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Preparing Your Garden

Locate your garden away from
■ Manure piles
■ Well caps
■ Garbage cans
■ Septic systems
■ Areas where wildlife or farm animals roam

Using compost in your garden adds nutrients to the soil.
The compost pile...
■ Should be at least 27 cubic feet
■ Must reach a temperature of 130°F for three days to destroy pathogens
■ Must be turned regularly to aerate

Fresh manure is a possible source of pathogens. If used...
■ Spread and incorporate into the soil at least two weeks before planting
■ Should never be applied after the plants are growing
■ Most safely used if thoroughly composted

2

Maintaining Your Garden

Protect from wild animals and household pets by...
■ Cutting down vegetation at the edges of the garden
■ Never feeding wild animals near your garden
■ Using fencing or noise deterrents

Water can be a source of a variety of pathogens
Where does the water come from?
■ Municipal water systems—best source
■ Surface water (lakes, ponds, and streams) can be contaminated with pathogens

Protect your well from contamination by...
■ Keeping it away from any source of pollution sources
■ Maintaining your well
■ Testing the water at least once a year