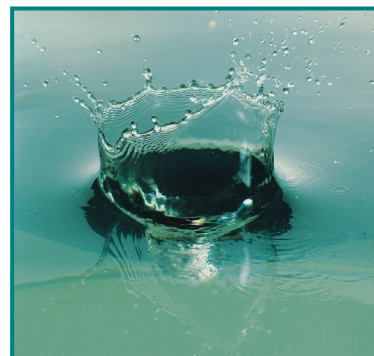




Potential Environmental Impacts

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 <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Aquifer-Protection-and-Groundwater/Aquifer-Protection/Aquifer-Protection-Program>.

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 <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Aquifer-Protection-and-Groundwater/Aquifer-Protection/Aquifer-Protection-Program>.



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.

DISCLAIMER: This guidance is a tool to help you evaluate compliance at your facility. It is not a complete list of all regulations and requirements that may apply to your business. You are responsible for knowing and complying with all updated applicable state, federal, local and tribal requirements. Please be aware that environmental laws and regulations, as well as process technology may have changed significantly since these were published. Please do not rely on them for current information, but rather to provide background information.

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Office of Pollution Prevention, 860-424-3297. Published 2014, Links updated January 2023 [Vehicle Repair and Body Shops P2 Fact Sheet Index](#)