



Eau Claire City - County
Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Celebrate Protect Your Groundwater Day with the Eau Claire City-County Health Department!”

Eau Claire, Wisconsin – September 10, 2013. September 10th is National Protect Your Groundwater Day, an event established several years ago by the National Ground Water Association. This is an important concern here in Eau Claire County because the vast majority of our water comes from groundwater. Protect your groundwater day is about protecting the quality and the quantity so it’s safe and plentiful for us and for future generations!

To protect all of our groundwater in Eau Claire County, *everyone* can reduce water use by installing water-saving technologies and identify and properly dispose of household hazardous wastes instead of dumping them down the drain or on the ground.

“There are many hazardous substances around households from oil and gas, and paint and paint thinners, to cleaning products and yard products such as fertilizers, pesticides, and weed killers,” said Lieske Giese, Director of the Eau Claire City-County Health Department. “How people store, use, and dispose of these substances can either protect groundwater or harm it.”

If you own a private water well, make sure you test your well at least once each year for the presence of bacteria. Check it for nitrate if it is consumed by either pregnant woman or an infant under the age of 6-months. Both of these drinking water tests can be run in the laboratory at the Eau Claire City-County Health Department for a small fee by picking up a sample bottle at 720 Second Avenue in Eau Claire. You also want to make sure your well and septic systems are inspected regularly and maintained in good operating condition.

To learn more about groundwater protection, Wisconsin has many local resources!

DNR Drinking Water website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/drinkingwater/>

DNR Groundwater website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Groundwater/>

DHS Water Issues website: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/eh/Water/>

NGWA Water Use Calculator: <http://info.ngwa.org/WaterUseCalc/WaterUseCalc.html>

NGWA Poster: <http://info.ngwa.org/PA/PYGWD%20poster%202013.pdf>

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