

## Ways You Can Protect the Aquifer

### Homeowners

- Return used oil to automotive repair shops that accept and recycle oil.
- Follow label instructions when using pesticides, fertilizers, paints, furniture strippers, or other household chemicals.
- Protect your private well water. Avoid using lawn chemicals or other household chemicals around your well. Chemicals can enter the well through gaps in the seal of the well casing.

### Businesses

- Practice good housekeeping – use trays, curbing, absorbents, or other containment around all containers of regulated substances.
- Report any leaks or spills of regulated substances to the Aquifer Protection Program that exceed these thresholds:
  - » 1 gallon for chlorinated solvents,
  - » 5 gallons for pesticides and phenolic compounds,
  - » 25 gallons for petroleum products, and
  - » 25 gallons or 50 pounds for all other regulated substances.
- Regulated facilities must retain Certified Waste Hauler documentation.
- Construct septic tanks, drain fields, floor drains, grease traps, and oil/water separators in a manner to prevent infiltration of regulated substances to the soil, groundwater, or surface water.

## Ways the City Protects the Aquifer

### Regulated Entity Inspections

Verify proper waste management for businesses and facilities that produce or store regulated substances of hazardous materials.

### Demolition Compliance Inspections

Ensure compliance for proper disposal of hazardous materials and abandoning unused wells.

### Development Site Reviews

Coordinate with the City and County Growth Management Departments to perform a comprehensive review, inspection, and evaluation of all new development to identify potential problems such as the presence of unused wells, hazardous materials and geotechnical borings that impact the aquifer and water quality.

### Illicit Discharge/Dumping Investigations

Investigate the release of foreign substances into the stormwater system or environment to determine potential harmful impacts and remedies.

## Learn More

### Abandonment of Unused Wells / Sinkholes

North Florida Water Management District. 850-539-5999

### Hazardous Waste Disposal

Leon County Hazardous Waste Center at 7550 Apalachee Parkway. 850-606-1803

# Aquifer & Wellhead Protection

City of Tallahassee Utilities  
850-891-4968  
[Talgov.com/YOU](http://Talgov.com/YOU)

Leon County Government  
850-606-1500  
[LeonCountyWater.org](http://LeonCountyWater.org)

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Let's all do our part to protect the Floridan aquifer system!



**City of Tallahassee**  
Your Own Utilities<sup>SM</sup>



**LEON COUNTY**  
**GOVERNMENT**

# Tallahassee/Leon County Aquifer Protection Program

The Tallahassee/Leon County Aquifer Protection Program provides criteria for regulating the use, handling, storage, and disposal of regulated substances and hazardous waste. It also provides pollution prevention strategies, assistance, and assessments in compliance with federal, state, and local regulations.



The program is implemented through the adoption of Chapter X, Article 10, of the Leon County Aquifer/Wellhead Protection Ordinance. Program goals are achieved primarily through review of new construction and development; inspection of industrial/commercial facilities; and education of facility operators, consultants, and the public of the best management practices to prevent contaminated discharges into the aquifer.

Program staff also conduct illicit discharge/dumping investigations. Any liquid (that is not stormwater) or substance introduced to the stormwater system or to the ground is prohibited (e.g., paints, solvents, batteries, trash).

Through the Aquifer Protection Program, the City of Tallahassee and Leon County are working together with citizens and businesses to protect the Floridan aquifer system.

For information about the Aquifer Protection Program, Please email [AQProtect\\_IndustrialPrt@Talgov.com](mailto:AQProtect_IndustrialPrt@Talgov.com).

If you have a disability requiring accommodations, please call **FRS TDD 711**.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who do I contact about the quality of my well water?

Private water well owners are responsible for protecting their groundwater resource as well as their family's health. Leon County private well owners may contact the City's Water Quality Laboratory to inquire about free testing available.

### Who do I contact about an illicit discharge, spill, dumping, or connection?

To report any illicit discharge, spill, dumping, or connection of pollutants into the City or County stormwater system or to the ground, call the City of Tallahassee Utilities.

### How do I dispose of my household hazardous waste?

Household hazardous waste – items such as cleansers, pesticides, furniture strippers, paints and paint thinners, etc., that you frequently keep under the sink or on a shelf in the garage – can sometimes be recycled by donating them to other organizations that can use them. Dispose of these items properly by taking them to a household hazardous waste collection event or facility. Contact your local solid waste management officials for information about the management of these wastes in your area.



### What should I do if a sinkhole develops on my property?

- Notify your local Water Management District and the City of Tallahassee Aquifer Protection Program.
- Fence or rope the area off.
- Keep people and pets away!
- Protect the area from garbage and waste.
- Contact your homeowners insurance company.

### Can I drill a well on my property if I have an existing water service provider?

No person shall drill or reinstall any well which is located or proposed to be located on property that abuts and is within 400 feet of:

- An available community water system line or
- An existing or planned well that is, or is intended to be, used in providing water for a community water system (as defined in Sec. 62-550.200(12), F.A.C.).

## Areas of Aquifer Vulnerability

### Wells

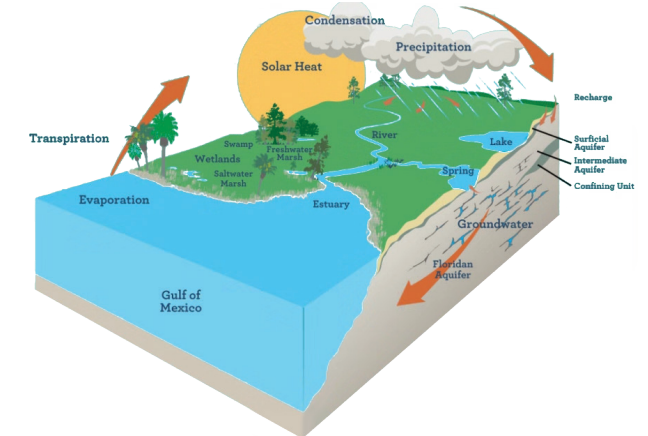
Public and potable water supply wells, heat exchange wells, drainage wells, injection wells, geotechnical borings, abandoning unused wells maintenance, and prohibition of new wells within 400 feet of an available water system.

### Sinkholes

Depressions or holes in the land surface that occur throughout Florida.

## Floridan Aquifer System Facts

- The aquifer is porous limestone more than 1,000 feet thick containing a vast mass of slow-moving water.
- The aquifer covers an area of approximately 160,000 square miles. It underlies the entire state of Florida and parts of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina.
- The aquifer is the main source of drinking water for much of the state of Florida.
- In Florida, more than 700 springs from the aquifer have been mapped.



## Small Quantity Generator Program

The City's Aquifer Protection Program staff performs hundreds of Environmental Compliance Assessments at businesses and facilities throughout Leon County each year. These inspections help to educate and ensure that businesses are aware of their responsibilities and potential liabilities associated with having regulated materials and hazardous waste.



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