

## How to reach us

If you have questions, comments or would like more information on water issues, please contact us or visit our web site.

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 WEB SITE: [www.soquelcreekwater.com](http://www.soquelcreekwater.com)

Soquel Creek Water District is a nonprofit, local government agency with a locally elected Board of Directors. The District provides water supply and water resource management to more than 45,000 customers within a 17-square mile area of mid-Santa Cruz County.

The Board of Directors meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM at the District's office at 5180 Soquel Drive. Meetings are open to everyone and comments from the public are heard at each meeting.

*Board of Directors*  
 Daniel F. Kriege, *President*  
 Gary E. Hazelton, *Vice President*  
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 John W. Beebe  
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Laura D. Brown, *General Manager*

*What's on Tap* is an in-house publication for the customers of the District. Forward your comments to the editor at the address above.

Christopher J. Regan, *Editor*



## Don't trash our basin


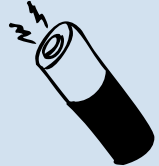
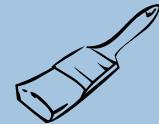

Protecting the quality of our water supply begins in our homes, gardens, and agricultural fields. Common household products must be disposed of properly or they may contaminate surface and ground water supplies.

Never dispose of gasoline, motor oil, household chemicals, or pesticides by pouring down the drain, onto the ground, into a storm drain, or in the garbage.

For information on where to dispose of hazardous products, call:

- California Recycling Hotline: 1-800-Cleanup.
- Santa Cruz County Recycling Information: 454-2333.
- Household Hazardous Waste Program: 454-2606.💧

## Disposing of household products

Product	Disposal Code	
Motor Oil	3	
Antifreeze	1,3	
Transmission & Brake Fluid	3	
Flea Collar	1,3	
Drain Cleaner	1,3	
Glass & Window Cleaners	1,2	
Oven Cleaner	1,3	
Ant & Roach Killer	1,3	
Rug & Upholstery Cleaner	1,3	
Batteries	3	
Bleach	1,2	
Disinfectant	1,2	
Enamel or Oil-Based Paint	1,2	
Latex or Water-based Paint	1,2	
Stains & Varnishes	3	
Paint Stripper	3	
Insecticides	1,2	
Herbicides	1,2	
Snail/Slug Poison	3	

### Disposal Codes

- 1 - Use-up product and discard container; or
- 2 - Recycle; call Recycling Hotline for nearest collection center.
- 3 - Call Recycling Hotline or Household Hazardous Waste Program for nearest hazardous waste collection center.

\*Above information courtesy of the Water Education Foundation.



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## Guarding our groundwater

The quality of California's groundwater is in some ways remarkable. Thousands of people drink water pumped from the ground with little or no treatment.

In recent years, however, a number of events affecting groundwater quality have contributed to a heightened public awareness and concern about the importance and vulnerability of the resource.

Wells contaminated by leaking gasoline storage tanks, dry cleaning solvents, landfill or industrial waste disposal sites;

etc. have raised public concerns about groundwater quality.

Unfortunately, contaminated groundwater is very difficult and expensive to clean. The best thing to do is adopt pollution prevention and conservation practices in order to protect important groundwater supplies from being contaminated.

Because the District relies solely on groundwater to supply water to our customers, protecting this resource is important.

In this issue of *What's on Tap* you'll find tips and information that you can use to help us in our efforts to protect our groundwater resource. 💧

Some of the information in this edition of *What's on Tap* was provided courtesy of the Groundwater Foundation. For additional information visit their website at [www.groundwater.org](http://www.groundwater.org).



# Groundwater groundrules

Many everyday household products such as cleaners, paint, solvents, pesticides, chemical fertilizers, weed killers, and automotive products contain hazardous materials. These products can threaten human health and also the environment.

## Around the home

- When storing household hazardous products outdoors, make sure they are under cover (in a shed or garage) and up off the ground where they will stay dry.
- To avoid spills and leakage, make sure household hazardous products are in labeled containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Do not wash paint brushes outside. Brush excess paint onto newspaper, let the paper dry, and put it into the garbage. Leftover latex paint can

be dried out in the can and placed into the garbage.

## Lawn and garden

- Use a grass seed that pests detest. Check with your garden center to find which pest-resistant grass seed will work best in your area.
- Fertilize with an organic fertilizer. Avoid applying fertilizer when rain is predicted or it will quickly wash away and travel to waterways.
- Pull weeds by hand. For weeds between bricks and concrete cracks, use boiling salted water.
- Choose plants and trees that resist pests and disease.
- Let good bugs do the dirty work. Ask your local nursery about using ladybugs or lacewing larvae to manage aphids.
- Use pesticides and

weed killers as a last resort and remember that more is not better. Apply sparingly on a day when it isn't windy or rainy, and target a weed or bug rather than spraying the entire lawn. Never use pesticides, fertilizers, or herbicides near streams, lakes, or wetlands.

## Car care

- Instead of washing your car at home, take it to a commer-

cial car wash. The drains in commercial car washes are connected to the sanitary sewer system, so rinse water doesn't wash down storm drains. Also, many commercial car washes conserve water by recycling rinse water several times.

- If you must wash your car at home, use a mild dishwashing liquid and try to keep the soapy water from flowing to a storm drain. Park your car on grass or vegetation that will absorb the

water and use a spray nozzle that shuts off.



- Avoid overfilling your gas tank.
- Never pour used oil or antifreeze down or near a storm drain or onto the ground.

## Septic tanks

- Have your tank inspected annually to make sure there are no developing problems that can get out of control.
- Get your tank pumped every three to five years.
- Use phosphate-free detergents and limit use of bleach. Phosphates can cause excessive algae in nearby surface waters. Too much bleach will kill healthy microbial populations in your tank.
- Keep cars and trucks off the septic tank and drain field area to prevent pipes from breaking.
- Do not use garbage disposals. They increase the amount of solids and grease in the septic tank,

which may result in drain field failure.

- Do not flush solid wastes such as diapers, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, or grease into the septic system.
- Do not put strong chemicals such as cleaning products down the drain.
- Reduce how much wastewater enters the system. Excessive water use is a main cause of septic system failure.

## Swimming pools and spas

- Do not drain your pool or spa to a lot, ditch or outside drain where water could enter groundwater, a stream or lake, or a storm drain..
- Do not drain your pool or spa to a septic system, as this action could cause the system to fail.
- Residential spas or pools can be drained to the sanitary sewer system. If the pool or spa does not have a drain nearby, water will have to be pumped. ♠

## Rates increase

Based on a study completed by a water rate consultant, District customers will pay approximately 5 percent more for their water as of January 1. Rates have not been adjusted for 18 months. The increase is to meet operating expenses and finance much needed capital improvements. Usage rates will increase from \$1.90 to \$2.00 per unit for 0-50 units; \$3.50 to \$3.70 per unit for 51 units and above. (A unit of water equals 748 gallons.)

Customers with a five-eighths inch meter (a typical residential connection) will see their bimonthly service charge increase from \$17.95 to \$18.70.

Connection fees for new development will increase approximately 50 percent. The five-eighths inch meter connection will increase from \$2,990 to \$4,500. ♠