

## Top 10 Groundwater Myths

### MYTH #1

Groundwater always flows from north to south.

### IN FACT

Depending on location, groundwater can flow in any direction.

### MYTH #2

Groundwater comes all the way from Canada and Lake Superior.

### IN FACT

Groundwater originates as local precipitation -- which seeps into the ground and reaches the water table.

### MYTH #3

Groundwater flows in underground caverns and rivers.

### IN FACT

Groundwater flows through cracks and pores between soil and rock particles!

### MYTH #4

Groundwater drawn from household wells has been underground thousands of years.

### IN FACT

Typical private drinking water wells in the Midwest yield groundwater a few years to a few decades old.

### MYTH #5

Groundwater is always pure because soil filters out all impurities.

### IN FACT

Harmful bacteria in water can be filtered out by soil, but many chemical pollutants are not changed and remain in the water.

### MYTH #6

If well water is stained it must be polluted.

### IN FACT

Stained water doesn't necessarily mean that it's unsafe to drink!

### MYTH #7

If water tastes good -- it is safe to drink.

### IN FACT

You can't judge groundwater by its taste or smell alone! A sudden change in flavor or odor should be investigated.

### MYTH #8

One simple test can determine that my well water is safe.

### IN FACT

Wells should be tested regularly for bacteria or nitrates. But there are many chemicals that can enter groundwater that won't show up on a routine water test!

### MYTH #9

Pouring a small amount of waste on the ground won't cause a problem.

### IN FACT

Even small amounts of hazardous substances disposed of improperly can cause groundwater pollution.

### MYTH #10

Artesian water is the purest water available.

### IN FACT

Artesian supply is no guarantee that water is safe! Artesian water can be contaminated.