

Education and Outreach for Source Protection

General Source Water Protection

Messages

Audiences	Key Content
<p>All Audiences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your drinking water comes from a natural source, even if it receives treatment. • Protecting the natural water sources from pollution is important for keeping drinking water safe. • Whether you maintain your septic system or chemicals in products you use can contribute to pollution that may affect our water sources. • Pollutants can put stress on our environment, require expensive treatment to remove, and sometimes cannot be removed from our water sources and a new source has to be found. • Protecting our drinking water sources can be easy. Small actions make a difference. Your actions matter. • Ontario’s Clean Water Act helps protect our municipal drinking water by empowering communities to better protect their local water sources. • The source protection committee that represents your community has developed a plan that identifies ways that your local drinking water can be better protected. • Some parts of your community may be identified as “highly vulnerable” to contamination. Highly vulnerable areas are identified based on their natural characteristics, including the type of soil and rock in those areas and how quickly water can travel through it. • Wellhead protection areas are the above ground points where drinking water wells can be accessed. The areas around wellheads may be more susceptible to contamination and you may need to take specific action to ensure they remain a safe source of drinking water. Your municipality may contact you if you live near a wellhead to ensure you take necessary steps to

	<p>help protect your local drinking water. These steps may include having your septic system inspected regularly to ensure it is working properly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We all have a role and a responsibility to protect our environment and help preserve the quality and quantity of our drinking water. • Find out more about protecting your drinking water by contacting your municipal office or local conservation authority.
<p>Industries/ Private Business Owners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean, abundant drinking water is an irreplaceable part of our economic infrastructure. Safe drinking water is an essential part of what makes Ontario an attractive place to do business and helps attract skilled workers. • Water is a crucial raw material that all businesses depend on directly or indirectly. • Businesses have an interest in protecting our valuable water resources to support the communities in which they operate, to provide for their business activities, and to help keep water treatment costs from rising. • What materials you use for production, where and how you store dangerous liquids, or even using less water can help protect our water sources. • Under Ontario’s Clean Water Act, activities performed by private industries and business can be a potential risk to drinking water sources, such as fuel storage and waste management. • It costs less to avoid harm to our water sources than to try to repair damage to our water sources after the fact, and water sources can be damaged permanently. • Protecting water sources can be as simple as knowing whether your business is in an area where water sources are more vulnerable, being more careful of where and how chemicals are stored, or using more environmentally friendly materials. • Business and industry have an important role and a responsibility to protect the water sources that help keep our economy and communities strong.

RESOURCES

This resource provides information on source water protection in Ontario.

POLLUTION PROBE*: SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PRIMER	
Link	<u>The Source Water Protection Primer</u>
Author	Pollution Probe
Date Published	May 2004
Notes	Information about the importance of source water protection for our health, ecosystems and economy. *This organization requires written credit for use of excerpted materials.

OTHER INFORMATION

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