



CAN UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS CONTAMINATE MY DRINKING WATER?

Nearly one out of every four underground storage tanks in the United States may be leaking, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A small gasoline leak of one drop per second can result in the release of approximately 400 gallons of gasoline into the groundwater in one year. A few quarts of gasoline may be enough to severely pollute a drinking water supply. At low levels of contamination, fuel contaminants in water cannot be detected by smell or taste, yet the seemingly pure water may be contaminated to the point of affecting human health. Preventing tank spills and leaks is especially important because of how rapidly gasoline, diesel and fuel oil can move through surface layers and into groundwater.

The City is working cooperatively with storage tank owners to implement preventive measures to help protect the drinking water of storage tank owners and the City's residents. Mismanaged storage tanks pose a serious threat to drinking water supplies because they have the ability to breakdown geologic barriers which protect aquifers from contamination.

SIMPLE STEPS CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOUR DRINKING WATER

- Make sure all underground tanks are properly installed, backfilled and compacted with good materials.
- Install and utilize a leak detection system on all storage tanks.
- Install and utilize a line leak detection system.
- Be careful to not overfill or spill while filling underground storage tanks.
- Follow all MN Pollution Control Agency requirements and recommended practices.

More additional information visit <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/cleanup/ust.html> or contact MPCA's Customer Assistance Center at 800-646-6247, or the MPCA Information Line at 800-657-3864. Any if you have any further questions please contact the city.

City Contact Info

