

INFORMATION ON WATER FROM THE EPA

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals (and in some cases, radioactive material) and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of people and animals. Substances that are monitored include:



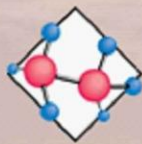
Microorganisms like viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage, septic systems, agriculture and wildlife.



Inorganics such as salts and metals, which occur naturally or result from runoff, wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.



Pesticides and herbicides which may come from agriculture, runoff, and residential uses.



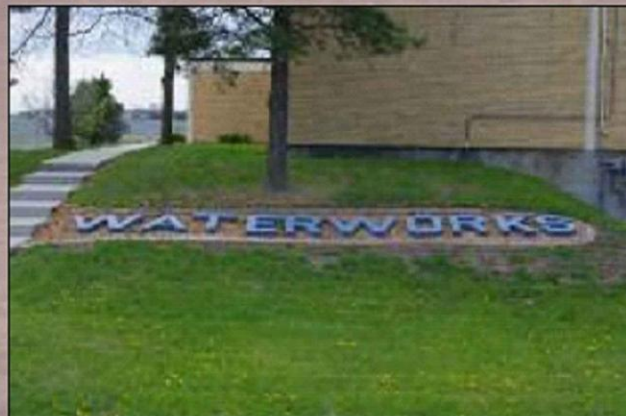
Organic chemicals including synthetic and volatile organics, which are industrial and petroleum process by-products which can come from gas stations, runoff, and septic systems



Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

WATER SOURCES

Watertown residents receive their water from ground water. We pump water with 31 wells from the North Big Sioux aquifer. The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources completed our Source Water Assessment in 2003. The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources has determined the susceptibility to contamination of the Watertown Public Water Supply is moderate. A copy of the assessment is available by contacting Wayne Lovelis at 882-6233.



Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants found in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). Cryptosporidium was not detected in Watertown water.

WATER SERVICE:

MAINTENANCE & REPAIR

In addition to providing *safe, high quality water*, our goals at Watertown Municipal Utilities include providing the best possible customer service. As part of this effort, we have developed a policy for water service maintenance, repair, and replacement. Portions of our policy are outlined below. Our complete water policy is at the link:

<https://www.watertownmu.com/wp-content/uploads/WaterPolicies03312025.pdf>

WATER SERVICE LINES

- The Municipal Utilities Water Dept. will make all taps to the water main.
- The minimum service size shall be 1" type K copper annealed.
- All hook-up fees must be paid in full before the tap is made.
- The customer is responsible for the service line all the way to the main and shall install and maintain piping, curb stops, valves, and other equipment in an approved manner.
- Water service lines cannot be shared by single or two family unit dwellings. Each dwelling unit must have separate water service lines.

Water Service Line Replacement

Lead and leaking galvanize, or plastic lines shall be replaced with type K copper lines. The property owner bears responsibility for replacement expense.

Abandoned Water Service Lines

Abandoned water service lines must be excavated and shut off at the water main. Excavation is the responsibility of the property owner or his/her contractor. The Water Department bears the responsibility for closing the corporation tap and the main.

Water Meters

- Municipal Utilities Water Department will furnish all water meters up to and including 2" meters.
- Meters must be located where the service enters the home or building and must be accessible for reading and repairs
- Meters must be in a freeze-proof area

WATER QUALITY REPORT 2024



For additional information about

**Watertown drinking water - contact
Wayne Lovelis at 882-6233.**

**The Public can participate in water issues
at the Municipal Utility Board meeting at
noon, the last Monday of the month.**

Water Monitoring Report Summary:

Watertown water is monitored and tested for about 80 regulated substances in addition to dozens of unregulated substances. The table below lists the substances that were actually detected for the monitoring period. Not all substances are tested each year; the most current test date is listed if the substance was not monitored in 2021. The public can participate in water issues at the Watertown Municipal Utility Board Meeting at noon the last Monday of the month.

WHO DETERMINES THE WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Levels of regulated contaminants are enforced through Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) set by Congress. Food and Drug administration regulations establish limits for Contaminants in bottled water that must also provide protection for public health. Under federal law, bottled water is a packaged foodstuff and this allows water bottlers to meet less rigorous testing, treatment, and public notification regulations than community water supplies. Water bottlers are not currently required to actively inform the public about the quality of the water they bottle.

WHY DOES EPA ALLOW ANYTHING IN WATER?

All drinking water sources contain some naturally occurring substances. Water is a very good solvent and it dissolves many things easily upon contact. At low levels, these things are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all substances from drinking water would be extremely expensive and in nearly all cases would not provide any protection to the public health. In fact, removing everything from drinking water would often times result in an inferior product. Many naturally occurring minerals are essential nutrients and may

actually improve the taste of your drinking water. According to the EPA, drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by visiting the EPA website at www.epa.gov/safewater or by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

UNREGULATED CHEMICAL TESTING

The Watertown Municipal Utilities periodically tests for chemicals that are not regulated by either the state or EPA. The purpose for the unregulated chemical monitoring is to determine if these chemicals exist in the water supply. EPA uses this occurrence information along with health effects studies to determine which chemicals need to be regulated in the future.

2024 Table of Detected Regulated Contaminants For Watertown Municipal Utilities (EPA ID 0356)

Terms and abbreviations used in this table:

- * Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- * Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- * Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. For Lead and Copper, 90% of the samples must be below the AL.
- * Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. For turbidity, 95% of samples must be less than 0.3 NTU.
- * Running Annual Average (RAA): Compliance is calculated using the running annual average of samples from designated monitoring locations.

Units:

- * MFL: million fibers per liter
- * pCi/l: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- * ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
- * mrem/year: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
- * ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
- * ppq: parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter
- * NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- * ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
- * pspm: positive samples per month

Substance	90% Level	Test Sites > Action Level	Date Tested	Highest Level Allowed (AL)	Ideal Goal	Units	Major Source of Contaminant
Copper	0.4	0	08/20/24	AL=1.3	0	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	1.9	0	09/05/24	AL=15	0	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

Substance	Highest Level Detected	Range	Date Tested	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Units	Major Source of Contaminant
Arsenic	1	1.00 – 1.00	05/24/21	10	0	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	0.0212	0.0212-0.0212	05/24/21	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	0.96	0.96 – 0.96	05/24/21	100	100	ppb	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	0.78	0.47 - 0.78	04/11/23	4	<4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids (RAA)	17.0		8/13/24	60	0	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Results are reported as a running annual average of test results.
Selenium	0.54	0.54 – 0.54	05/24/21	50	50	ppb	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Total Coliform Bacteria	1	positive samples		5%	0	pspm	Naturally present in the environment.
Total trihalomethanes (RAA)	66.0		8/13/24	80	0	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Results are reported as a running annual average of test results.

Please direct questions regarding this information to Mr Wayne Lovelis with the Watertown Municipal Utilities public water system at (605)882-6233.

DID YOU KNOW?



Running the water while shaving wastes enough water to quench your thirst for a week.



It takes 39,000 gallons of water to manufacture an automobile.



It can take 3000 gallons of water per week to keep a 1/4 acre lawn green.



2.3 billion people do not have a clean, safe supply of water.



Americans spend \$5 billion every year on bottled water, enough to provide water infrastructure and safe water to 28 million third-world families who don't currently have it.