

# Your guide to: The Town of Bennett's Source Water Protection Plan



## What is Source Water Protection?

Source water protection is a *proactive, non-regulatory* approach to preventing the pollution of lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater that serve as sources of drinking water.

For generations, water quality was taken for granted, and still today, many people assume that our water is naturally protected. But anything we do on top of the ground has the potential to affect someone's drinking water. As water moves through and over the ground, contaminants can be picked up and carried to a community drinking water supply.

## What's In a Source Water Protection Plan?

A SWPP identifies: the area in need of protection, called a Source Water Protection Area; potential sources of contamination; and management approaches that could help to reduce the risk of contaminants entering the source waters.

In 2017, the Town of Bennett worked collaboratively with area stakeholders to develop a Source Water Protection Plan for their drinking water sources: groundwater wells in the Denver Basin Aquifer system.

For more information about Bennett's Source Water Protection Plan, visit [www.colorado.gov/townofbennett](http://www.colorado.gov/townofbennett), or call (303) 644-3249.

To report drinking water quality concerns, contact Bennett's Water Treatment Operator, Mark Whitlatch at (303) 292-3456.

## How Can You Help Protect Your Drinking Water Source?

As a member of the Bennett community, you have the most to gain or lose from the quality of your drinking water. Things you can do to help protect your drinking water include:

- **Report Potential Security or Vandalism Concerns**—Contact the Town of Bennett if you see signs of vandalism such as damage to water tanks or other water system infrastructure.
- **Report Spills & Dumping on Roadways**—Report any possible spills and dumping from vehicles on roads by calling "911". This helps local emergency response teams effectively contain and remediate the spill to prevent it from entering the waterways.
- **Properly Manage Livestock & Manure**—Keep animals and their waste out of water bodies by fencing off water sources. Provide alternative water sources and hardened stream crossings to lessen livestock's impact on water quality. Store manure at least 250 ft. away from water sources. Composting can help eliminate pathogens and reduce the volume of manure.
- **Properly Dispose of Drugs & Personal Care Products**—Don't flush expired or unwanted prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs down the toilet or drain unless the label specifically instructs you to do so. Return unwanted or expired prescription and over-the-counter drugs to a drug take-back program. For household disposal, mix drugs with cat litter, sawdust, or coffee ground and place in a disposable container with a lid or a sealable plastic bag. Seal container and dispose in the trash.
- **Use Safer Household Cleaning Products**—Instead of hazardous household products, look for the EPA's Safer Choice label to identify products that perform well and are safer for human health and the environment. Search for products via the website: [www.epa.gov/saferchoice](http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice)
- **Use Your Water Wisely**—Routinely check you water pipes for potential leaks. Use water-saving showerheads, toilets, faucets, and high efficiency appliances such as dishwashers and washing machines. Water lawns only when necessary and preferably in the mornings or evenings to avoid evaporation losses from hot and windy weather conditions.
- **Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste**—Never pour on the ground, down the drain, or toilet: cleaning supplies, paints, solvents, fertilizers & pesticides, gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, or other waste chemicals. Read product labels for disposal directions and check with your local environmental, health or solid waste agency for more information on household hazardous waste disposal options in your area.