

Where Does Our Drinking Water Come From?

Ground water In the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley, all of our drinking water comes from groundwater pumped from our 'Lewiston Basin' aquifer and some surface water from the Clearwater River.

Groundwater is found in underground fractures in basalt which allow water to move easily through the rock. The Grand Ronde basalt formation provides the majority of the Valley's groundwater.

Wells Fourteen wells pump water for the valley serving about 50,000 people through over 18,000 connections. Currently the Valley's water meets health standards.



What Can You Do? Inside this brochure are some simple tips on how you can help protect your drinking water — The Valley's hidden resource.

For More Information

Source Water Protection Websites

For more information on local water quality, conservation, disposal of household hazardous materials, and ways to get involved go to:

www.cityoflewiston.org

www.loid.net

www.asotinpud.org

State agencies responsible for protecting
the Valley's water quality.

Idaho

*Department of Environmental Quality—
Lewiston Regional Office (208) 799-4370*

www.deq.idaho.gov

*Washington Department of Ecology—
Eastern Regional Office (509) 329-3400*

www.ecy.wa.gov

*Idaho Department of Water Resources
Northern Regional Office (208) 762-2800
State Office— (208) 287-4800*

www.idwr.idaho.gov

*"Til taught by pain, men really know
not what good water is worth"
-Don Juan*

Lewis Clark Valley

Drinking Water

*Our Valley's
Hidden Resource*



*"You could write the story of
man's growth in terms of his epic
concerns with water."
-Bernard Frank*

Lewiston and LOID Drinking Water Protection Plan

Protection Plan Our Valley has very safe, high quality drinking water. To maintain it, however, we must prevent future contamination. To help protect water quality, citizens of our valley are developing a drinking water source protection plan.

Planning Team We meet at least monthly to develop the Valley's drinking water protection plan. Team members plan and carry out activities to protect our drinking water.

Team Activities We participate in: planning and implementation of the Modie Park *Water-Wise* Demonstration project (in progress); City storm drain marking efforts; and water education and outreach events. Additional activities are listed in the Protection Plan.



Join us! We are made up of local citizens from Lewiston and Clarkston who care about protecting the quality of our water. For more information visit any of the websites on the back of this brochure.

What Can Harm Our Drinking Water?

Pollutants can contaminate the ground water pumped by our city wells.

Common pollutants include:

- Pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers
- Paints and solvents
- Animal waste

When we use or dispose of chemicals improperly, they can seep into groundwater and contaminate our drinking water. Animal waste contains bacteria, which can also contaminate drinking water supplies.



Storm Drains are roadside grates that collect rainwater from streets, sidewalks, and parking lots and empty it into rivers, lakes and groundwater.

- Don't let car soap, wash water, chemicals, or other pollutants enter storm drains. And never pour used oil down the storm drain!
- Keep storm drain areas free from litter, leaves, and animal waste

How Can We Protect Our Drinking Water?

Fertilizers and Pesticides

- Only use as much fertilizer and pesticide as necessary. Extra product goes down storm drains and seeps into the ground water.
- Try nontoxic bug controls first. Many common pests can be controlled with less hazardous alternatives.
- Prevent backflow of contaminants into the drinking water system by using backflow prevention devices. Never run a hose into a bucket of chemicals!

For more information about lawn care and water quality, see DEQ's brochure on *Fertilizer & Pesticide Use at Home* on the Web at:

www.deq.idaho.gov/water/assist_citizen_comm/fertilizer_pesticide_fs.pdf.



Other Tips

- Clean up pet waste in your yard and where ever you walk your pets
- Avoid pouring chemicals on the ground
- Don't dump animal and yard waste in ditches or irrigation canals
- Consider backflow prevention