

# WELLINGTON

## Source Water

### PROTECTION

[wellingtonwater.ca](http://wellingtonwater.ca)

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## FACT SHEET 7

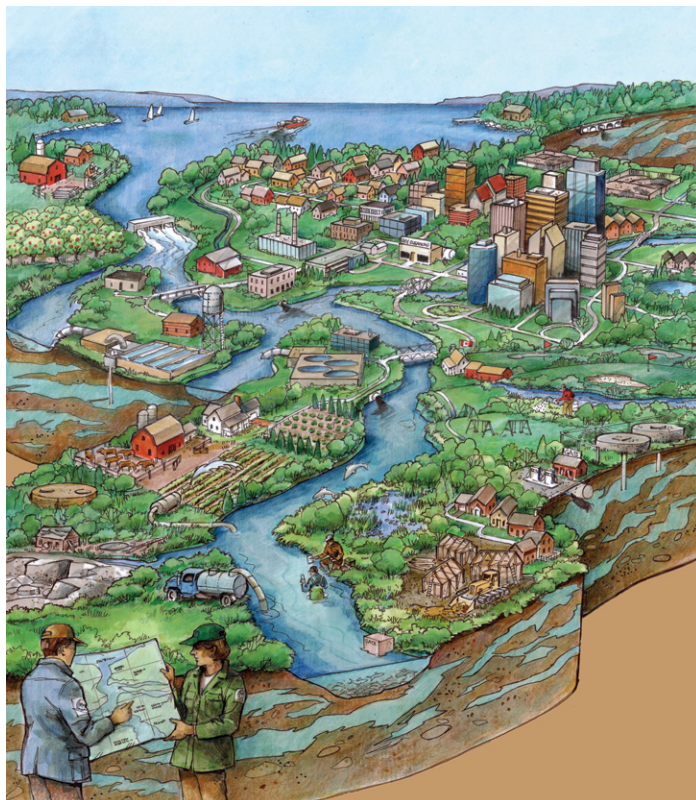
### WATER QUANTITY

### Water quantity is important

Drinking water source protection is about protecting the *quality* of our drinking water supplies as well as the *quantity*. It is important to ensure we have enough drinking water for today and in the future. Areas which could be under water quantity stress (i.e. not having enough for future use) are identified through studies called *Water Budgets*.

### Water budgets

A *water budget* is an accounting of the hydrologic cycle or simply put, the movement of water on, above and below the surface of the Earth. It is determined by calculating how much water enters a system and how much leaves a system, through natural processes and human consumption.



Water budgets are conducted using a “tiered” approach. As you proceed from one study “tier” to the next, the study area narrows and the science becomes more complex. Because each “tier” is more detailed, it provides more certainty. The four “tiers” are:

- Conceptual Water Budget
- Tier 1 Water Budget
- Tier 2 Water Budget
- Tier 3 Water Budget

The Clean Water Act defines two water quantity activities or threats:

1. Consumptive water taking from an aquifer or surface water body. This includes municipal and private wells, as well as industrial uses for manufacturing, agriculture, water bottling, and aggregate operations.
2. An activity that reduces the recharge of an aquifer. Examples include any conversion of land to an impervious surface including parking lots, residential subdivisions, employment lands, and other land use developments.

### We all have a role to play in protecting water

Homeowners and business owners living in **quantity wellhead protection areas** are encouraged to adopt practices that decrease the amount of water that is used and increase the amount of water that is being recharged back into the aquifer.

### Increasing Recharge on your property

- **Redirect roof downspouts** to drain into vegetated areas. Avoid directly draining into storm sewers, onto parking lots or sidewalks.
- **Mulch gardens** to hold in water and reduce evaporation

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- **Build a rain garden** to decrease run off and increase infiltration! Follow these guides for more information on how to build your own: [Credit Valley Conservation Rain Garden Guide](#), [Essex Region Conservation Authority Rain Garden Manual](#)
- **Use of Low Impact Development** for businesses or residential subdivisions can increase the amount of water being recharged to the aquifer. Care must be taken to ensure contaminants do not accidentally also enter the aquifer.

### Water conservation in and around your home

Water conservation is a proactive step homeowners can take around their property to reduce water consumption both indoors and outdoors.

Three largest water uses in an average home are:

1. **Toilet (45%)** – replace your toilets with low-flow models
2. **Showers (30%)** – encourage people in your home to take shorter showers



3. **Laundry (20%)** – wait until you can do full loads

### Seasonal outdoor water usage

In summer months, 50% of household water is used in the lawn and garden. Try these tips when saving water outdoors:

- Only water your lawn when it needs it
- Cut grass less frequently and at a higher level (5-8 cm) to reduce evaporation
- Water gardens in the morning or in the evening near the roots to reduce evaporation

- Install rain barrels on downspouts to water flower and vegetable gardens
- Plant native grasses and plants as they are more drought resistant and require less water
- Set sprinklers strategically to water your lawn and not driveways or sidewalks
- Install a shut-off valve on your hose so it only runs when in use
- Use a broom, instead of a hose, to clean off your driveway

Funding may be available to help you complete some of these changes. Please contact your local conservation authority for more information: [www.wellingtonwater.ca](http://www.wellingtonwater.ca)

### For more information, contact:

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Email: [sourcewater@centrewellington.ca](mailto:sourcewater@centrewellington.ca)

Website: [www.wellingtonwater.ca](http://www.wellingtonwater.ca)

Or your local municipal office.

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