

## Where You Can Get More Information

Ohio American Water can provide information on what contaminants, if any, have been found in the public water supply, what the community is doing to protect the water, and how you can help.

- Information about Ohio American Water is available by visiting our website [www.oawc.com](http://www.oawc.com). Annual water quality reports are available at our website by clicking on “News Room” then “Reports & Notifications”.
- For questions regarding proper disposal of waste, contact your Solid Waste Management District (SWMD) at their website <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsiwm>.
- Visit the Purdue Extension Web Site, Safe Water for the Future, at <http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/SafeWater> for detailed information about wellhead protection and what you can do to protect water quality.
- Visit the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) website at <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/recycling> for places to recycle and to find out what is in your garbage.
- Teachers can borrow a free video called, “Where Does our Drinking Water Come From?” from the Ohio EPA website: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/pdu/whpvideo.html>.

## Our Customer Charter

### We Are...

- dedicated to service excellence
- focused on personalized solutions
- committed to our customers’ health and welfare

### therefore...

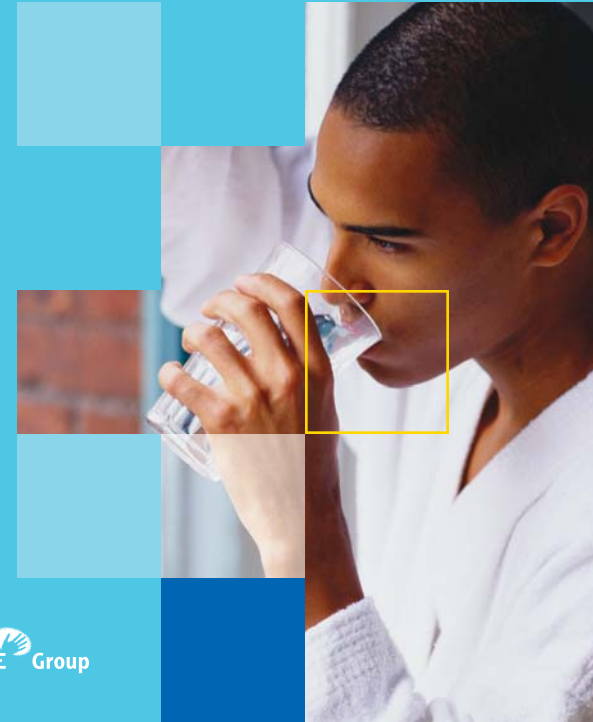
### We Will...

- partner with our customers
- treat them with dignity and respect
- enhance their quality of life
- earn their loyalty
- exceed their expectations

### In Appreciation

Special thanks to Purdue University Extension for lending their expertise to the development of this brochure.

protecting your  
drinking  
water  
source



# What every citizen should know about protecting their drinking water source

## Ohio Environmental Protection Agency conducted source water assessments for public water systems throughout the state.

Each assessment includes a description of the public water system's source of drinking water and its vulnerability to contamination. Ohio EPA formalized the assessments into reports which are considered public records. Summaries of the assessments are part of your community's Annual Water Quality Report. These reports are available on the company's website [www.oawc.com](http://www.oawc.com). Click on "News Room" then "Reports & Notifications".

## What is source water protection?

A source water protection program enables public water suppliers to protect their community's source of water. These sources include both surface water, such as lakes and streams, or aquifers, underground water bearing formations suitable for a community's groundwater supply.

## Protecting a groundwater source is referred to as wellhead protection

A wellhead is the point where groundwater is pumped from the aquifer. Wellhead protection is a way to safeguard a community's groundwater. Wellhead protection measures include proper land management around the wellhead. By safely managing this important area, you can help ensure a safe water supply for your community now and in the future.

Wellhead protection involves two phases. The first phase involves the collection of information about the community's groundwater source. The second phase involves the development of a groundwater source protection plan.

## How can I get involved in source water protection planning for my neighborhood?

Contact your local water system manager and ask if a Drinking Water Source Protection Plan is in place or is being developed. Consider volunteering to help carry out the local protection strategies.

## Education

You can play a big role in protecting your local water source by helping to inform the citizens in your area about source water protection.

- Place Drinking Water Protection Area signs on roadways, parking lots, etc. near the boundaries of the wellhead protection area.
- Volunteer to show Ohio EPA's Wellhead Protection video at local schools or public meetings.
- Distribute educational materials, such as the coloring book, "Once Upon a Wellfield: The Adventures of Dew" to your community's elementary school.
- Post or distribute the "What You Can Do To Protect Your Source of Drinking Water" posters in public areas within your community.

## What you can do

Source water protection depends on every citizen to prevent pollution. Here are some actions you can take to better protect your drinking water supply:

- Limit the use of chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, and other hazardous products. Always follow the label directions. Use the least toxic product or method available for lawns, gardens, and household pest and weed control.
- If you have a septic system, make sure it is inspected and serviced every three years. Avoid pouring products down the drain or toilet that will harm your septic system, such as diapers, coffee grounds, or hazardous chemicals.
- Plug abandoned wells on your property. These old wells provide a direct channel for surface water contaminants to reach ground water supplies.
- Learn about ground water and your water source.
- Recycle used antifreeze. Antifreeze is toxic to people and animals. It can easily contaminate water. Never pour antifreeze into the environment.
- Recycle leftover hazardous products. Never pour these chemicals onto the ground or into storm drains, because they can contaminate the water supply.

## Ohio American Water and Environmental Stewardship

Source water protection is another example of Ohio American Water's commitment to our communities to preserve the integrity and quality of our water resources so essential to the health and well-being of all those we serve.

