

# Protecting drinking water sources in

## Benmiller

The Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh provides clean, safe drinking water to more than 85 people in Benmiller. Your positive actions can help to keep that water safe and clean.

There is one municipal well in Benmiller.

The Benmiller well was constructed in 1977.

The Benmiller well is 65.8 metres deep.

The average use is 37 cubic metres per day.

The well and wellhead protection areas are in the Maitland Valley Source Protection Area.

Chief Drinking Water Inspector Annual Report:  
2014-2015 inspection rating: 90.21 per cent  
2014-2015 drinking water quality (percentage of tests meeting standards): 97.50 per cent

### Where does Benmiller drinking water come from?

The municipal well draws groundwater from an aquifer. Aquifers collect water underground much like a sponge collects water.

### How is the water treated?

The municipality uses chlorination to treat the water. Operators must adhere to strict requirements for the treatment, testing and distribution of drinking water as specified in the *Safe Drinking Water Act*.

### How is drinking water protected?

Ontario's *Clean Water Act, 2006* protects drinking water at the source as the first of several barriers of protection. Other barriers of defence are monitoring, distribution, and three Ts (treatment; testing; and training of water operators).

## The Benmiller Well and Wellhead Protection Areas

The Benmiller Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) zones and areas of high vulnerability are displayed in maps that are online.



Please download free map online from your local [sourcewaterinfo.on.ca](http://sourcewaterinfo.on.ca) website or contact us.

## Understanding the areas

### Zone A

This zone is any area within 100 metres of the municipal well.

### Zone B

In this area, it could take less than two years for contaminated groundwater to reach the municipal well.

### Zone C

In this zone, it could take less than five years for contaminated groundwater to reach the municipal well.

Source protection plans may require action from you if you are located in a wellhead protection area (zone A, B, or C).

Visit [sourcewaterinfo.on.ca](http://sourcewaterinfo.on.ca) for maps, plan policies, and a list of activities that pose a threat to drinking water sources. Feel free to contact our staff if you have questions not answered by this fact sheet.



Ausable Bayfield  
Maitland Valley  
Source Protection  
Region



## Maitland Valley, Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Plans

Source protection plans took effect in April of 2015 in the Maitland Valley and Ausable Bayfield source protection areas.

Policies such as prohibition, or risk management plans, only apply to significant threat activities in this region. If a significant threat to drinking water exists today a risk management plan will usually be required. (Risk management plans do not apply to septic systems but septic systems do require inspection where the threat is significant).

In general, if a significant threat does not exist today it cannot be established in the future in the most vulnerable areas of this region.

In this region, plan policies that require action (those policies with must-conform-to legal effect) only apply in three zones around municipal wells:

- 1) 100-metre wellhead protection area
- 2) Most vulnerable parts of two-year time-of-travel area
- 3) In the case of chemicals known as dense non-aqueous phase liquids, within the five-year time-of-travel area.

For copies of the plans, visit the local website at [sourcewaterinfo.on.ca](http://sourcewaterinfo.on.ca), contact us, or visit the Maitland Valley or Ausable Bayfield source protection authority offices during business hours.

## What activities pose risk?

Activities, in vulnerable areas, that may pose a significant threat to drinking water sources, need to be managed to reduce risk to your water. Here are some of those activities: septic systems; sewage; fuel and oil; toxic chemicals such as organic solvents and dense non-aqueous phase liquids; fertilizer; manure, biosolids, grazing, and nutrients; waste disposal and hazardous waste sites; road salt and snow storage.

- For the list of 21 provincially prescribed drinking water threats, go to this web page: [ontario.ca/document/tables-drinking-water-threats](http://ontario.ca/document/tables-drinking-water-threats)

## How can I help to protect local drinking water sources?

- Improve storage of fuel, oil, and chemicals.
- Properly dispose of hazardous waste.
- If you apply pesticides or fertilizers or nutrients follow best practices.
- If you have a septic system, have it inspected and pumped every three to five years.
- If you can reduce quantities, or find alternatives to harmful chemicals, please do so.
- Take used engine oil to recycling facilities.
- Prevent spills, contain spills. Do a spills prevention plan. Report spills if they happen to Ontario Spills Action Centre: 1-800-268-6060.
- Protect and maintain your private well. Wells provide pathways for contaminants to enter groundwater. If you have a well, be sure it is sealed properly. If you own a well you no longer use, have it properly decommissioned by a licensed well technician.

Visit [sourcewaterinfo.on.ca](http://sourcewaterinfo.on.ca) for more ways to protect drinking water sources in Benmiller and area.

## Contact us to find out more:

Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region • 71108 Morrison Line • RR 3 Exeter, ON • N0M 1S5  
1-888-286-2610 • [sourcewaterinfo.on.ca](http://sourcewaterinfo.on.ca) • Maitland Valley: 519-335-3557 • Ausable Bayfield: 519-235-2610

This project has received funding support from the Government of Ontario. Such support does not indicate endorsement of the contents of this material.  
*The content provided in this publication is intended for local educational and information purposes only. Subject to change.*

Every effort has been made to ensure the correctness of information as at the publication date (January 2016). • For legislation and regulations visit [ontario.ca](http://ontario.ca)