



# Aquifer Protection

## Potential Environmental Impacts

Vehicle service facilities pose a potential threat to groundwater because of the many wastes associated with this type of activity. The storage and transfer of gasoline, oil, antifreeze and other petroleum products may contaminate the groundwater and the drinking water supply if improperly stored or handled. The key to protecting groundwater resources is preventing contaminants from reaching the source.



## Legal Requirements

In 2004, Connecticut developed the Aquifer Protection Area Program to address the issues of groundwater protection for drinking water supplies. The foundation of the program was the adoption of the Aquifer Protection Land Use Regulations (RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-1 to 22a-354i-10). These regulations prohibit new businesses that use, handle, and store hazardous materials from locating in aquifer protection areas, and require existing businesses to register their activity in order to continue to operate.

The Aquifer Protection Area Regulations apply to aquifer protection areas that are mapped and designated around the state’s 122 active public water supply well fields in sand and gravel aquifers that serve more than 1000 people. Over 80 towns are implementing the Aquifer Protection Area Program to protect these drinking water supplies at the local level, including those listed below. Maps showing the aquifer protection areas in the towns are available on the Aquifer Protection Area Program web site at [www.ct.gov/deep/aquiferprotection](http://www.ct.gov/deep/aquiferprotection).

### Towns with Aquifer Protection Areas

|              |              |              |                |             |            |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| Avon         | Colchester   | Hamden       | North Haven    | Shelton     | Westbrook  |
| Beacon Falls | Coventry     | Killingly    | No. Stonington | Simsbury    | Weston     |
| Berlin       | Cromwell     | Ledyard      | Norwalk        | Somers      | Westport   |
| Bethany      | Danbury      | Litchfield   | Old Saybrook   | Southbury   | Willington |
| Bethel       | Darien       | Madison      | Oxford         | Southington | Wilton     |
| Bethlehem    | Derby        | Manchester   | Plainfield     | Sprague     | Woodbury   |
| Bolton       | East Lyme    | Mansfield    | Plainville     | Stafford    |            |
| Bristol      | East Windsor | Meriden      | Plymouth       | Stamford    |            |
| Brookfield   | Enfield      | Middletown   | Portland       | Stonington  |            |
| Brooklyn     | Essex        | Naugatuck    | Prospect       | Thomaston   |            |
| Burlington   | Farmington   | New Britain  | Putnam         | Thompson    |            |
| Canterbury   | Glastonbury  | New Hartford | Ridgefield     | Tolland     |            |
| Canton       | Goshen       | New Milford  | Rocky Hill     | Vernon      |            |
| Cheshire     | Griswold     | Newtown      | Salisbury      | Wallingford |            |
| Clinton      | Guilford     | North Canaan | Seymour        | Watertown   |            |

- ◆ If your vehicle service facility is in one of these affected areas, you will have to comply with the legal requirements listed below [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-1 through 10]:
  - Register with the local Aquifer Protection Agency within 180 days of the Aquifer Protection Area designation [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-7]. Existing facilities are “grandfathered” into the program, if they are registered. It is therefore important for existing facilities to register. **Note:** New vehicle service facilities are prohibited from locating in Aquifer Protection Areas [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-5(a)].
  - Renew aquifer protection area registration every five years; transfer of the registration to a new owner is allowed [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-7(g)].
  - Obtain a permit to add a regulated activity to a registered facility [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-8]. For example, if an existing vehicle repair facility wanted to add car washing, an aquifer protection permit for the car wash would be needed. The DEEP or the municipality will issue permits for a ten-year period. Permits may be renewed, or transferred to another owner [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-8(g) and (i)].
  - Certify compliance with the Best Management Practices (BMPs) outlined in the regulations [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-9]. For instance, hazardous materials must be stored inside a building or under a roofed area and a materials management plan must be developed and implemented at the facility.

## Legal References

- Aquifer Protection Area Land Use Regulations - [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-1 to 22a-354i-10](#)
- Prohibited and Regulated Activities - [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-5\(a\)](#)
- Registration of Regulated Activities - [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-7](#)
- Registration of Regulated Activities, Transfer registration - [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-7\(g\)](#)
- Permit Requirements - [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-8\(g\) and \(i\)](#)
- Best Management Practices for Regulated Activities - [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-9](#)

## Additional Information

- Contact the DEEP’s Aquifer Protection Area Program at 860-424-3020
- DEEP Aquifer Protection website [www.ct.gov/deep/aquiferprotection](http://www.ct.gov/deep/aquiferprotection).



### Did you know?

It only takes a small quantity of some substances to contaminate millions of gallons of groundwater. For instance, only a few ounces of perchloroethylene (a degreasing solvent found in some aerosol brake cleaners) can render millions of gallons of water unsafe to drink.

[2014 Pit Stops Fact Sheets](#). Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Office of Pollution Prevention, 860-424-3297. Updated April 2014 [www.ct.gov/deep/pitstops](http://www.ct.gov/deep/pitstops)