

LANDOWNER'S SURVEY:

WHAT'S THE RISK TO YOUR WATER FROM YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM?

Utah Farmstead Assessment for Ground Water and Surface Water Protection

Survey 6

Revised March 2012

Most homes in rural Utah use a septic system or similar on-site wastewater treatment system. While these systems are generally economical and safe, household wastewater can contain contaminants that degrade water quality for drinking, stock watering, food preparation and cleaning.

Potential contaminants in household wastewater include household chemicals, disease-causing bacteria or viruses and nutrients such as nitrate. Unless designed and managed properly, your septic system is a potential source of dangerous contaminants to groundwater including your well water and to surface water.

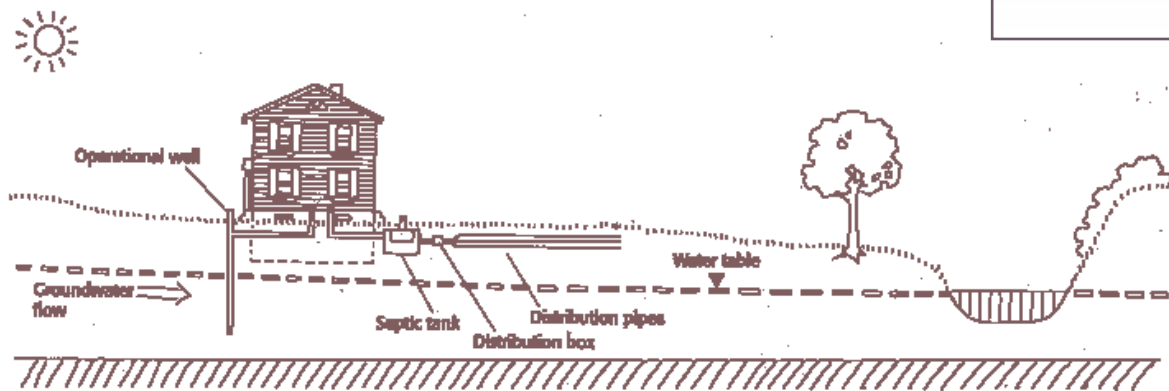
INSIDE:

USING THIS SURVEY

TAKE THE SURVEY

ASSESSING YOUR RISK

INTERPRETING YOUR RISK



HOW TO USE THIS SURVEY

This survey will help you identify some common risks that household wastewater systems pose to drinking and surface water on your farmstead or acreage. The survey asks a series of questions about specific practices or conditions that should be addressed to reduce risk of water contamination.

The results of this survey are intended to provide general information and recommendations regarding practices and potential risks to water quality. Keep this survey as your private record and use it as a guide to taking action for reduce risks.



See Glossary in Fact Sheet #6 for clarification of terms in this survey.

SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS

For each question circle the answer that best describes your situation. At the end of each section add together the numbers that correspond to each answer. When you have completed the survey, add together the section totals for the total risk assessment score.

Quantity and Quality of Wastewater

1. What is your daily water use per person per day?
(Average is about 40 gallons/person)

- Less than 25 gallons (1)
- Between 25 to 100 gallons (2)
- Greater than 100 gallons (3)

2. Do any of your water fixtures drip or leak?

- No (1)
- Yes (2)

3. Do you have any water conserving fixtures?

- Yes (1)
- No (3)

4. How many times a week is your water softener set to recharge?

- Don't have a water softener or recharged off site (1)
- Twice a week or less (2)
- More than twice a week (3)

5. Approximately how many times do you use your kitchen garbage disposal per week?

- Never, don't have one (0)
- 1 or 3 times per week (2)
- 4 or more times per week (3)

6. How much household chemical supplies (cleaners or detergents) do you add to your wastewater?

- None (0)
- Cups per week (2)
- Quarts or more per week (3)

7. Do you use solvents and/or toxic cleaning agents that enter your wastewater?

- No (0)
- Yes, but use is minimal (2)
- Yes, use is extensive (3)



8. Do you wipe oils and grease from dishes before washing?

- Yes (oils are never washed down drains) (1)
- Sometimes (minimal oils washed down drains) (2)
- No (all cooking grease and oil is washed down drains) (3)

9. Do you dispose of solid trash (tissues, sanitary products, etc) in your toilet?

- Never (1)
- Sometimes (2)
- Often (3)

Quantity and Quality of wastewater section total: _____

