

What are these new signs?



What is a Drinking Water Protection Zone?

A Drinking Water Protection Zone is the area around a municipal water treatment plant intake or a municipal water well, where human activities could impact the drinking water source. We need to take extra precautions in these areas so the sources of our drinking water (such as our lakes, rivers and canals) remain clean and safe.

Doesn't municipal water treatment clean the water?

Municipal water treatment plants ensure that our tap water is safe to drink. But it makes sense to protect the source of the drinking water in the first place. The benefits of drinking water source protection are many:

- Reduces the cost of water treatment
- Avoids the need to find new drinking water sources if existing ones become contaminated or depleted
- Ensures a long term supply of clean water for economic growth
- Protects property values and supports tourism, recreation, and business development
- Also helps to protect the aquifers that supply private wells

How were the Drinking Water Protection Zones determined?

Under Ontario's Clean Water Act, scientific studies were completed for each municipal water treatment plant intake in Niagara. These studies provided a thorough understanding of our drinking water sources and included mapping of drinking water protection zones. Drinking water protection zones are also called Intake Protection Zones when located around a water treatment plant. A source protection plan was then developed to ensure our drinking water sources remain safe and plentiful.

What does the Drinking Water Protection Zone mean for me?

The Source Protection Plan contains policies aimed at protecting the water in our drinking water protection zones. Activities in these zones must meet the conditions of the source protection plan so that our source water is protected against dangerous

contaminants. The measures mainly apply to governments, industry, and commercial businesses, including agriculture.

If you live in a Drinking Water Protection Zone, you are encouraged to make small changes that will help protect our rivers, lakes, canals, and aquifers. You may already be doing things such as using environmentally friendly cleaning products, properly disposing of hazardous wastes, etc.

More Information:

For more information on the drinking water protection zones, explore our website at: www.sourceprotection-niagara.ca/