



GROUNDWATER FACTS FOR CLERMONT COUNTY

How much groundwater is used in Clermont County?

More than 117,500 residents of Clermont County--about 78% of the population--rely on groundwater for their water supply. There are eight different locations or wellfields in the county where water is withdrawn for public supply. Their total daily withdrawal is almost 12 million gallons.

The public suppliers of groundwater and their average daily withdrawal rates are shown below:

<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Average Withdrawal (millions of gal./day)</u>
Clermont Co./MGS System	1.05
Clermont Co./PUB System	7.72
Felicity	0.17
Loveland*	1.20
Milford	0.63
New Richmond	0.35
Tate-Monroe Water Association	1.67
Western Water Company**	1.50

*Withdraws from a wellfield in Symmes Township, Hamilton County, for use by Hamilton and Clermont County residents.

**Withdraws from a wellfield in Salem Township, Warren County, for use by residents of Warren, Clermont, Clinton, and Brown Counties.

In addition to public water supply, approximately 4 million gallons are withdrawn daily in Clermont County for industrial use.

What are the groundwater pollution threats in the county?

In the past five years, the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) has inventoried numerous potential sources of groundwater pollution in 14 categories. These sources are not necessarily causing pollution at this time, but they have the potential to do so unless managed properly. The areas surrounding water wells and contributing to their supplies can be particularly vulnerable because contaminants can travel and be drawn toward a well by its pumping action.

From a regional perspective, the inventory of potential pollution sources is very helpful in identifying groundwater management needs that cross political boundaries.

OKI's inventory of potential groundwater pollution sites is summarized below:

<u>Site Category</u>	<u>No. in County</u>
Auto/Scrap Metal Salvage Yards	2
Cemeteries	5
Commodity Transfer Points	0
Demolition Landfills	4
Farm Livestock Operations	3
Hazardous Material Sites	12
Liquid Waste Disposal Sites	0
Municipal Sewage Sludge Sites	2
Onsite System Concentrations	1
Road Salt Storage Sites	3
Sand or Gravel Extraction Sites	2
Sites of Reported Spills	1
Solid Waste Disposal Sites	3
Wastewater Treatment Plants	5
County Total	43

What can be done to manage and protect our valuable groundwater resources?

Designating protection areas around drinking water wells is one way to protect underground water supplies. Provisions for these wellhead protection areas were adopted as part of the reauthorization of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act in 1986. This legislation calls for states to develop comprehensive programs to protect public water supply wells and wellfields from contamination from all human activities.

Management activities commonly employed within wellhead protection areas include regulation of land use through special ordinances and permits, prohibition of specific activities, and acquisition of land. These activities require local government action to be effective, and it is not unusual for one community to have its wellfields actually located within another community's jurisdiction. For that reason, interjurisdictional cooperation and strong public education are also needed for the success of wellhead protection programs.