

## Drinking Water Source Protection and Solid Waste Landfills

*Ohio's environmental regulations help protect the quality of our drinking water by requiring distance between solid waste landfills and sources of public drinking water.*

### Who regulates these activities?

Ohio EPA's Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (DDAGW) regulates public water systems. DDAGW also administers the Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) program, which determines the protection area surrounding a drinking water source. Ohio EPA has evaluated all Ohio public water systems to identify and outline these protection areas.

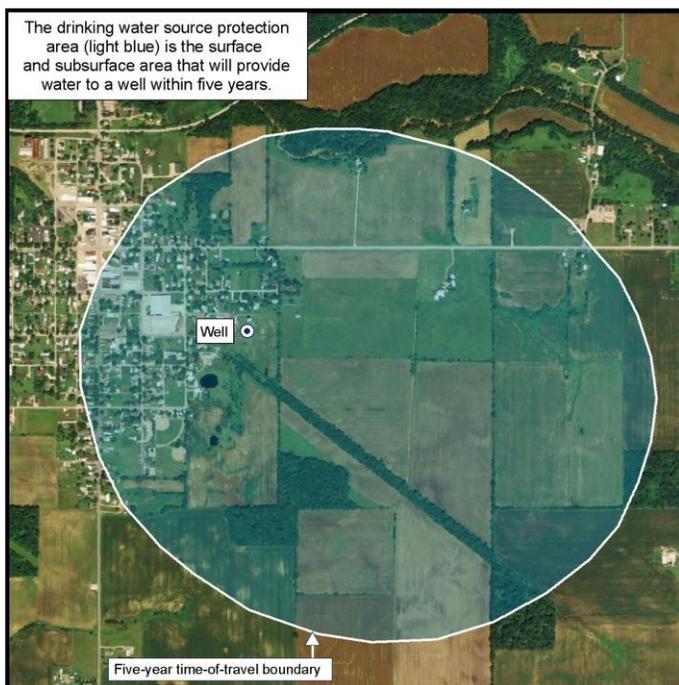
Ohio EPA's Division of Materials and Waste Management (DMWM) regulates solid waste disposal facilities, including landfills. DMWM helps protect drinking water sources by prohibiting siting of solid waste landfills within source water protection areas.

### What are solid waste landfills?

Solid waste landfills are engineered facilities that accept specific kinds of waste for permanent disposal. There are various types of wastes, including household, restaurant, farming and manufacturing wastes. Solid waste landfills also include disposal facilities for municipal solid waste, industrial waste, residual waste and scrap tires.



*In Ohio, solid waste landfills cannot be located in a drinking water source protection area. (Photo source: Ohio EPA)*



### What are the restrictions regarding public water systems?

Solid waste landfills must have liners, leachate management systems and ground water monitoring wells. They are also required to control surface water that runs onto or off of the waste disposal area. Solid waste landfills cannot be located within a drinking water source protection area.

### How does this protect drinking water?

Ohio EPA's landfill rules are focused on preventing releases of contaminants to ground water. Although modern solid waste landfills are designed to prevent leachate from entering water supplies, accidental releases of leachate can occur. Siting solid waste landfills outside of the protection area provides a buffer, or protective distance, to the source of drinking water. This buffer allows the landfill operator and Ohio EPA time to act in the event of an accidental release of leachate.

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## Where are drinking water source protection areas?

To determine if an existing or proposed facility is located within a drinking water source protection area, contact Ohio EPA's SWAP program. Please include the following information in your request:

- the location of the facility (a map showing the facility footprint is best);
- the reason for your request (such as "solid waste facility expansion"); and
- your contact information, including your e-mail address.

## Additional Information

- Ohio EPA, Division of Materials and Waste Management, [epa.ohio.gov/dmwm/](http://epa.ohio.gov/dmwm/)
- Siting Criteria, DMWM Guidance Document #0693, [epa.ohio.gov/portals/34/document/guidance/gd\\_693.pdf](http://epa.ohio.gov/portals/34/document/guidance/gd_693.pdf)
- Regulations, [codes.ohio.gov/oac/](http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/)
  - Municipal Solid Waste Landfills, Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3745-27
  - Industrial Waste Landfills, Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3745-29
  - Scrap Tire Monofills, Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3745-27
  - Residual Waste Landfills, Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3745-30
- Well Siting, Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 9, [epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/rules.aspx#112025077-chapter-3745-9-water-well-standards](http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/rules.aspx#112025077-chapter-3745-9-water-well-standards)

## Contact

For more information, contact the Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Source Water Assessment and Protection Program, at (614) 644-2752, or email [whp@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:whp@epa.ohio.gov). Visit the SWAP web page at [epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/swap.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/swap.aspx).

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*This fact sheet is intended to provide an overview of this program as it relates to drinking water source protection and the SWAP program. The activities or structures described have additional restrictions not discussed in this document. When investigating state or federal programs for information on source water protection, please consult with staff from that particular program for the most complete and current information.*