

Practical Tip: Groundwater pollution prevention

To prevent the pollution of groundwater it is recommended you follow the following tips.

- Pollution prevention relies on vigilance. It is not enough to wait for a leak to occur and then fix it; leaks into the ground may not even be noticed for some time.
- Have a planned programme to inspect tanks and bunds regularly. This way it is more likely to happen.
- When locating new activities, or rearranging your farm, find the areas where groundwater is less vulnerable to pollution. Your local Environment Agency Groundwater and Contaminated Land Team can help you do this. To contact them please call 08708 506 506.
- Most of the liquids found on a farm can harm groundwater; the list will include pesticides, veterinary medicines, fuel/oil, silage liquor, dirty water, waste milk, slurry and disinfectants. Some of these can cause significant harm in very small quantities.
- Pollution also comes from farming activities themselves, so take your farm planning seriously. Over-application of nutrients, fertilisers or pesticides will not improve your production, but will pollute groundwater and cost you money.