

Earnhart Hill Regional Water and Sewer District

Source Water Protection Information

2025

Source Water Protection

Source water protection refers to the actions and strategies implemented to safeguard the quality and quantity of water sources that supply drinking water to the public. The source water protection process includes a wide variety of actions and activities aimed at safeguarding, maintaining or improving sources of drinking water and their contributing areas.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Groundwater is the primary water source in Pickaway County for residential, commercial, and industrial needs and the Earnhart Hill Regional Water and Sewer District (Earnhart Hill) depends solely upon groundwater for its drinking water source. The Earnhart Hill production wells pump water from the Scioto Buried Valley Aquifer system, which is the primary aquifer in the region.

Earnhart Hill Source Water Protection Plan

Earnhart Hill has developed a Drinking Water Source Protection Plan (DWSPP) to provide strategies and management practices to protect the groundwater from potential sources of contamination. The primary purpose of the Earnhart Hill DWSPP is to protect the integrity of the water source through public awareness and education to ensure secure, clean, and reliable drinking water for present and future generations. Earnhart Hill has established a planning committee consisting of local stakeholders with the mission of implementing and updating the DWSPP.

How Can I Protect the Water Source?

Ohio EPA has classified the Earnhart Hill's source water, the Scioto Buried Valley Aquifer, as having a high susceptibility to contamination. This does not mean that the source water is contaminated, only that it is vulnerable to contamination. Groundwater can be contaminated by a number of different pathways:

- Contaminants can enter groundwater directly from point sources, such as leaky tanks or waste lagoons, and spills.
- Agricultural runoff carrying contaminants like pesticides and fertilizers can potentially leach through the soil and reach the groundwater.
- Poorly maintained or improperly abandoned wells can provide direct pathways for contaminants to reach groundwater.

Earnhart Hill Regional Water and Sewer District

Source Water Protection Information

2025

- Contaminated surface water can infiltrate into the ground and contaminate groundwater.

Because everyone in the community depends on groundwater for their drinking water, we all have a stake in protecting it from contamination and there are things that **everyone** can do to protect and improve the drinking water source. Below are some tips for how residents and businesses can help protect your drinking water source.

Residential Tips for Protecting Source Water

- Properly dispose of household hazardous waste. Never dump paint, automotive fluids, batteries, or other household hazardous wastes in dry wells, storm sewers, creeks, or to the ground or other improper areas. Many auto repair shops and parts stores will accept used automotive fluids, and Pickaway County residents can dispose of household hazardous waste through The Ross, Pickaway, Highland, Fayette Joint Solid Waste District waste voucher program. Call the District Office at (740) 420-5452 for more information.
- Follow application and disposal directions for fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. Over-application not only wastes money, but also can be bad for the environment. Store and dispose these materials according to the product label instructions.
- Properly maintain private water wells. Cracked casings or concrete pads can lead to groundwater contamination. Have them properly sealed if they are no longer used.
- Report any accidental releases or spills involving materials, such as chemicals, oil, fuel, or other liquid/solid wastes, to the Ohio EPA Spill Hotline (800) 282-9378 or the local fire department (911).
- Report any illegal dumping or suspicious activities involving materials, such as chemicals, oil, fuel, or other liquid/solid wastes, to local law enforcement (911).

Commercial Tips for Protecting Source Water

- Ensure that you follow all applicable regulations related to waste management, including wastewater and stormwater discharges. Keep permits up to date and comply with permit requirements.
- Follow industry best practices for proper materials management including the responsible selection, use, storage, transport and disposal of products.
- Develop and maintain pollution prevention and spill response plans, as needed, that identify measures to prevent or react to accidental spills and releases.

Earnhart Hill Regional Water and Sewer District Source Water Protection Information 2025

- Train employees in proper material handling and spill response procedures.
- Secure storage areas against unauthorized entry. Inspect aboveground and underground storage tanks to ensure they are in good working order.
- Properly maintain water supply and/or monitor wells. Uncapped or damaged well casings and/or cracked well pads can lead to groundwater contamination. Properly seal any unused or abandoned wells.
- Investigate the routing of floor drains. It is typically recommended that floor drains connected to sanitary or storm water sewers in the vicinity of hazardous material be capped. Drains that discharge directly to storm or surface waters can pose a threat to nearby water bodies.
- Inspect vehicles regularly to be sure they aren't leaking fluids like oil or antifreeze.
- Follow application directions for fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.
- Report any accidental releases or spills to the Ohio EPA Spill Hotline (800) 282-9378
- Report any illegal dumping or suspicious activities to local law enforcement.

For more information about the Earnhart Hill Drinking Water Source Protection Plan and what consumers can do to help protect the aquifer call our General Manager, Louis McFarland, at (740) 474-3114 Ext 115.

Helpful Links

Ohio EPA Source Water Assessment and Protection Program

[https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/drinking-and-ground-waters/source-water-protection-and-underground-injection-control-\(uic\)/source-water-assessment-and-protection-program](https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/drinking-and-ground-waters/source-water-protection-and-underground-injection-control-(uic)/source-water-assessment-and-protection-program)

The Ross, Pickaway, Highland, Fayette Joint Solid Waste District

<http://rphfsolidwastedistrict.com/index.html>

List of Commercial Recyclers in Pickaway County

<http://rphfsolidwastedistrict.com/services/pickaway.html>

Ohio EPA Spill Hotline

Earnhart Hill Regional Water and Sewer District
Source Water Protection Information
2025

<https://epa.ohio.gov/help-center/spill-hotline>

US EPA Things you can do to protect drinking water sources

<https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection/easy-things-you-can-do-protect-drinking-water-sources>

<https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection/how-can-you-help-protect-source-water>