

# Glossary

**Agriculture** - The production of crops, livestock, and poultry; can include forestry and gardening.

**Application** - In agriculture, the act of spreading on a substance.

**Aquifer** - A sand, gravel, or bedrock formation that carries a usable quantity of water. Aquifers may be divided into different types:

1. Alluvial and Terrace Aquifers are saturated gravel deposits filling valleys along rivers and streams, the terrace deposits lying higher than the alluvial basins.

2. Bedrock aquifers are saturated bodies of rock. In Oklahoma these aquifers may be composed of limestone, dolomite, gypsum or sandstone.

**Atmosphere** - The gaseous envelope that surrounds Earth.

**Average** - A typical amount or rate.

**Bacteria** - Tiny living organisms that can be seen only through a microscope. Some bacteria cause disease, others help break down particles.

**Chemical** - All matter on Earth is composed of chemicals.

**Condense** - To reduce to a more compact form, as in vapor to liquid.

**Conservation** - The wise use of natural resources.

**Conservationist** - A person who promotes conservation of natural resources.

**Contamination** - Damage to the quality of air, soil, or water by sewage, industrial waste, or other matter.

**Dilute** - To make a liquid thinner or weaker by adding water.

**Dispose** - The act of getting rid of something.

**Dissolve** - To break up or melt by mixing with a liquid.

**Distribute** - To spread over an area.

**Drought** - A period of time when the amount of rainfall is less than the amount of water needed.

**Factory** - A building in which things are manufactured.

**Fertilizer** - A chemical or natural material that supplies nutrients to aid in the growth of plants.

**Fracture** - A crack in a rock. Groundwater can travel quickly through rock fractures.

**Groundwater** - The water supply stored under the surface of the earth.

**Hail** - Precipitation in the form of ice.

**Hazardous** - Dangerous; full of risk.

**Herbicide** - A chemical or substance that kills weeds.

**Hydrologic cycle** - The never-ending movement of water in oceans to the atmosphere to the land and back to the sea.

**Hydrology** - The study of water as it relates to the Earth and its atmosphere.

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**Impermeable** - Rock and soil layers through which water cannot move.

**Infiltrate** - To soak into or through.

**Insecticide** - A chemical or substance that kills insects.

**Landfill** - The place where people dispose of garbage and wastes.

**Natural resources** - The land, forests, minerals, water, and energy that are available naturally.

**Nonpoint source pollution** - Pollutants from a nonspecific area.

**Percolate** - To filter or ooze through a porous material.

**Permeable** - Materials through which water can move.

**Pesticide** - A chemical or substance that kills insects or weeds.

**Point-source pollution** - Pollutants that come from a pipe or outlet that can be identified.

**Pollution** - The presence of contaminating materials in the air, soil, or water above natural levels making the resource undesirable or not usable.

**Porous** - Materials that contain enough open spaces for water to move through.

**Precipitation** - Rain, hail, sleet, or snow that falls to Earth.

**Prevention** - The act of stopping something from happening.

**Quality** - How good or how bad something is.

**Quantity** - How much or how many.

**Runoff** - The water flowing across the Earth's surface, rather than seeping into the ground.

**Sedimentary rocks** - Rocks made from compressed sediment.

**Septic tank** - A tank in which sewage is broken down by bacteria.

**Sewage** - Waste matter that is mixed with liquid and passes through sewers.

**Surface water** - All the water on Earth that lies above the ground; for example, oceans, lakes, ponds, puddles, and rivers.

**Toxic** - Poisonous.

**Transpiration** - The process by which plants give off water vapor to the atmosphere.

**Vapor** - The gaseous form of water.

**Water** - A natural resource that comes in three forms: liquid, gas, and solid.

**Waste water** - Water used to carry away leftover or useless material.

**Water conservation** - Using water so it is not wasted, and so it does not become polluted.

**Water pollution** - Any reduction of water quality from the natural state, or any change in water that makes it unsuitable for a particular use such as drinking or swimming.

**Water table** - The top surface of the saturated zone of the soil.

**Well water** - Water made available by drawing it from groundwater.

