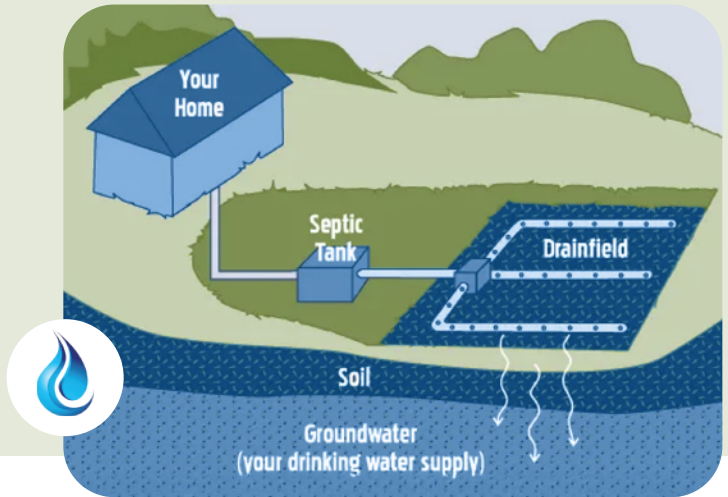


You and Your Septic System



You and your neighbors in the Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone (APOZ) can help ensure cleaner drinking water for yourselves and future residents.

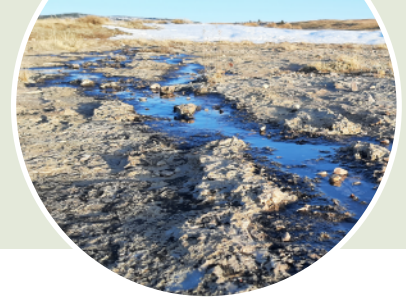
Following the “Best Management Practices” outlined in the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan (CAPP) will help extend the functional life of your residential septic system. When replacing your septic system, consider investing in an advanced treatment system that reduces nitrates and other contaminants.

Along with advanced treatment septic systems, the large-lot zoning recommended in the CAPP and adopted by the Albany County Commission will help reduce the amount of contamination entering the aquifer.

Best Management Practices:

- ✓ Avoid putting solvents, poisons and other household chemicals into the septic system. These may kill beneficial bacteria within the tank and the leachfield and also contaminate drinking water.
- ✓ Dispose of garbage in the trash rather than using an in-sink garbage disposal. A garbage disposal adds sludge to the leachfield, reducing its effectiveness.
- ✓ Avoid organic solvents marketed as “septic system cleaners” or substitutes for sludge pumping. These chemicals can migrate into the groundwater, causing contamination.
- ✓ Don’t flush solid or greasy materials such as paper towels, cigarettes, cat litter, feminine hygiene products, and cooking fats/oils/grease.
- ✓ Dispose of unneeded prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs
- ✓ Don’t drive or store materials over the leachfield, as this compacts the soil and reduces the effectiveness of the leachfield.
- ✓ Use low volume plumbing fixtures to prevent overloading the septic system.
- ✓ Do not flush “wipes” down the toilet (even if it says on the package that it’s ok to do so).
- ✓ If your septic system has a discharge filter between the septic tank and the leachfield, make sure the filter is cleaned at least once a year.
- ✓ Have your septic system inspected once every two years, and pumped at least every three years or more frequently if the inspection indicates that pumping is necessary.

Residential Water Well Sampling and Maintenance



Existing domestic water wells within the Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone (APOZ) vary considerably in age, depth, quality of construction, and proximity to other wells and to septic systems. These factors all affect the potential for contamination of the well water.

If you do not know anything about the construction of your well, you may be able to obtain some information from the Wyoming State Engineer's office (contact information below)

Domestic wells are not subject to drinking water standards, but homeowners should be aware that high levels of nitrates are dangerous for infants and may adversely affect vulnerable adults. Elevated nitrates may also indicate the presence of other contaminants.

Past sampling for nitrates, an indicator of septic system pollution, has shown areas of groundwater contamination within the residential areas of the APOZ. Nitrates are used as an indicator because they are long-lasting and inexpensive to sample for. The areas of nitrate contamination range from minimally impacted to nitrate values greater than the public drinking water standard of 10 mg/l.

Other substances commonly sampled for include pH, ammonia, total coliform bacteria, and total dissolved solids. The Wyoming Department of Agriculture's analytical services laboratory in Laramie can analyze samples for you (contact information below).



More detailed information on Best Management Practices for domestic water wells is included in the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan update, Appendix G. Read the document at: www.albanycountycleanwateradvocates.org/library

Useful Contacts

Sampling: Call the Wyoming Department of Agriculture Analytical Services Laboratory at 307-742-2984 for sampling instructions and prices. They are located at 1174 Snowy Range Road, Laramie, 82070.

Well Construction: Call the office of the Wyoming State Engineer at 307-777-6150 (122 West 25th Street, Cheyenne, WY 82001). It will be helpful if you can provide the name of the original property owner, along with the location of your property. You can obtain the latitude/longitude (lat/long) location, which is the most precise, by clicking on your property on the county's online ownership map at <https://www.albanycountywy.gov/165/Maps>.

For more information about our drinking water, visit albanycountycleanwateradvocates.org or email ACCWA at albanyctycleanwateradvocates@gmail.com