



Protecting drinking water from **Organic Solvents**

What are organic solvents?

Organic solvents are liquids that can dissolve other substances. They are made from oil and exist in many commercial products.

Commonly used organic solvents

Chemical	Common uses
Acetone	Paint thinners, adhesives
Methanol	Antifreeze, paints, varnishes
Chloroform	Dyes, manufacturing
Hexane	Metal cleaning and degreasing
Isopropanol	Disinfectant, deicing, resins

Why are organic solvents a concern?

- Can cause **serious health issues**, including cancer
- Can **remain in groundwater for decades**
- Are costly and **difficult to clean** up

If released into the environment, such as through spills or leaks, there can be fines, clean-up costs and reputational damage.

How can you help protect drinking water?

- ✓ Follow product Safety Data Sheets for safe handling, storage and spill response
- ✓ Keep spill response materials on hand and ensure staff are trained
- ✓ Report spills right away to the Spills Action Centre at 1.800.268.6060
- ✓ Treat contaminated materials as hazardous waste and dispose of them properly



Contact us to learn more about organic solvents

County of Brant
Risk Management Office
Operations Department,
Environmental Services Division
66 Grand River St N
Paris, ON N3L 2M2

519.442.6324 ext. 3051
sourcewater@brant.ca

We all have a role to play in protecting our drinking water.