

# Over the Fence

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NEWS FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL...



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## August is National Water Quality Month



Many of us tend to take for granted clean drinking water for our homes and gardens. But the way we design and tend our landscapes, build and maintain our homes, and dispose of or treat our trash and other solid wastes impacts water quality.

There's a lot to know about ground water and drinking water quality where you live. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) makes it easy to find and to understand.

### For information:

- Visit the EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/ogwdw/ccr/wherelive.html](http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/ccr/wherelive.html) to learn about the water you drink.
- Call EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.
- Order publications from EPA on various topics from source water protection to home well use.

### Local Drinking Water Information

Any community water system that serves more than 100,000 people is required to make its Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) available to customers on a publicly accessible web site.

These reports will tell consumers what contaminants have been detected in their drinking water, how these detection levels compare to drinking water standards, and where their water comes from.

Contact your water supplier to get a copy of your report.

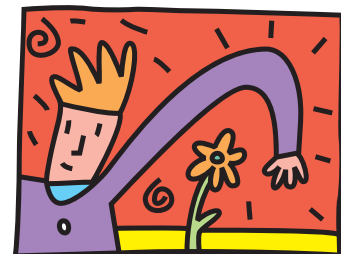


### Water Quality and Changing Household Habits

You may be contributing to water pollution without even realizing it. The good news is that everyone can help improve the condition of our water. Before you exclude yourself as part of the problem, check off which of the following situations might exist at your home.

- Leaking, overflowing or outdated septic tank
- Vehicles that leak oil, antifreeze, transmission or brake fluid
- Large paved areas or impervious surfaces that drain directly to streets or storm drains
- Bare, unplanted areas from which soil erodes when it rains
- Downspouts or drain pipes that empty water into the street or storm sewer system

- Yard clippings, fertilizer, or pesticide left on streets and sidewalks
- Hose used to clean driveway
- Over-watering of gardens or lawns
- Pet or animal waste left in the street, on sidewalks or on the ground
- Improper storage and disposal of pesticides, gasoline, oil, paint, etc.
- Storm drain used to dispose of yard waste or chemicals
- Lawns or gardens not fertilized deeply enough or over fertilized
- Lack of landscaping that would allow water to infiltrate into the soil



### Water Your Lawn and Garden to Minimize Water Pollution

- Use a properly directed sprinkler or drip irrigation system instead of a hand-held hose.
- Water thoroughly and less often. Moisten the soil four to six inches deep each time. A good rule of thumb is to apply one-half to one inch of water per week during dry spells.
- Avoid watering sidewalks and streets.
- Water in early morning or late evening when coolest.

Bonus: Plants will be healthier and develop deeper root systems.

[http://www.ncstormwater.org/pdfs/backyard\\_pdf\\_11\\_21\\_05.pdf](http://www.ncstormwater.org/pdfs/backyard_pdf_11_21_05.pdf)



**Repair, Replace, Relax** with Fidelity National Home Warranty (FNHW). A home warranty from FNHW provides both the home buyer and seller with “peace of mind” when it comes to repairs and/or replacement of a home’s major systems and appliances. FNHW prides itself on superior customer service, including quick response time and efficient solutions for homeowners’ problems and needs. The homeowner only needs to make one call and pay one small service fee when a problem or a repair need arises.



*If you are thinking of buying or selling a home in the near future, please call for a personal interview and property assessment with no obligation.*



This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another agent. These materials contain information and articles obtained from third parties. FNHW does not endorse the recommendations of any third party nor guarantee the information provided is complete or correct.

## Back to School Fun Facts

### \$7.6 billion

The amount of money spent at family clothing stores in August 2008. Only in December were sales significantly higher.

### 56 million

The projected number of students to be enrolled in the nation's elementary through high schools (grades K-12) this fall.

### 10.9 million

Number of school-age children (5 to 17) who speak a language other than English at home; 7.9 million of these children speak Spanish at home.

### 7.2 million

Number of teachers in the U. S. in 2008.

### 3.3 million

Projected number of high school diplomas that will be awarded in the 2009-10 school year.



### 3.2 million

Number of college degrees expected to be conferred in the 2009-10 school year.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Facts for Features: Back to School: 2009-10

## August 31 is National Trail Mix Day! Celebrate by Making Your Own Mix!

Trail mix is considered an ideal snack food for hikes, because it is lightweight, easy to store, and nutritious, providing a quick boost from the carbohydrates in the dried fruit and/or granola, and sustained energy from the mono- and poly-unsaturated fats in nuts

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

### OATMEAL TRAIL MIX COOKIES

These cookies travel well and sustain travelers well, too.

#### Ingredients

- 1/2 stick unsalted butter, softened
- 1/4 cup vegetable shortening
- 1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda dissolved in 1 tablespoon warm water

- 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1/2 cup sweetened flaked coconut
- 6-ounce package semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/3 cup roasted peanuts
- 1/2 cup raisins

In a bowl cream the butter and the shortening with the sugars and beat in the egg, the baking soda mixture, the flour, the salt, and the vanilla. Stir in the oats, the coconut, the chocolate chips, the peanuts, and the raisins. Drop rounded tablespoons of the dough about 4 inches apart onto greased baking sheets and with a fork flatten and spread each mound into a round, about 3 inches in diameter. Bake the cookies in batches in the middle of a preheated 375°F. oven for 8 to 10 minutes, or until they are golden, transfer them with a metal spatula to racks, and let them cool. Makes about 30 cookies