



# Water Quality Assurance Act

## What the General Public Should Know

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The Water Quality Assurance Act (WQAA) is a state law to protect groundwater quality in Florida. The establishment of the WQAA was based on emerging water issue reports related to groundwater and surface water contamination. Since Florida is a state where the primary state water needs come from groundwater, the purposes of the WQAA are to relieve the impacts of water resource contamination and manage hazardous waste problems.

### Important Items

**State water sources:** In Florida, groundwater is the primary water source for freshwater, which provide more than half of the freshwater consumption in the state. Statewide, approximately 52% of the groundwater is used for public water supply and another 31% is used for agricultural irrigation.

**Sources of contaminants:** Contaminants which might impact public health through water include improperly disposed of chemicals, animal wastes, pesticides, human wastes, wastes injected deep underground, and naturally occurring substances.

**Best Management Practices:** BMPs are the most effective, practical means of preventing or reducing pollution from nonpoint sources.

**Water quality monitoring:** Since water quality decrease can be influenced by seasonal climate and human activities, water quality should be monitored continuously to ensure water use safety.

For more information visit [www.piecenter.com/pep](http://www.piecenter.com/pep).

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