

What is drinking water source protection?

Source water is the raw, untreated water we take from lakes, rivers, and underground aquifers – for treatment – to supply people with drinking water. Drinking water source protection, or source water protection, means protecting these sources of drinking water from contamination and overuse. The focus is on prevention.

From where does the Lake Huron Primary Water Supply draw its source of water for treatment?

The water supply for the Lake Huron Primary Water Supply is drawn from Lake Huron at Port Blake (near Grand Bend) about 2.5 km offshore at a depth of nine metres. This intake and water treatment plant serves most towns and hamlets from Bayfield to London – about 400,000 people. The area one kilometre around the intake is called the Intake Protection Zone 1 or IPZ-1. Where the water takes two hours to reach the intake it is Intake Protection Zone 2 or IPZ-2. These are areas where the water supply is most vulnerable. If you notice a spill, please call the Spills Action Centre at 1-800-268-6060.

The Need for Drinking Water Source Protection

- **[The Clean Water Act, 2006.](#)** The purpose of this Ontario law is to protect existing and future sources of drinking water with a multi-barrier approach.
- **[Water treatment is not always enough.](#)** Water treatment systems do not remove all contaminants from water, particularly chemicals such as fuels and solvents. The safest approach is to prevent contamination.
- **[Prevention saves money.](#)** It is much less expensive to keep water clean than it is to try and remove contaminants.
- **[Other benefits.](#)** Clean and plentiful water also supports agriculture and agri-business, manufacturing, tourism and culture, recreation, business development, and fish and wildlife habitat – all of which are important to our local economies.
- **[Source protection plans.](#)** These locally developed, provincially approved plans ensure storage of fuel, chemicals or waste as well as agricultural activities close to municipal water supplies do not cause contamination to the drinking water.

To learn more please go to www.sourcewaterinfo.on.ca or call 1-888-286-2610

You can also get information on the provincial website:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/source-protection>

and go to the [Source Protection Information Atlas](#)