



CITY OF LAFAYETTE
791 Main Ave. – PO Box 375
Lafayette, MN 56054 (507) 228-8241

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Lafayette 2023 Drinking Water Report

Making Safe Drinking Water

Your drinking water comes from a groundwater source: two wells ranging from 373 to 375 feet deep, that draw water from the Quaternary Buried Artesian aquifer.

Lafayette works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources. Contact Allan Fox, Utility and Maintenance Superintendent, at 507-276-1707 or lafayette-utilities@hotmail.com if you have questions about Lafayette's drinking water. You can also ask for information about how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the number of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

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 calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Lafayette Monitoring Results

This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2023.

We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's webpage [Basics of Monitoring and testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html>).



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How to Read the Water Quality Data Tables

The tables below show the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below with the detection date. We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Some contaminants are monitored regularly throughout the year, and rolling (or moving) annual averages are used to manage compliance. Because of this averaging, there are times where the Range of Detected Test Results for the calendar year is lower than the Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result, because it occurred in the previous calendar year.

Definitions

- **AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency
- **MCL (Maximum contaminant level):** 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.
- **MCLG (Maximum contaminant level goal):** 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.
- **MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **N/A (Not applicable):** Does not apply.
- **pCi/l (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.
- **ppt (parts per trillion):** One part per trillion is like one drop in one trillion drops of water, or about one drop in an Olympic sized swimming pool. ppt is the same as nanograms per liter (ng/l).



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- **ppb (parts per billion):** One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter (µg/l).
- **ppm (parts per million):** One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).
- **PWSID:** Public water system identification.

Monitoring Results – Regulated Substances

LEAD AND COPPER – Tested at customer taps.

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Action Level	90% of Results Were Less Than	Number of Homes with High Levels	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead (11/15/23)	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	1.05 ppb	0 out of 20	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Lead (06/07/23)	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	0.97 ppb	0 out of 20	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper (11/15/23)	0 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	1.97 ppm	6 out of 20	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper (06/07/23)	0 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	2.77 ppm	7 out of 20	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (If Applicable)

Copper: We are in an ongoing exceedance of the action level for copper. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper more than the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper more than the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor. In response to this issue, we performed a corrosion control study and/or have taken actions to make the water less likely to absorb materials such as copper from your plumbing.



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INORGANIC & ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water.						
Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Nitrate	10 ppm	10.4 ppm	2.7 ppm	N/A	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (01/28/21)	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.05 ppm	N/A	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposit.
Arsenic	0 ppb	10.4 ppb	1.12 ppb	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Gross Alpha (2019)	0 pCi/l	15.4 pCi/l	3.7 pCi/l	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium (2019)	0 pCi/l	5.4 pCi/l	0.4 pCi/l	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.



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CONTAMINANTS RELATED TO DISINFECTION – Tested in drinking water.						
Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA’s Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	EPA’s Limit (MCL or MRDL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	N/A	60 ppb	47.3 ppb	1.40 - 26.00 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Chlorine	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.38 ppm	0.09 - 0.19 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	N/A	80 ppb	78.1 ppb	47.20 - 82.20 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Total HAA refers to HAA5

Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (If Applicable)

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs): During the year our system had a TTHM result that was greater than the MCL. Since there is variability in sampling results, and this is not an acute contaminant, four quarterly sample results are used to determine compliance for this contaminant. TTHMs will continue to be monitored quarterly on our system into 2024.

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs): Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes more than the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.



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OTHER SUBSTANCES – Tested in drinking water.						
Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	1.32 ppm	0.76 - 2.40 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.

Some People Are More Vulnerable to Contaminants in Drinking Water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants 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. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These people or their caregivers should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Learn More about Your Drinking Water

Drinking Water Sources

Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water, and found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water, and is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land.

Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are five main types of contaminants in drinking water sources.

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.



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- **Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** are chemicals used to reduce or kill unwanted plants and pests. Sources include agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and commercial and residential properties.
- **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How Lafayette is protecting your drinking water source(s);
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources;
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at [Source Water Assessments](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa>) or call 651-201-4700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lead in Drinking Water

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. Coming in contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. Babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk.

Lead is rarely in a drinking water source, but it can get in your drinking water as it passes through lead service lines and your household plumbing system. Lafayette is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but it cannot control the plumbing materials used in private buildings.

Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

1. **Let the water run** for 30-60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has not been turned on in over six hours. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.
 - You can find out if you have a lead service line by contacting your public water system, or you can check by following the steps at:
<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/06/24/npr-find-lead-pipes-in-your-home>



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- The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.
- 2. Use cold water for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.
- 3. Test your water. In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.
 - Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to get a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample:
[Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program](https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam)
(<https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam>)
The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.
- 4. Treat your water if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run.
 - Read about water treatment units:
[Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html>)

Learn more:

- Visit [Lead in Drinking Water](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html>)
- Visit [Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)
(<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>)
- Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit [Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html>).



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Health Equity and Drinking Water Affordability

Water systems have ongoing infrastructure, operations, and maintenance costs in supplying safe drinking water, and many are implementing additional efforts to help insure health equity and manageable water bills with:

- Awareness to help all consumers minimize water use and costs
 - Turn the faucet off while brushing teeth.
 - Shower instead of bathing to reduce water use.
 - Fix running toilets by replacing flapper valves.
 - Run full loads of laundry and use a minimal water use setting.

Additional Information

▪ Recent testing showed there are elevated disinfection byproducts (DBPs) in the City's water distribution system, which are formed by the chemical reactions between chlorination of the City's water supply and the organic matter, measured as total organic carbon (TOC), naturally occurring in the City's water supply.

▪ Also, the City of Lafayette is working to resolve elevated chloride levels currently above the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) standard, which is 230 mg/L for chronic levels and 860 mg/L for acute levels, at the City's wastewater treatment plant. A significant source of chlorides at the wastewater treatment plant is the waste brine from individual ion exchange water softeners at homes and businesses. Removal of chlorides at the wastewater treatment plant is not economically feasible as the only available treatment is reverse osmosis (RO) and would be quite expensive for the removal of the high chloride levels from the wastewater. Due to that, a common and preferred method to achieve chloride level compliance at the wastewater treatment plant is to reduce the quantity of chlorides entering the sanitary sewer by softening the drinking water supply and eliminating the need for individual homeowners and businesses to soften their water with ion exchange water softeners.

The City has been working on a RO system for the drinking water supply to achieve both reductions of DBPs formations by removing the TOC from the water and this will provide soften water to achieve MPCA chloride standard▪

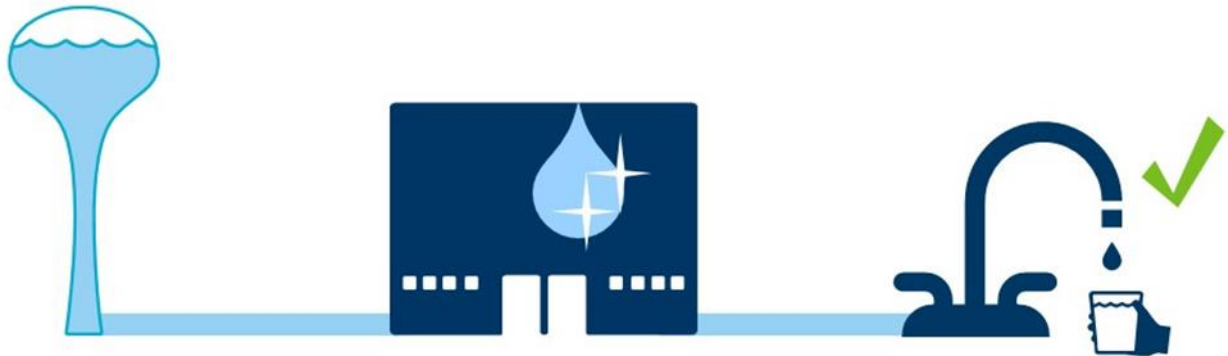
The City is currently working on a funding package and has already secured some Grant funds through a Congressional Direct Spending (CDS) that was sponsored by Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith that will be executed by EPA. We are also currently engaged with our state legislature and have requested funds from the state bonding bill for this year. We are seeking every opportunity to ensure the project will be less burdensome for our residents and rate payers.



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More Details About Our Community Water System



- Your drinking water is treated to biologically remove Ammonia, iron, and manganese, disinfect against microbes, add fluoride, prevent corrosion of lead and copper.
- 50,000 gallons of water is available in our elevated water tower for storage, system capacity and helps to maintain pressure within the system.
- We have 3 miles of watermains that move finished drinking water from our drinking water treatment plant to your home.

This report will not be mailed out to each individual.

A notice of the availability of this report will be mailed with your monthly statement that will refer to a direct link to the report on the City Web Site.

If you would like a paper copy, please contact the City office at 507-228-8241 to receive one.