

Animas Drinking Water Alliance 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 2015, eight public water suppliers, collaborating under the name Animas Drinking Water Alliance, formed a Steering Committee to develop and implement a Source Water Protection Plan for their drinking water sources on the Animas River.

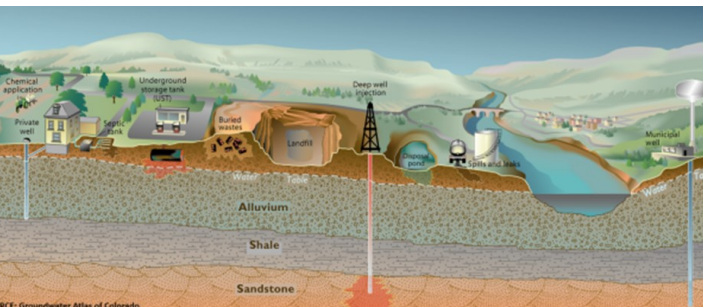
For more information on the ADWA SWPP contact the following participating Community Water Providers:

- Animas Water Company (970) 259.4788
- Association of Owners, Blue Sky Ranch, Inc. (970) 759.0444
- City of Durango (970) 375.4801
- Glacier Club (970) 481.8380
- Goodman Property Owners Association (970) 259.8720
- Hermosa Mobile Home Village (970) 247.4271
- Purgatory Metro District (970) 247.3954
- Town of Silverton (970) 946.6839

How Can You Help Protect Your Drinking Water Source?

As a member of the Animas Valley 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 ADWA if you see signs of vandalism such as damage to water tanks or other water system infrastructure.
- **Maintain Your Private Fuel/Chemical Storage Facilities**—Ensure that storage facilities have secondary containment to contain spills and easily detect leaks. Routinely monitor storage facilities to ensure they are not leaking and perform periodic cleanup of the containment areas (e.g., sweeping with a broom and using limited absorbent). Storage facilities should also have corrosion protection such as elevating tanks, resting tanks on continuous concrete slabs, installing double-walled tanks, cathodically protecting the tanks, or internally lining tanks.
- **Maintain Private Water Wells**—Ensure the well casings extend at least 12 inches above ground and 19 feet below ground. Visually inspect the aboveground portion of your well for holes or cracks and ensure the cap is secure. Test wells frequently for bacteria and every 3-5 years for other pollutants. If your well is no longer being used, consider properly plugging or capping it. Contact the CO Division of Water Resources for more information, (303) 866-3581.
- **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..
- **Tread Lightly on Public Lands**—Obey all rules to protect the natural resources. Use motorized vehicles only on designated routes identified with signage or appropriate maps. While in the backcountry, pack it in and pack it out. Keep informed on forest and land management issues, participate in the planning activities related to public lands, and work together with your public land managers.



SOURCE: Groundwater Atlas of Colorado