



DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

For testing completed in 2024

Burnsville 2024 Drinking Water Report

This report contains important information about your drinking water.
Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.
Información importante. Si no la entiende, haga que alguien se la traduzca ahora.

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هذا التقرير يحتوي على معلومات مهمة عن ماء الشرب
الذي تستخدمه. اطلب من شخص ما ان يترجمه لك او
يستطيع فهمه.

របាយការណ៍នេះ មានសារៈសំខាន់ណាស់ គឺស្តីអំពីទឹកដែលលោក-
អ្នកទទួលបាន ។ ចូររកជនណាម្នាក់ឱ្យបកប្រែជូនលោក-អ្នក
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此报告包含有关您的饮用水的重要信
息。请人帮您翻译出来，或请看懂此
报告的人将内容说给您听。

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes à propos de
votre eau potable. Demander à quelqu'un de traduire ces
informations pour vous ou discuter avec une personne qui
comprend ces informations.

Daim ntawv teev num no muaj cov ntaub ntawv tseem ceeb
hais txog koj cov dej haus. Nrhiav ib tug neeg pab txhais cov
ntaub ntawv no rau koj, lossis tham nrog ib tug neeg uas paub
cov lus no.

တပ်ဟ်ဖျါတခါအံၤအိၣ်ဒီးတပ်ဂုၢ်တပ်ကျိၤလၢအခူဒိၣ်ဝဲဒၣ်လၢအဘၣ်ယးဒီးန့ၣ်အိၣ်လီၤ.
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လၢအန့ၢ်ဟ်တပ်အံၤန့ၣ်တက့ၢ်.

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ໃຫ້ຄົນໃດຄົນນຶ່ງແປພາສາໃຫ້ທ່ານຝັ່ງ, ຮລື ເວົ້າມຳຄົນ
ໃດຄົນນຶ່ງຜູ້ທີ່ເວົ້າໃຈມັນ.

Gabaasii kun odeeffanno barbachisa wa’ee bisaan dhugaatii
qaba. Akkaa isinii turjumaa’uu gaafadhaa yokaan nama afaan
keessan dubbatuu dubbisaa.

В этом сообщении содержится важная
информация о воде, которую вы пьёте.
Попросите кого-нибудь перевести для вас
это сообщение или поговорите с
человеком, который понимает его
содержание.

Warbixintan waxay wadataa macluumaad muhiim ah ee la
xiriira biyaha aad cabtid. Cid ha kuu tarjunto ama la hadl cid
fahmaysa.

Tài liệu này có tin tức quan trọng về nước
uống của quý vị. Hãy nhờ người dịch cho
quý vị, hoặc hỏi người nào hiểu tài liệu
này.

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Making Safe Drinking Water

Your drinking water comes from the following groundwater and surface water sources: surface water drawn from Kraemer Quarry and your system has fourteen wells ranging from 298 to 1030 feet deep, that draw water from the Prairie Du Chien-Jordan, Mt. Simon and Jordan aquifers.

Burnsville 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 Tony White, Utilities Superintendent, at (952) 895-4552 or Tony.White@burnsvillemn.gov

if you have questions about Burnsville'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 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.



Burnsville Monitoring Results

This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2024.

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 (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.

Explaining Special Situations for the Highest Result and Average

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.
- **NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** A measure of the cloudiness of the water (turbidity).

- **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).
- **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.
- **TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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 (09/25/24)	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	<2 ppb	0 out of 30	0 - 3.7 ppb	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper (09/25/24)	0 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0.59 ppm	0 out of 30	0.08 - 0.79 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
Endothall (2021)	0.1 ppb	0.1 ppb	0 ppb	N/A	NO	Runoff from herbicide use.
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	0.55 ppm	N/A	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (02/18/21)	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.21 ppm	N/A	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposit.
Gross Alpha	0 pCi/l	15 pCi/l	9.9 pCi/l	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium	0 pCi/l	5 pCi/l	1.8 pCi/l	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.

Total HAA refers to HAA5

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 Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	N/A	80 ppb	56 ppb	9.70 - 46.10 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	N/A	60 ppb	7.6 ppb	1.20 - 8.40 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Chlorine	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.91 ppm	0.85 - 0.95 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.

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	0.72 ppm	0.55 - 0.69 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.

TREATMENT INDICATOR – Tested during treatment.

Substance	Removal Required	Lowest Monthly Percent of Results in Compliance	Highest Test Result	Violation	Typical Sources
Turbidity	Treatment Technique	100	.22	NO	Soil runoff.

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCT INDICATOR – Tested in source water and in drinking water.

Substance	Removal Required	Range of Percent Removal Achieved	Average of Percent Removal Achieved	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Organic Carbon	Variable	N/A	N/A	N/A System provides direct filtration	N/A

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month. The system met all TOC removal requirements, unless there is a "YES" in the Violation column.

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 (health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants)
- Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4) (health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html)
- Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule)
- EPA has developed a UCMR5 Program Overview Factsheet (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 (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 (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
Sulfate	500 ppm	46.8 ppm	N/A
Lithium	10 ppb	10.2 ppb	9.30 - 11.70 ppb
Manganese (2020)	100 ppb	12.41 ppb	8.82 - 16.00 ppb
Sodium*	20 ppm	41.1 ppm	N/A
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	7000 ppt	23.6 ppt	23.40 - 23.80 ppt
Perfluorohexanesulfonate (PFHxS) (2021)	47 ppt	0.95 ppt	0.00 - 1.00 ppt
Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA) (2021)	N/A	0.97 ppt	0.00 - 1.00 ppt

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

In early 2024, MDH released new comparison values for two PFAS compounds, PFOA and PFOS. MDH is still evaluating how to apply these comparison values to drinking water systems. Additionally, EPA released final MCLs for PFOA at 4.0 ppt, PFOS at 4.0 ppt, PFHxS at 10 ppt, HFPO-DA (Gen X) at 10 ppt, PFNA at 10 ppt, and a calculated Hazard Index at 1 (unitless) that will become enforceable April 26, 2029. Additional Information on PFAS system results is available at: Interactive Dashboard for PFAS Testing in Drinking Water - MN Dept. of Health (health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/pfasmap.html.)

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 is 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.
- 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 Burnsville 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 (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 providing 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 (maps.umn.edu/LSL).
 - **Protect Your Tap:** A quick check for lead (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 (heldo.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 (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 (epa.gov/safewater/lead)

- Visit the Minnesota department of Health Lead in Drinking Water (health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead)
 - To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources (health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/fs/common)
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 (web.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/schools/index)

Service Line Material Inventory

Burnsville 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) (maps.umn.edu/LSL). You may also contact us at pw@burnsvillemn.gov or 952.894.4550. To complete the service line inventory, a variety of methods were implemented including record drawing review and physical inspections. As of 09/26/2024, our inventory contains 0 lead, 0 galvanized requiring replacement, 705 unknown material, and 16313 non-lead service lines. Additionally, a link to inventory and additional information is available on the water system website (maps.umn.edu/LSL)

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.
- Learn more: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense webpage (epa.gov/watersense)



Water Wise Challenge

The City of Burnsville is participating in the Water Wise Challenge, a friendly competition between cities in Dakota County to see who can be the most “water wise.” The challenge runs May through August 2025.

Cities are encouraged to challenge their residents to take action and conserve water. Cities with the most participation win and will be recognized by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners.

Learn more and take the Water Wise Challenge Pledge (co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/WaterResources/Groundwater/Pages/water-wise-challenge.aspx)

Did you know?

- In the summer months, water usage is 2-3 times higher than in winter
- Outdoor water usage accounts for more than 30% of total household water use
- In 2022, we used more than 30 billion gallons of groundwater in Dakota County
- More than 90% of our water supply comes from groundwater

Save Water and Money — Indoor

- Fix a leak by checking toilets and faucets
- Take shorter showers or replace with a low-flow shower head
- Turn off the tap while brushing teeth or shaving
- Run the dishwasher and clothes washer only when full

Save Water and Money — Outdoors

- Water your lawn in the early mornings

- Install a smart irrigation controller
- Audit your irrigation systems for leaks
- Install a raingarden, native landscaping or low-input turf grass
- Harvest rainwater

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. More information is available at Managing unwanted medications (pca.state.mn.us/living-green/managing-unwanted-medications)
- **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. Learn more at: Keep hazardous waste out of the garbage (pca.state.mn.us/news-and-stories/safely-dispose-of-household-hazardous-waste).
- **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. Learn more at 10 smart salting tips to protect Minnesota waters (content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNPCA/bulletins/17917c9).
- **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.

Learn more at Home Water Treatment (health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/hometreatment.html).



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. If you are considering the purchase of a home water treatment system, please read the Minnesota Department of Health's recommendations online at Warning: Beware of Water Treatment Scams (health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/beware.html).

The Pros and Cons of Home Water Softening

When considering whether to use a water softener, contact your public water system to find out if you have hard water. Many systems treat for hardness, making water softeners unnecessary.

Water softeners are a water treatment device. They remove water hardness (dissolved calcium and magnesium). Water softeners must be installed and maintained properly to be safe and effective. Learn more at Home Water Softening (health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/softening.html).

The benefits of soft water include:

- Increased efficiency for soaps and detergents.
- Reduction in mineral staining on fixtures and in pipes.
- A potential increase in the lifespan of water heaters.

The drawbacks of soft water include:

- Operation and maintenance costs.
- More sodium. People on low-sodium diets should consult a doctor if they plan to regularly consume softened water.
- The production of salt brine as a byproduct. This can have negative effects at wastewater treatment plants and on ecosystems. Reduce the amount of salt brine used or install a salt-free system.

Service Line Replacement

Ownership of a service line is often split between the customer and water system. Burnsville is required to replace the system owned portion of the lead service line when a property owner notifies us that they are replacing their portion beginning October 16, 2024. If the property owner replaces their portion of the service line without coordinating with Burnsville, the property owner will be responsible for all costs related to the replacement of the privately owned portion of the service line.

Four Things to Avoid Flushing

Don't Flush Household Items

A good reference guide for what to flush down the toilet, according to officials in New York City's Department of Environmental Protection, is to keep in mind the four Ps: poop, pee, puke and (toilet) paper. All other items should avoid being flushed. Here's a quick list of four everyday household items that should never go down the toilet.

1. **Flushable Wipes:** Though the name is misleading, flushable wipes of any kind should avoid being flushed down the toilet. Wipes could end up blocking, leading to sewage back-up in your home.
2. **Paper Towels:** You may have seen the infamous hacks of cutting a paper towel roll in half when you run out of toilet paper, especially at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. What seems like a good substitute is actually more dangerous than you'd think. Some brands of paper towels have plastic fibers that don't break down.
3. **Makeup Wipes:** Just as the flushable wipes are misleading, makeup wipes should be disposed of in the trash. These could cause back-up in your pipes.
4. **Cotton:** Cotton balls, q-tips, cotton squares, etc. Cotton of all forms should not be flushed. Cotton doesn't break down the way toilet paper does and can cause blockage.



Foods That Shouldn't Go Down the Kitchen Sink

Send These Items to the Trash

Whether you're a veteran chef or new to the kitchen, it's important to know what food items are safe for the drain. Have you ever looked up the effects of foods on your kitchen sink? Here's a list of the top foods that you should avoid pouring down the drain.



1. **Grease, Fats, and Oils:** As these greases and oils cool, they solidify. Pouring these items down the drain can cause them to congeal in the drain, therefore blocking them. Instead, try letting the grease solidify on the pan, dumping it into a disposable container, and throw it in the trash.
2. **Eggshells:** Eggshells can be hard on your garbage disposal and the membranes can be hard on them. These little pieces can also contribute to more blockage. Best result is to compost these eggshells.
3. **Pasta and Rice:** Food items like pasta and rice will absorb water when exposed. This can cause them to swell and get stuck in your sink pipes.
4. **Flour:** Flour, when mixed with water, can take on a glue-like mixture. Best to avoid that in the drain.

Note About PFAS Monitoring

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s because of their useful properties. One common characteristic of concern of PFAS is that many break down very slowly and can build up in people, animals, and the environment over time. PFAS can be present in our water, soil, air and food as well as in materials found in our homes or workplaces, including drinking water.

Burnsville is not currently experiencing the issues with PFAS that are surfacing in some other cities throughout Minnesota. To remain proactive in our efforts to provide safe drinking water, Burnsville voluntarily participates in a Minnesota Department of Health monitoring program.

The most recent sampling was conducted on June 6, 2022. All sampling results were below the available health-based guidance values for PFAS. A person drinking water at or below the guidance value would have little or no risk for health effects.

PFAS MONITORING TEST RESULTS

PFAS Contaminant Detected	Maximum concentration (µg/L)	(MDH health value (µg/L)
PFBA	0.018	7

For more information about the PFAS monitoring in Minnesota, please visit PFAS Testing of Public Water Systems — (health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/pfas.html)