



Panhandle Health District

Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Public Health
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Panhandle Health District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Celebrate Groundwater Awareness Week: 3 Steps to Cleaner Water

HAYDEN, ID – In honor of National Groundwater Awareness week, March 8-14, 2015, Panhandle Health District (PHD) is encouraging northern Idaho residents to keep local groundwater clean. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, groundwater makes up 99% of all available freshwater in the world. Groundwater is vital to Idaho’s human and environmental needs.

“Our region has one sole source of drinking water, the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, Environmental Specialist, Rick Barlow explained. “While it’s one of the cleanest, most reliable sources of water in the country, we cannot afford to take it for granted.”

Whether your well is over the aquifer or not, here are three simple steps to protect your family’s health and water resource:

1. Test your private well for pollutants.

Just as you check your furnace or smoke detector batteries seasonally, spring is a good time to have an [annual water well checkup](#) before the peak water use season begins. Preventative maintenance usually is less costly than emergency maintenance, and good well maintenance — like good car maintenance — can prolong the life of your well and related equipment.

2. Prevent hazardous materials from seeping into the ground.

Be sure to dispose of hazardous materials, like paint, grease or harsh chemicals, properly. Use pesticides sparingly and maintain your septic system.

3. Use water wisely.

Conserve the Rathdrum-Prairie Aquifer by using water-efficient appliances and toilets, using low-flow shower heads, promptly fixing water leaks and only running the dishwasher when it's full.

For more information on local water protection and testing, call Rick Barlow at (208) 415-5215 or visit PHD's [Environmental Health website](#).

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