

The Province is taking steps to help us become water smart

The Clean Water Act is law

To prevent our drinking water from being polluted at its source, Ontario passed the *Clean Water Act*. This new legislation is based on the belief that by protecting our water resources today we will have access to clean, safe drinking water in the future. The Act outlines the measures we must all take to ensure we have access to safe, clean water for current and future generations.

Greater protection for the Great Lakes

The Great Lakes Charter Annex Agreement is an historic document signed by Ontario, Quebec and the eight Great Lakes States that provides stronger protection for the waters and watersheds of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin. When you consider that three out of four Ontarians rely on the Great Lakes for their drinking water, this agreement is a big step towards securing the future health of Ontario's drinking water.



Healthy water needs a healthy infrastructure

Water is a valuable resource that is also limited in quantity. Much of Ontario's infrastructure is old and water loss from these older systems may be up to 50% due to leaky pipes. The Province is developing a water investment strategy to ensure that an estimated \$30 to \$40 billion will be in place over the next 15 years to upgrade Ontario's municipal and wastewater systems.

For more information
about protecting and preserving
Ontario's source water visit:

www.ene.gov.on.ca/water

or call

1-800-565-4923

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Conserving water in Ontario

Protecting our environment.



Protecting our environment.



Protecting and preserving a natural treasure

Water is our most precious resource. We all rely on it for life. But our water supply is finite. And it's very sensitive to contamination from human activity because every lake, stream, marsh and underground aquifer is connected. Everyone has a right to safe, clean water. But everyone also has a responsibility to help protect and preserve water, particularly at its source. If we all make small changes in our everyday lives, Ontario will have a future that includes an abundant supply of safe, clean water.

Why is conservation important?

It may seem like Ontario's water supply is endless. But conserving water is essential. Conserving means two things – not wasting it so we have a steady supply for the future, and not contaminating it, because water you can't drink isn't worth much.



Clean, safe drinking water is up to us

Everyone has a role to play in preserving and protecting our water. Here are a few small things we can do that will help maintain safe and abundant water sources:

In the home

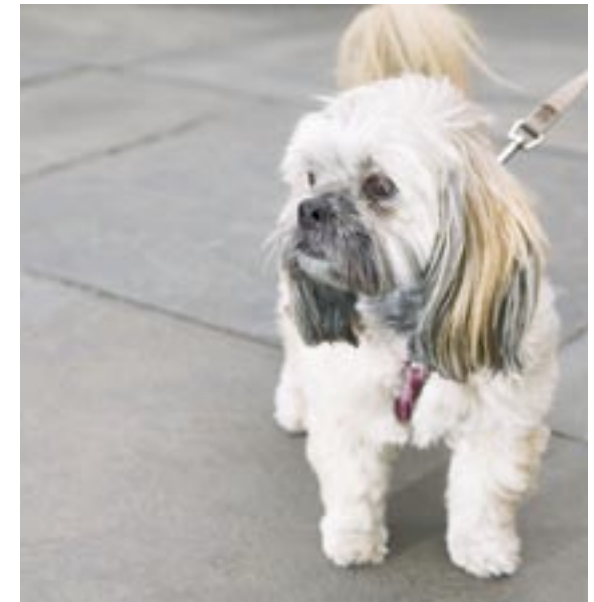
- take a shower instead of a bath and save water; use a low-flow showerhead and save even more
- install a low-flow toilet (toilet flushing accounts for 30% of in-home water usage)
- never use the toilet as a garbage disposal; properly dispose of pharmaceuticals and products with toxic chemicals
- replace leaky faucets because they can waste 50 litres of water a day
- only use the dishwasher or washing machine when the load is full



Out of the home

- clean up after your pet or the rain will wash waste into the water system
- use natural organic fertilizers on your lawn, avoiding chemical-based products
- disconnect your eavestrough downspout from the sewer system, then collect the water in rain barrels and use it to water the lawn and garden

- use non-chemical pest controls in the garden
- wash your car at commercial car washes that recycle water and prevent dirty water from entering storm sewers
- minimize use of salt on your sidewalk in the winter time by shovelling or using sand, if necessary



Rural

proper well maintenance is vital

- to ensure a well is in good running order, the well water should be tested at least three times a year
- make sure the well cap is watertight
- keep surface water and contaminants such as petroleum products, pesticides and septic systems away from the wellhead
- wells that are no longer used should be promptly and properly decommissioned

septic systems require special attention

- don't overuse the system
- keep it well-maintained with scheduled pumpouts