



What does this sign mean?

What is a Drinking Water Protection Zone?

A Drinking Water Protection Zone is the area around a municipal well or river intake pipe where human activities could impact the shared drinking water source. These are the areas where we need to take special precautions so that the drinking water source will remain clean and plentiful.

Doesn't municipal water treatment clean the water?

Municipal water treatment ensures that tap water is safe to drink. But it just 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 aquifer that supplies private wells

How were the Drinking Water Protection Zones determined?

Under Ontario's *Clean Water Act*, scientific studies were completed for all the communities in our region that have "town" water. The result is a thorough understanding of the drinking water source including mapping of the zones. Next, a local plan to protect drinking water sources was developed — the *Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan*.

What does the Drinking Water Protection Zone mean for me?

The Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan sets out special measures that need to be in place in these zones to ensure the long-term protection of the drinking water source. The measures mainly apply to governments, industry and some specific activities (such as storing a large amount of fuel or chemicals).

If you live in a Drinking Water Protection Zone, you are simply encouraged to make small changes that will help to protect rivers and underground aquifers. You may already be doing things such as using environmentally friendly cleaning products, properly disposing of hazardous substances, cleaning up pet waste, reducing your use of fertilizer and sidewalk salt and washing your car on a grassy area using water only. If so, you are a **"Great Water Resident"**!

More Information:

For detailed maps of the drinking water protection zones and much more, visit www.mrsourcewater.ca. To learn more about how to be a Great Water Resident, you can pick up a Living in the Zone brochure at your municipal office or check out the Living in the Zone Action Guide on the website.