



## Mapping Your House and Yard to Identify Pollution Risks

One way to help identify potential sources of water pollution around your home is to make a map showing the features of your house and yard. Although your property may have physical features that you cannot change, there may be things that can be done to minimize risks.

To make your map you need: a clipboard or notebook, a pencil, and page 3 of this worksheet. The map you create will be an aerial view—the way your house and yard would look if you took a photo of it from the air. A sample map is provided on page 2. Your land title or lease documents may also contain useful maps. The amount of detail you put in your map will depend on the map(s) you already have and the time and resources you have available, but be sure to include the following features:

- property boundaries
- garden areas and flower beds
- roads
- ponds, streams and drainage ditches
- any paved areas like driveways and patios.

Some management practices and site characteristics can have major effects on water quality. As you survey your property to make your map, be especially watchful for the following and mark their location on your map:

- drinking water well or catchment system if you do not have municipal water service
- septic system or cesspool if you do not have municipal sewer service
- abandoned wells
- places where you store, use, or dispose of potentially hazardous household products such as fertilizers, pesticides, gasoline, oil, paints, and solvents
- large paved or concrete-covered areas.

Try to include as much information as possible on your map. Show the approximate size of flower beds, gardens, driveways and patios and their distances from each other. A sketch will be adequate for beginning the planning process. Having a more accurate map will allow you to calculate the areas of gardens, lawns, and other features, which can later be useful in planning the best ways to reduce pollution hazards around your home.

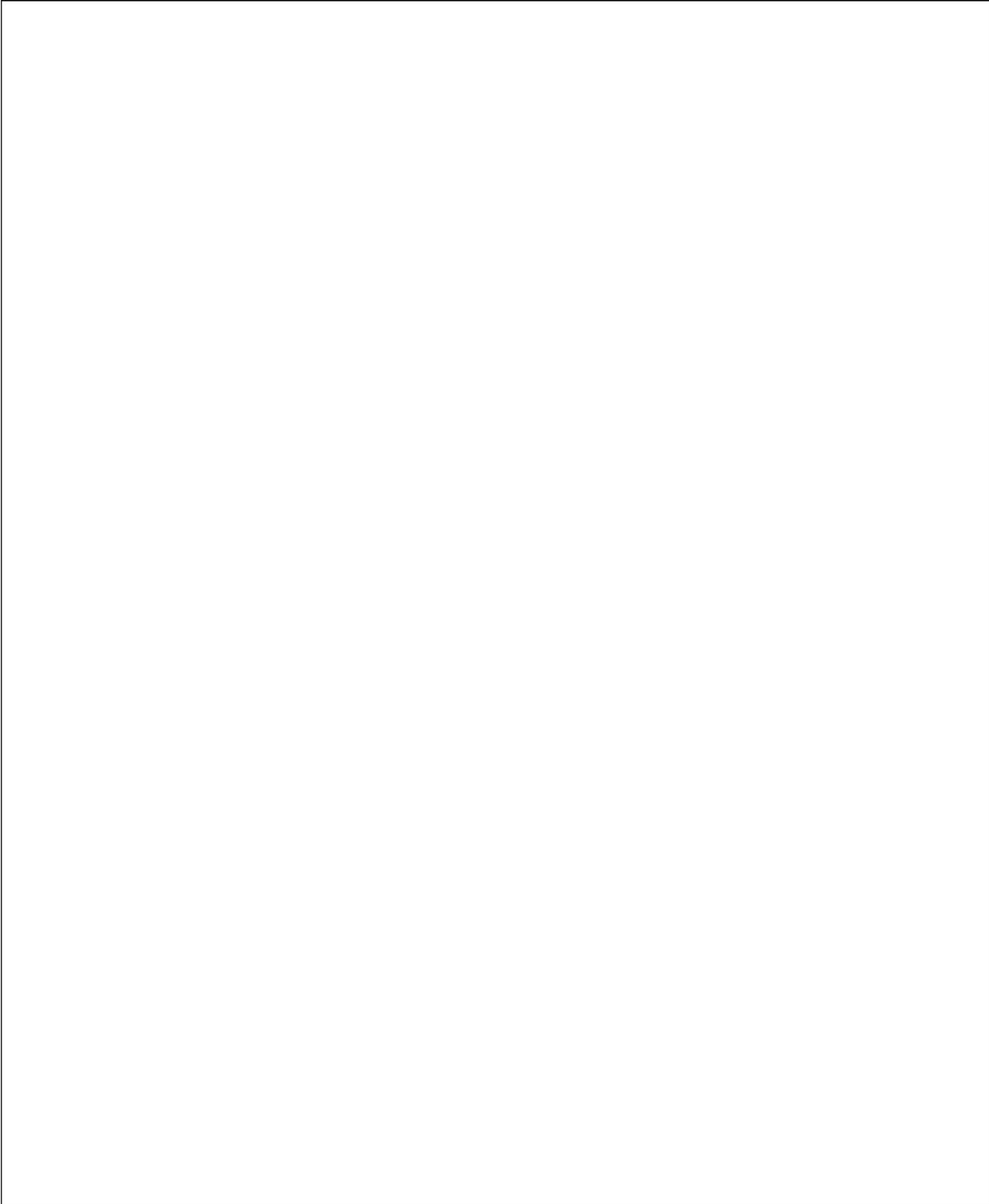
After making a map of your property, you can use it to complete HAPPI-Home 1, *Water quality around the home*, which will direct you to the other HAPPI worksheets that fit your situation.



This HAPPI document was adapted by Michael Robotham, Carl Evensen, and Linda J. Cox from *Site assessment: protecting water quality around your home* by Alyson McCann, Chapter 1, pp. 7–14, in *Home•A•Syst: An environmental risk assessment guide for the home*, developed by the National Farm•A•Syst/Home•A•Syst Program in cooperation with NRAES, the Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service. Permission to use these materials was granted by the National Farm•A•Syst/Home•A•Syst Office. HAPPI-Home materials are produced by the Hawaii's Pollution Prevention Information (HAPPI) project (Farm•A•Syst/Home•A•Syst for Hawaii) of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH-CTAHR) and the USDA Cooperative Extension Service (USDA-CES). Funding for the program is provided by a U.S. EPA 319(h) grant administered by the Hawaii State Department of Health.



**Your Home Map**



**Information about your home**

As you complete other HAPPI-Home worksheets, it may be helpful to have additional information available about your property and activities. Fill in the space below with information about your home. Attach additional pages if you need more space.

**Your property**

Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Size \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Map Code (TMK) \_\_\_\_\_

Zoning \_\_\_\_\_

**History and plans:**

Purchase date \_\_\_\_\_

Construction date \_\_\_\_\_

Remodeling descriptions and dates:

Previous land uses:

