

Your guide to: Town of Ophir Source Water Protection Partnership Source Water Protection Plan

Town of Ophir Source Water Protection Plan

San Miguel County, Colorado
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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 August of 2017, the Fraser River Source Water Protection Partnership, a consortium of nine public water systems and other stakeholders, developed a SWPP to help protect the sources of your drinking water.

For more information about the Town of Ophir

Source Water Protection Plan visit:

<https://townofophir.colorado.gov/> or call the Town
at 970-728-4943

How Can You Help Protect Your Drinking Water Source?

As a member of the Ophir 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:

- **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.
- **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
- **Apply Fertilizers & Pesticides Properly**—When possible, use non-chemical control methods to reduce or eliminate pest problems. If using pesticides and/or fertilizers, always read the label first and follow the directions to the letter. Don't use more product than directed by the label (don't think that twice the amount will do twice the job), don't spray outdoors on windy or rainy days, and take precautions to avoid runoff. If using a commercial applicator or lawn care service, ask for information about potential risks and safety precautions to take.
- **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.