

2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT



Municipal Water Supply Eau Claire, WI

Dlaim ntawv tshaabzu nuav muaj lug tseemceeb heev nyob rua huv kws has txug cov dlej mej haus. Kuas ib tug paab txhais rua koj, los nrug ib tug kws paub lug thaam.

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

The purpose of this report is to summarize the results of the water testing conducted on the Eau Claire water system during the calendar year of 2024. The report has been prepared to meet the requirements of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) adopted by Congress and to provide our customers with information about their municipal water system. We take pride in the quality of the drinking water supplied to our customers and continue to work diligently to assure the delivery of reliable and safe water.

The Eau Claire Water Utility encourages public interest and participation in our Community's decisions affecting drinking water. For information on the water system, contact the Water Utility by telephone at (715) 839-5045 or by writing to Utilities Manager, 203 S. Farwell Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701. The Eau Claire City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 4 pm. These are legislative meetings during which the Council votes on that meeting's agenda items. Public Hearings are held at 6 pm on the Monday evening before each legislative session. All meetings are held in the Council Chambers, located in City Hall at 203 S. Farwell Street.

Health Information

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 (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems 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 from the Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline (800-426-4791).

Cryptosporidium is a problem associated with surface water supplies. Eau Claire obtains its water from groundwater supplies and is therefore not expected to be subject to the problems typically associated with Cryptosporidium.

If you are interested in more information, please contact the Water Utility at (715) 839-5045. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Water Source

The Eau Claire Water Utility draws water from 16 wells located in the City well field on Riverview Drive. The wells pump groundwater to the water treatment plant. The water treatment plant filters the water to remove iron and manganese before it is pumped into the water distribution system. These minerals do not pose a health concern and are removed because they can discolor the water and create a slight taste of iron.

The water is also chlorinated for disinfection and fluoride is added for dental health before it is pumped into the distribution system.

The City does **not** take surface water directly from the Chippewa River. The wells draw water directly from underground aquifers. As the water passes through the ground it can pick up dissolved minerals and in some cases substances that result from human or animal activity. For these reasons extensive testing is conducted on the water as it is pumped from the wells and after it has been treated and delivered into the distribution system. The testing is conducted at certified laboratories. A source water assessment is required for all public water systems.

The assessment identifies land areas that contribute water to each system, significant potential contaminant sources within those areas, and the susceptibility of the drinking water systems to contamination. A summary of the source water assessment for Eau Claire Waterworks is available by contacting the Water Utility at (715) 839-5045. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Educational Information

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 animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally- occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which shall provide the same protection for public health.

The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old.

DEFINITIONS	Term	Definition
	AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
HAL	Health Advisory Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice.	
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.	
ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)	
ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)	
ppt	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/l)	
RPHGS	Recommended Public Health Groundwater Standards: Groundwater standards proposed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice.	
PHGS	Public Health Groundwater Standards are found in NR 140 Groundwater Quality. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice.	
SMCL	Secondary drinking water standards or Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. The SMCLs do not represent health standards.	

WATER QUALITY TABLE - 2024

Detected Contaminants

Your water was tested for many contaminants last year. We are allowed to monitor for some contaminants less frequently than once a year. The following tables list only those contaminants which were detected in your water. If a contaminant was detected last year, it will appear in the following tables without a sample date. If the contaminant was not monitored last year, but was detected within the last 5 years, it will appear in the tables below along with the sample date.

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Violation	Source
Disinfection Byproducts						
HAA5 (ppb)	60	60	5	5	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	80	0	31.4	31.4	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	60	60	4	4	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	80	0	33.8	33.8	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants						
BARIUM (ppm)	2	2	0.003	0.003	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
FLUORIDE (ppm)	4	4	0.6	0.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
NITRATE (N03-N) (ppm)	10	10	1.3	1.3	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
NITRITE (N02-N) (ppm)	1	1	.043	.043	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
SODIUM (ppm)	n/a	n/a	13.00	13.00	No	n/a
COPPER (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.0330	0 of 60 results were above the action level	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD (ppb)	AL=15	0	2.00	0 of 60 results were above the action level	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

PFAS Contaminants with a Recommended Health Advisory Level

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950. The following table list PFAS contaminants which were detected in your water and that have a Recommended Public Health Groundwater Standard (RPHGS) or Health Advisory Level (HAL). There are no violations for detections of contaminants that exceed the RPHGS or HAL. The RPHGS are levels at which concentrations of the contaminant present a health risk and are based on guidance provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Contaminant (units)	Site	RPHGS or HAL (PPT)	Level Found	Range	Typical Source of Contaminant
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	Entry Point	20 ppt	1.48	1.30—1.60	<i>Drinking water is one way that people can be exposed to PFAS. In Wisconsin, two-thirds of people use groundwater as their drinking water source. PFAS can get in groundwater from places that make or use PFAS and releases from certain types of waste in landfills.</i>
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	Entry Point	20 ppt	4.60	3.00—5.90	
* Combined PFOS, and PFOA	Entry Point	20 ppt	6.08	4.30—7.40	
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	Entry Point	450,000 ppt	2.58	2.00—2.90	
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	Entry Point	40 ppt	9.65	6.90—12.00	
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	Entry Point	150,000 ppt	1.28	1.10—1.70	

* Note: The recommended health-based levels in the table above were in effect in 2024. These levels were revised by WDHS in 2025. They can be found here <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/gws.htm>.

Contaminants with a Public Health Groundwater Std., Health Advisory Level, or a Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level

The following table lists contaminants which were detected in your water and that have either a Public Health Groundwater Standard (PHGS), Health Advisory Level (HAL), or a Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL), or both. There are no violations for detections of contaminants that exceed Health Advisory Levels, Public Health Groundwater Standards or Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels. Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels are levels that do not present health concerns but may pose aesthetic problems such as objectionable taste, odor, or color. Public Health Groundwater Standards and Health Advisory Levels are levels at which concentrations of the contaminant present a health risk.

Contaminant (units)	SMCL (ppm)	Recommended HAL (PPT)	Level Found	Range	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
CHLORIDE (ppm)	250	N/A	30.00	30.00	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, road salt, water softeners
SULFATE (ppm)	250	N/A	5.80	5.70-5.80	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial wastes

Volatile Organic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL (ppm)	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
TRICHLOROETHYLENE (ppb)	5	0	0.1	0.0—0.30	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories

Additional Health Information
Lead

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Eau Claire Waterworks is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Water Utility at (715) 839-5045. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Additional Information on Service Line Materials

We were required to develop an initial inventory of service lines connected to our distribution system by October 16, 2024 and to make the inventory publicly accessible. You can access the service line inventory here:

<https://www.eauclairewi.gov/government/our-divisions/utilities/service-materials-inventory>

Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. EPA required us to participate in this monitoring.

Contaminant (units)	Level Found	Range
PFBS (ppt)	3	3.0—3.0
PFHxS (ppt)	5.1	1.1—9.1