

2002

# How Can I Keep My Drinking Water Safe?

Kitt Farrell Poe

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/extension\\_histall](http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/extension_histall)

 Part of the [Education Commons](#)

**Warning:** The information in this series may be obsolete. It is presented here for historical purposes only. For the most up to date information please visit [The Utah State University Cooperative Extension Office](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Poe, Kitt Farrell, "How Can I Keep My Drinking Water Safe?" (2002). *All Archived Publications*. Paper 293.  
[http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/extension\\_histall/293](http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/extension_histall/293)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Archived USU Extension Publications at DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Archived Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact [dylan.burns@usu.edu](mailto:dylan.burns@usu.edu).





**A weekly question/answer column**

**How Can I Keep My Drinking Water Safe?**

*Kitt Farrell-Poe\* answers:*

Our health, comfort, and standard of living depend upon an abundant supply of safe drinking water. Each person's actions can affect the quantity and quality of our drinking water supply. Here are some things you can do to help keep our drinking water safe:

**In the garage:**

- Never pour gasoline or motor oil onto the ground, into a storm drain, or into your septic system. One gallon of oil can contaminate a million gallons of water. If you change your vehicle's oil yourself, store used oil in a sturdy, well-marked container. Take it to a gas station or a business that recycles motor oil.
- Don't throw products such as batteries in the trash because they contain elements that can harm the groundwater. Take these and other potentially harmful products such as motor oil, leftover paint, bug spray, weed killers and some household cleaners to special collection centers, or save for household hazardous waste collection days.

**In the kitchen and bath:**

- Don't let water run while you brush your teeth. You can save about 2 gallons of water as you brush. Also, low-flow shower heads and toilets and water-efficient appliances can save hundreds or even thousands of gallons of water each year.
- Rather than using hot tap water for cooking or preparing baby formula, start with cold water and heat it on the stove or in the microwave. Lead from some household plumbing can get into the hot tap water.
- Always fill the dishwasher with dishes before you run it.

**In the yard:**

- Reduce the amount of lawn fertilizers and pesticides that you use. Be sure to read the label for appropriate application rates.
- If you own a septic tank, have it inspected annually and pumped out regularly. Septic tanks can leak nitrates, bacteria, and chemicals into the groundwater.

---

\* Kitt Farrell-Poe is Utah State University Extension Water Quality Specialist