Lake City 2025 Drinking Water Report

Making Safe Drinking Water

Your drinking water comes from a groundwater source: four wells ranging from 130 to 163 feet deep, that draw water from the Quaternary Water Table aquifer.

Lake City 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 John McCormick, Water/Wastewater Foreman, at (651) 345-6854 or jmccormick@ci.lake-city.mn.us if you have questions about Lake City'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 amount 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 mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by visiting the website epa.gov/safewater.

Lake City Monitoring Results

This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

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).

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.

Definitions

- **AL (Action Level)**: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Contaminant:** Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water.
- **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.
- **N/A (Not applicable)**: Does not apply.
- **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).
- **ppt (parts per trillion)**: One part per trillion is like one drop in one trillion drops of water, or about one drop in 20 Olympic sized swimming pools. ppt is the same as nanograms per liter (ng/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**	**Range of Detected Test Results**	**Violation**	**Typical Sources**
Lead	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	5.45 ppb	0 out of 20	0 - 7.0 ppb	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0.15 ppm	0 out of 20	0.01 - 0.21 ppm	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.

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 ppm	3 ppm	1.50 - 3.00 ppm	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (11/30/22)	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.08 ppm	N/A	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposit.

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	0.68 ppm	0.60 - 0.79 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.

Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (If Applicable)

Fluoride: Fluoride is nature's cavity fighter, with small amounts present naturally in many drinking water sources. There is an overwhelming weight of credible, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence that fluoridation reduces tooth decay and cavities in children and adults, even when there is availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste and mouth rinses. Since studies show that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water benefit public health, municipal community water systems adjust the level of fluoride in the water to an optimal concentration between 0.5 to 0.9 parts per million (ppm) to protect your teeth. Fluoride levels below 2.0 ppm are not expected to increase the risk of a cosmetic condition known as enamel fluorosis.

Monitoring Results – Unregulated Substances/Emerging Contaminants

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water. MDH, EPA, and other health agencies may have developed comparison values for some of these compounds. Some of these comparison values are based solely on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations nor the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. These values may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impractical for a water system to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant). Sample data are listed along with comparison values in the table below; it is important to note that these comparison values are not enforceable.

Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The significance of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little to no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions-like a fetus, infants, children, elderly, and people with impaired immunity—may need to take extra precautions. We are notifying you of the unregulated/emerging contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the Agency should consider regulating those contaminants in the future.

- More information is available on MDH's A-Z List of Contaminants in Water (https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html)
- Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4) (https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html)
- Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule)
- EPA has developed a UCMR5 Program Overview Factsheet (https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/ucmr5-factsheet.pdf) describing UCMR 5 contaminants and standards.

In the past year, your drinking water may have tested for additional unregulated contaminants as part of the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule) and results are still being processed. The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR 5) Data finder allows people to easily search for, summarize, and download the available UCMR 5 analytical results (https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder).

UNREGULATED/EMERGING CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water.			
Contaminant	**Comparison Value**	**Highest Average Result or Highest Single Test Result**	**Range of Detected Test Results**
Sodium*	20 ppm	50.1 ppm	3.40 - 50.10 ppm
Sulfate	500 ppm	19 ppm	11.30 - 19.00 ppm
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	7000 ppt	10.95 ppt	5.5 - 13 ppt

*Note that home water softening can increase the level of sodium in your water.

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. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available on EPA's website epa.gov/safewater.

Service Line Material Inventory

Lake City has completed and submitted our service line materials inventory to the Minnesota Department of Health. The service line inventory is publicly available, and you can check the materials for your service line by visiting the Lead Inventory Tracking Tool (LITT) (https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/). You may also contact us at JMcCormick@ci.lake-city.mn.us (John McCormick). Service line status was determined by either visual inspections of the water line by water department staff, pictures sent in by homeowners or as-builts of additions. As of 10/15/2025, our inventory contains 0 lead, 235 galvanized requiring replacement, 99 unknown material, and 2132 non-lead service lines.

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 six 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.
- **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.
- **Pesticide:** Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.
- **Herbicide:** Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.
- **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 Lake City 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.html) or call 651-201-4700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lead in Drinking Water

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

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for proving high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes from service lines but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk.

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

1. **Let the water run** before drinking tap water flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap. 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.
    - Activities such as taking a shower, doing laundry or dishes help keep water moving in your home system but are not a replacement for running the tap before you drink if it has not been used for a long period of time.
    - 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. **Know your service line materials by** contacting your public water system, or you can search for your address online at the Minnesota Lead Inventory Tracking Tool (https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/).
   - Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead (https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead) is EPA's step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home.
3. **Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.
4. **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 purchase 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)
     The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.
5. **Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run. You can use a filter certified with ANSI/NSF standards 53 and 42 for lead reduction.
   - 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)

   Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and other steps you can take to minimize exposure are available at:

   - Visit EPA Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water (http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)
   - Visit the Minnesota department of Health Lead in Drinking Water
     (https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html)
   - 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/fs/common.html)
6. **Be Aware:** Head Start Programs, Child Care Centers, Public and Charter Schools all have requirements to test for lead in drinking water. These programs can learn more about requirements and resources for testing and remediation at MDH Drinking Water in Schools and Child Cares
   (https://www.web.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/schools/index.html)

Help Protect Our Most Precious Resource – Water

The Value of Water

Drinking water is a precious resource, yet we often take it for granted.

Throughout history, civilizations have risen and fallen based on access to a plentiful, safe water supply. That's still the case today. Water is key to healthy people and healthy communities.

Water is also vital to our economy. We need water for manufacturing, agriculture, energy production, and more. One-fifth of the U.S. economy would come to a stop without a reliable and clean source of water.

Systems are in place to provide you with safe drinking water. The state of Minnesota and local water systems work to protect drinking water sources. For example, we might work to seal an unused well to prevent contamination of the groundwater. We treat water to remove harmful contaminants. And we do extensive testing to ensure the safety of drinking water.

If we detect a problem, we take corrective action and notify the public. Water from a public water system like yours is tested more thoroughly and regulated more closely than water from any other source, including bottled water.

Conservation

Conservation is essential, even in the land of 10,000 lakes. For example, in parts of the metropolitan area, groundwater is being used faster than it can be replaced. Some agricultural regions in Minnesota are vulnerable to drought, which can affect crop yields and municipal water supplies.

We must use our water wisely. Below are some tips to help you and your family conserve – and save money in the process.

- Fix running toilets—they can waste hundreds of gallons of water.
- Turn off the tap while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- Shower instead of bathe. Bathing uses more water than showering, on average.
- Only run full loads of laundry, and set the washing machine to the correct water level.
- Only run the dishwasher when it's full.
- Use water-efficient appliances (look for the WaterSense label).
- Use water-friendly landscaping, such as native plants.
- When you do water your yard, water slowly, deeply, and less frequently. Water early in the morning and close to the ground.

You Can Prevent Pollution

Many of our daily activities contribute to the pollution of Minnesota's surface water and groundwater. You can help protect these drinking water sources by taking the following actions:

- Lawn and property:
  - Limit use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers on your property.
  - Keep soil in place with plants, grass, or rocks.
  - Cover temporary piles of dirt with a tarp or burlap sack.
  - Keep leaves and grass off of streets and sidewalks.
  - Maintain any septic systems, private wells, and storage tanks to prevent leaks. Seal any unused wells.
- Out-of-date medications: Never flush unwanted or out-of-date medications down the toilet or sink. Always take them to a waste disposal or prescription medication drop-off site.
- Hazardous materials: Safety store hazardous materials such as paint, batteries, herbicides, pesticides, and pool chemicals. Dispose of them at a proper waste disposal facility or drop-off event. Do not dump down storm drains, sink or onto your land.
- Pet waste: Pick up after your pet and put waste in the trash.
- Trash: Seal trash bags and keep litter out of the street.
- Winter ice removal: Chemicals used to break up the ice are called deicers or anti-icers. They can be harmful to the environment, corrosive to driveways and sidewalks and harmful to plants, pets and humans. Always shovel first, and then only apply deicers/anti-icers lightly if needed.
- Keep an eye out for car and motor fluids: Seal or repair any fluid leaks that could run off onto streets and into storm drains. Take used motor oil or other fluids to a neighborhood drop-off site.
- Be a water advocate: Spread the word; get involved. There are many groups and individuals working to protect water across Minnesota.

Reduce Backflow at Cross Connections

Bacteria and chemicals can enter the drinking water supply from polluted water sources in a process called backflow. Backflow occurs at connection points between drinking water and non-drinking water supplies (cross connections) due to water pressure differences.

For example, if a person sprays an herbicide with a garden hose, the herbicide could enter the home's plumbing and then enter the drinking water supply. This could happen if the water pressure in the hose is greater than the water pressure in the home's pipes.

Property owners can help prevent backflow. Pay attention to cross connections, such as garden hoses.

The Minnesota Department of Health and American Water Works Association recommend the following:

- Do not submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, or sinks.
- Keep the end of hoses clear of possible contaminants.
- Do not use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device. Attach these devices to threaded faucets. Such devices are inexpensive and available at hardware stores.
- Use a licensed plumber to install backflow prevention devices.
- Maintain air gaps between hose outlets and liquids. An air gap is a vertical space between the water outlet and the flood level of a fixture (e.g. the space between a wall-mounted faucet and the sink rim). It must be at least twice the diameter of the water supply outlet, and at least one inch.
- Commercial property owners should develop a plan for flushing or cleaning water systems to minimize the risk of drawing contaminants into uncontaminated areas.

Home Water Treatment

Overview

Most Minnesotans, whether they drink from a public water supply or a private well, have drinking water that does not need treatment for health protection. Water treatment units are best for improving the physical qualities of water—the taste, color, or odor.

No single treatment process can remove all substances in water. If you decide to install a home water treatment unit, choose a unit certified and labeled to reduce or remove the substance of concern. If there is more than one substance you want to remove from your water, you may need to combine several treatment processes into one system.

Even well-designed treatments systems can fail. You should continue to test your drinking water after you install a treatment unit. All home water treatment units need regular maintenance to work correctly. Regular maintenance may include changing filters, disinfecting the unit, or cleaning scale buildup. Always install, clean, and maintain a treatment unit according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Beware of Water Treatment Scams

False claims, deceptive sales pitches, or scare tactics have been used by some water treatment companies. Every person has a right to decide what is best for themselves and their family, and you may choose to install additional water treatment to further lower the levels of contaminants of emerging concern, chlorine, and other chemicals in your water. However, you should be cautious about purchasing a water treatment system.

The Pros and Cons of Home Water Softening

Water softeners are a water treatment device. They remove water hardness (dissolved calcium and magnesium). The decision to soften your water is a personal choice that can affect your home and the environment. It is important to understand your home's water quality. This will help you decide if a home water softener is necessary and choose the best treatment device(s). Water softeners must be installed and maintained properly to be safe and effective.

The advantages of home water softening include:

- Prevents build-up of minerals (scale) on the inside of pipes, fixtures, and hot water heaters.
- Lengthens the life of some appliances.
- Reduces or prevents mineral spots on glassware.
- Prevents or reduces soap films and detergent curds in sinks, bathtubs, and washing machines.

The disadvantages of home water softening include:

- Can corrode your pipes. The corroded metal from the pipes can end up in your water.
- Potential health implications from additional sodium from water softening.
- Regular testing of the water and maintenance of the softener is necessary to make sure the softener is working properly.
- Negative impacts to the environment from salt use.
- Water waste: 5% of the water that goes through a softener is not usable.