engines on shore.
- Refuel snowmobiles and ice augers on shore; do not take gasoline storage tanks onto ice-covered ponds.

### Store Gasoline Properly

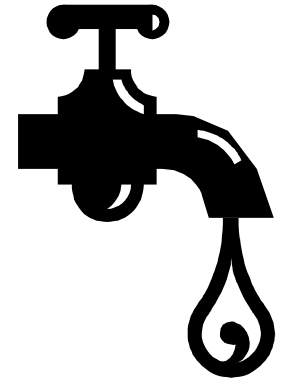
- Use a clearly labeled container made for gasoline and with a spout to avoid spills.
- Keep gasoline containers in a dry, well ventilated shed or detached garage away from water supply wells. Don't keep metal gasoline cans on a dirt floor for extended periods.

### Dispose of Waste Gasoline Properly

- Handle old or dirty gasoline as hazardous waste. Bring it to a household hazardous waste collection center in a proper gasoline container.

**If a spill occurs:** For *any size* spill that is not immediately cleaned up, first contact your local 911 responder or fire department, then call the NHDES emergency spill number at (603) 271-3899 (Mon-Fri, 8-4), or weekends and evenings at (603) 223-4381 (NH State Police).

# Got Clean Drinking Water?



## It's up to you!

## *The DOs and DON'Ts for Maintaining Clean Drinking Water*



For more information, please contact the Drinking Water Source Protection Program at (603) 271-7061 or visit our website: <https://www.des.nh.gov>