



### **IS YOUR WATER SAFE TO DRINK?**

Have you ever wondered if your water is safe to drink or how it can become contaminated? Improper landscaping/backyard practices can potentially contaminate drinking water supplies.

### **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU?**

Improper backyard practices can potentially contaminate drinking water supplies by allowing contaminants to enter into your well and thus into your drinking water. This not only threatens the quality of your water but also your neighbor's and the City's. If your drinking water becomes contaminated you may need to install a water treatment system or drill a new well. Both of these items can cost thousands of dollars whereas following some sound backyard practices is by far easier and cheaper.

### **HOW DO BAD BACKYARD PRACTICES THREATEN YOUR DRINKING WATER?**

The City is promoting the proper management of backyards near private wells in order to keep these wells from acting as conduits and allowing surface water runoff or contaminated water from reaching drinking water sources.

### **WHAT CAN YOU DO TO ALLEVIATE THIS THREAT?**

- When landscaping your yard, keep the top of the well at least 1 foot above the soil surface. Slope the soil away from the well casing to allow surface water to drain away from your well.
- Do not pile snow, leaves, or other materials around the well. This will help keep insects, dirt, and other contaminants from entering your well.
- Do not mix or work with hazardous chemicals such as paints, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, motor oil, etc. near your well.
- Regularly inspect your well for cracks in the casing.
- Securely attach all well covers.
- Consider the location of your well when making physical changes to your property. Follow all MN Department of Health required setbacks from buildings and potential contaminant sources.

For further information please contact the following:  
City Contact Info

Or visit



[www.mrwa.com](http://www.mrwa.com)