

Did you know we're living on top of our drinking water?

Long Island's drinking water comes from underground aquifers - unconsolidated layers of sand, gravel and water formed by retreating glaciers at the ends of the ice ages.

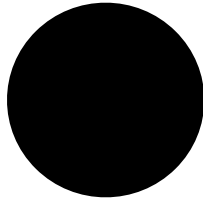
The aquifers are replenished by rainwater and snow melt which migrate through the layers of soil, sand and clay beneath the surface, carrying pollutants along with them. These pollutants can include motor oil, gasoline, pesticides, fertilizers, solvents, human and pet waste, pharmaceuticals and other hazardous chemicals.

Our aquifers are our only source of clean, fresh drinking water, so we must do everything we can to protect them for our children and future generations of Long Islanders!



Jump In! Help Protect Our Water!

*We drink our groundwater.
We swim, boat and fish in our surface waters.*



Water Conservation Tips

- Water lawns and gardens early in the morning, and never between 10 am and 4 pm.
- Calibrate sprinkler systems to deliver no more than one inch of water per week.
- Maintain your lawn organically; organic lawns require less water because of their deep root systems.
- Don't leave the water running when washing cars. Don't use the hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk.
- Purchase water-saving appliances and fixtures and repair leaking faucets and toilets promptly.

Water Protection Tips

- Pesticides and synthetic fertilizers leach into our aquifers. Switch to low nitrogen and organic, water-insoluble fertilizers.
- Do not dump household chemicals down drains, or dispose of used oil or other petroleum products in street drains, gutters or soil.
 - Do not dispose of unused prescription drugs in the toilet.
 - If applicable, septic systems and cesspools should be checked and pumped regularly.
- Curb pets and dispose of pet waste responsibly.

This door hanger was produced by Grassroots Environmental Education, Inc. under a grant from the Long Island Community Foundation. Additional copies are available at no cost. Please visit LIWater.org for more information.