

Drinking water threats from hazardous waste

Some types of waste are hazardous and can harm our health. Examples of waste activities include:

- Waste disposal sites
- Industrial waste
- Recycling depots in retail stores
- PCBs
- Used oil

We all need to do a good job of managing waste to ensure the safety of our community's drinking water supply.

Thank you for protecting your local municipal drinking water sources.



Understanding the threat

Why is waste a threat to drinking water?

Waste that is stored or disposed could leach into the ground and into aquifers that provide the source of water for your municipal wells. It could also reach surface water like rivers and the lake.

Which waste activities are considered threats to drinking water sources?

Waste disposal activities that may pose a threat to drinking water, in the regulations of the Ontario *Clean Water Act, 2006*, are:

- Storage of PCBs, waste oil, and other hazardous waste
- Land application of untreated septage
- Storage, treatment and discharge of tailings from mines
- Landfilling of petroleum waste
- Landfilling of hazardous, municipal, non-hazardous, or commercial waste

Contaminants in waste that are of particular concern include:

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| • Arsenic | • Barium |
| • Cadmium | • Lead |
| • Mercury | • PCBs |

Will plans affect me?

Policies in source protection plans do not require action on all properties that store or dispose of waste. Regulatory policies will only apply when activities are considered to be a significant threat to drinking water. Non-regulatory policies, such as education and outreach, may apply to waste activities when they are considered a low or moderate threat.

The level of threat – low, moderate, or significant – depends on factors such as proximity to the municipal drinking water source, the type of waste, and the amount of waste stored.

Where is waste a significant threat to drinking water sources?

- On properties located within 100 metres of the municipal well (Wellhead Protection Area A), or in the most vulnerable areas of the two-year time-of-travel zone (Wellhead Protection Area B).
- For maps showing vulnerable areas go to our website at sourcewaterinfo.on.ca

To find out if your activity is assessed as a significant threat to drinking water, and how to manage the threat posed by this activity, contact your local risk management official or staff of the source protection region. Contact info is on the back of this page.

How is waste being addressed locally?

Locally-developed source protection plans have been approved by the Province of Ontario. These plans use a variety of tools to protect your local drinking water sources from waste threats.

Education and Outreach

Outreach increases awareness and engages local people in action to protect our drinking water.

Prescribed Instrument (PI)

Examples of a prescribed instrument include an Environmental Compliance Approval for waste disposal sites.

Where a legal document or permit regulates an activity, this instrument is reviewed to ensure it protects drinking water.

Risk Management Plan (RMP)

- The local Risk Management Official works with the operator, landowner, or person doing the activity, to develop a risk management plan.
- Required for existing waste storage only where it poses a significant threat to drinking water sources.

Prohibition

- Any new waste storage will be prohibited only where it poses a significant threat to municipal drinking water sources.
- Prohibition is only used in the most vulnerable areas near municipal wells.

Restricted Land Use

This is a 'flag' that helps municipalities identify properties where waste threats require a risk management plan or are prohibited.

Contact us:

Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley
Source Protection Region

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1-888-286-2610 • sourcewaterinfo.on.ca

Maitland Valley Source Protection Area: 519-335-3557

Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Area: 519-235-2610



Examples of threats to drinking water sources

Activities that threaten drinking water sources include:

- Septic systems; On-site sewage
- Fuel oil (including home heating oil)
- Liquid fuel such as gas stations
- Chemicals (toxic chemicals such as organic solvents and dense non-aqueous phase liquids or DNAPLs)
- Commercial fertilizer
- Pesticides
- Nutrients (manure, bio-solids, grazing)
- Waste disposal sites (including storage of hazardous waste)
- Sewage works (sewage treatment plants, municipal sewers)
- Road salt and snow storage
- Others: For the list of 21 provincially prescribed drinking water threats, go to this web page: ontario.ca/document/tables-drinking-water-threats

Find out more online:

- **Plans and maps:** sourcewaterinfo.on.ca
- **Province of Ontario:** ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/source-protection
- **Managing Waste:** ec.gc.ca/gdd-mw/Default.asp?lang=En&n=678F98BC-1
- **Toxics Reduction Program:** ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/toxics

Properly disposing of waste:

- **Hazardous waste collection sites:** makethedrop.ca

If you live in Huron County, the fact sheet for household hazardous waste disposal is located here:

- huroncounty.ca/plandev/wasteman.php

If you live in the Municipality of North Perth visit this page:

- northperth.ca/en/ourcommunity/hazardouswastedisposal.asp

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The content provided in this publication is intended for local educational and information purposes only. Every effort has been made to ensure the correctness of information as at the publication date (July 2015).

Subject to change. • For legislation and regulations visit ontario.ca