

## Common Sense Tips for your Household

### Store & dispose of hazardous waste properly

Store hazardous materials safely indoors and away from water sources such as wells. Take unused or expired paints, cleaners, pesticides and prescription pills to the local hazardous waste facility.



### Maintain your septic

In vulnerable areas, water drains rapidly through the soil. If your septic isn't working right, raw sewage can percolate very quickly into the groundwater below. Regular inspections and pump-outs when due go a long way to protecting water quality & saving money.



### Use non-toxic cleaning products \* & organic lawn care

Cleaners: check the label or make your own with a vinegar base.

Lawn Care: Cultivate healthy soil with compost; organic methods are cheaper and safer.



### Take care when refueling gas tanks or changing oil

Use a drop-cloth to catch spills and dispose of waste oil at proper facility. A single drop of oil can contaminate a million drops of water.



### Clean up pet waste / Manage livestock manure

These wastes contain bacteria that can pollute waterways.



### Protect Your Water Well

Make sure your well is properly capped and has a surface seal so that no polluted surface run-off can enter the well and get into the groundwater. Do not use a pumphouse to store hazardous materials.



### Conserve water

Lower water levels in a source can mean contaminants are more concentrated.



We have the best water! Let's keep it that way and protect it — by taking simple precautions at home.

## Resources

### Hazardous Waste Disposal

Nanaimo Recycling Exchange

[www.recycling.bc.ca](http://www.recycling.bc.ca) | (250) 758-7777

RDN Recycling Directory

[www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) | (250) 390-6560

### Septic Smart

[www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca)

Free information kit & online presentation.

### Well Smart

[www.rdnwellsmart.ca](http://www.rdnwellsmart.ca)

Check for upcoming workshops!

### \*Toxic Smart

[www.georgiastraight.org](http://www.georgiastraight.org) > pollution & toxics

Find recipes for non-toxic cleaners and a list of harmful ingredients to avoid.

### Environmental Farm Plan

[www.ardcorp.ca](http://www.ardcorp.ca)

(250)746-7666

Financial assistance for farmers to protect the groundwater.

### MVIHES Automotive Business Outreach

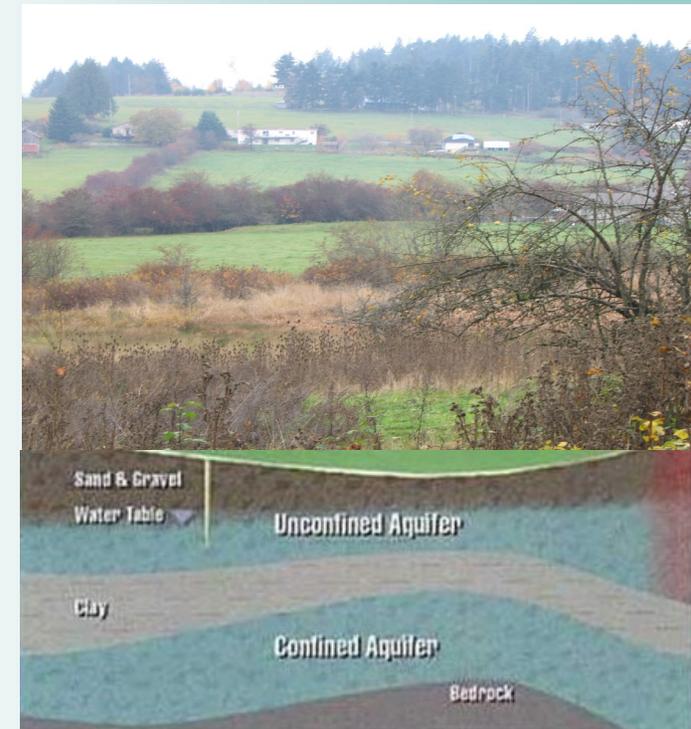
Improve your business and the environment—download a free Guidebook.

[www.mvihes.bc.ca](http://www.mvihes.bc.ca)

### VIU Vulnerability Mapping Project

<http://web.viu.ca/groundwater/>

# Do You Live in an Area with a HIGHLY VULNERABLE AQUIFER?



Know what's going on underground & on the surface...  
For the sake of clean water!



