

Tips to Protect Drinking Water

A **watershed** is an area where all surface water runoff drains or seeps into one main feature such as a river, lake, or groundwater. Whether you live close to a municipal drinking water source or farther away, runoff from your property can eventually make its way into the surface or groundwater source. What you do on your property can affect both drinking water quality and quantity.

There are many ways landowners can help protect drinking water sources:

1. Clean up pet waste promptly before precipitation washes the waste into nearby stormdrains which lead to our creeks, rivers and lakes. Pet waste contains nutrients and pathogens that should not enter our drinking water supplies.
2. Properly dispose of hazardous waste such as batteries, motor oil, paint, and pool chemicals. Access the [Household Hazardous Waste Depot](#) or Toxic Taxi operated by the City of Greater Sudbury to properly dispose of these items.
3. Avoid using lawn fertilizers that contain phosphorus as per the City of Greater Sudbury's [Lawn Fertilizer By-law](#). Excess phosphorus in our drinking water sources can result in harmful algal blooms and oxygen depletion.



4. Ensure septic systems are properly maintained and emptied on a regular basis. This will cut down on the need for costly repairs and the potential for contaminants to enter private or municipal drinking water sources.
5. Follow the [Outdoor Watering By-law](#) from June 1 to the end of September. Throughout this time lawns, gardens, trees and shrubs are only watered on certain days depending on your home address. This ensures that the water distribution system can keep up with increased demand throughout the summer months.

