

# From Source to Tap

## What is Source Water Protection?



Source water protection is the first barrier against contamination of public water supplies. Protecting the sources of our drinking water helps to reduce public health risks and control water treatment costs, among other benefits to communities and the environment.

### Non-Point Source Pollution

This is pollution that cannot be traced to a single discharge point. Impervious surfaces in developed areas contribute to excessive stormwater, which washes pollutants into waterways. Stormwater also comes off agricultural areas carrying pathogens and nutrients.

### Point Source Pollution

This is pollution discharged directly into waterways from industrial, commercial and municipal facilities. Wastewater effluent is a type of point source pollution that can lead to contamination of downstream waterways.

**Agricultural:**  
fertilizers/pesticides, animal waste

**Road salt**

**Wastewater treatment**

**Urban:**  
litter, petroleum products, lawn fertilizer

**Industrial waste**

**Drinking water treatment**

### What We Do at Aqua

- Monitor water quality for contaminants like PFAS, cyanotoxins and VOCs
- Steward properties we own to protect water quality
- Hone treatment processes
- Utilize Early Warning System to respond to spills
- Cooperate with regulatory, municipal and nonprofit partners on watershed management
- Invest in community source water protection projects through our Essential Foundation
- Volunteer for community plantings and cleanups

### What Communities Can Do

Every one of us impacts the health of our waterways, whether we realize it or not. Much of the rain that falls from the sky travels downhill to our waterways or soaks into the ground to recharge our groundwater aquifers. That rainwater can pick up a lot of pollution, including things like petroleum products, fertilizer, road salts and bacteria.

It is important to minimize this pollution as much as possible because the water in our streams, rivers and aquifers is often the very same water that makes its way through our drinking water treatment facilities and, ultimately, to our faucets. Furthermore, the water that we flush down the drain is then treated and discharged back to our waterways, continuing the cycle.

### Help Us Protect Your Source Water:

- Protect storm drains from contamination
- Do not litter
- Remember to clean up after your pet
- Direct roof downspouts to natural areas
- Plant trees
- Use lawn and garden chemicals sparingly
- Use native plants in your landscaping
- Keep your lawn long
- Prevent soil erosion
- Recycle your yard waste
- Minimize road salts
- Wash your car at a car wash
- Check your vehicle for leaks and have any fixed
- Clean and dry boating and fishing equipment between uses
- Reduce household chemical use and use proper disposal methods
- Maintain your septic system
- Do not pour fats, oils or grease down the drain
- Do not flush wipes or medications

