

Water Conservation Tips

FIX THAT LEAK – A leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water every day.

SHOWER POWER – A full bath tub requires about 70 gallons of water, while taking a five minute shower uses 10 to 25 gallons.

MAKE IT A FULL LOAD – The average washing machine uses about 41 gallons of water per load. Make the most of that water by washing a full load.

WATER WISELY – The typical single-family suburban household uses at least 30 percent of their water outdoors for irrigation. Some experts estimate that more than 50 percent of landscape water use goes to waste due to evaporation or runoff caused by overwatering.

More water saving ideas can be found at:
www.epa.gov/watersense.



Dear Water Customer,

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water. This report includes drinking water facts, information on violations (if applicable), and contaminants detected in your drinking water supply during calendar year 2015. Each year, we will provide you a new report. If you need help understanding this report or have general questions, please call the number listed. **Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

City of Des Plaines

Note: This information does not apply to unincorporated Des Plaines residents.

Before we begin listing our unique water quality characteristics, here are some important facts you should know to help have a basic understanding of drinking water in general.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

Source Water Protection (SWP) is a proactive approach to protecting our critical sources of public water supply and assuring that the best source of water is being utilized to serve the public. It involves implementation of pollution prevention practices to protect the water quality in a watershed or wellhead protection area serving a public water supply. Along with treatment, it establishes a multi-barrier approach to assuring clean and safe drinking water to the citizens of Illinois. The Illinois EPA has implemented a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) to assist with wellhead and watershed protection of public drinking water supplies.

The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intake with no protection, only dilution. This is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Chicago's offshore intakes are located at a distance that shoreline impacts are not usually considered a factor on water quality. At certain times of the year, however, the potential for contamination exists due to wet-weather flows and river reversals. In addition, the placement of the crib structures may serve to attract waterfowl, gulls and terns that frequent the Great Lakes area, thereby concentrating fecal deposits at the intake and thus compromising the source water quality. Conversely, the shore intakes are highly susceptible to storm water runoff, marinas and shoreline point sources due to the influx of groundwater to the lake.

To stay abreast of our community's water-related issues, residents may attend City Council meetings held on the first and third Monday evening of each month. Please call 847-391-5300 or at www.desplaines.org to confirm meeting schedules and times.

FACTS ABOUT DRINKING 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

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

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune 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 from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.



**EPA Safe Drinking
Water Hotline**

800-426-4791

www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline

SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater 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.

Our source of water comes from purchased surface water (Lake Michigan) from the City of Chicago. 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

CITY OF CHICAGO RESULTS

Coliform Bacteria

MCLG	Total Coliform MCL	Highest No. of Positive Samples	Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i> MCL	Total No. of Positive <i>E. coli</i> or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	5% of monthly samples are positive.	.4		0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Lead and Copper

	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2015	1.3	1.3	.0782	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2015	0	15	9.11	3	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

Contaminants

Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproducts	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
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Regulated Contaminants

Chlorine	12/31/15	1	1-1	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2015	10	3.6-14.3	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	2015	22	11.6-29	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Inorganic Contaminants

Arsenic	2013	1	.519-.767	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	2015	.0201	.0193-.0201	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2015	.8	.803-.846	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2015	.299	.28-.299	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	2013	2	0-2.48	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
Sodium	2015	8	8-8.5	n/a	n/a	ppm	N	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits; used in water softener regeneration.

Radiological Contaminants

Combined Radium 226/228	2/11/2014	.84	.5-.84	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2/11/2014	6.6	6.1-6.6	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Note: The state requires monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of this data may be more than one year old.

Turbidity

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Lowest Monthly % Meeting Limit	0.3 NTU	99.7%	N	Soil runoff.
Highest Single Measurement	1 NTU	.45 NTU	N	Soil runoff.

Total Organic Carbon

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by IEPA, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violation section.

CITY OF DES PLAINES RESULTS

Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproducts	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
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State Regulated Contaminants

Chlorine	12/31/2015	1	.9-1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2015	20	9.85-28.5	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes	2015	39	15.88-47.4	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

Coliform Bacteria

MCLG	Total Coliform MCL	Highest No. of Positive Samples	Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i> MCL	Total No. of Positive <i>E. coli</i> or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	5% of monthly samples are positive.	1.6		0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Lead and Copper

	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	7/6/2011	1.3	1.3	0.111	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	Summer 2011	0	15	0	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Des Plaines is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

DEFINITIONS

Here are a few definitions and scientific terms which will help you understand the information in the contaminant detection tables.

- **Action Level or AL:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.
- **Average or Avg:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL:** The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG:** 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.
- **Parts Per Billion or ppb:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L); or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
- **Parts Per Million or ppm:** Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L); or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

DES PLAINES WATERING RESTRICTIONS

The City has a Water Conservation Ordinance that is in effect annually from May 15 – September 15. If using something other than a hand-held watering device, the following restrictions apply:

Even number addresses may water on even numbered calendar days;
odd number addresses on odd numbered days.

Allowable hours are from 5am – 8am and 7pm – 10pm in both cases. This applies to both residential users, as well as commercial accounts. Violators can be fined.

CITY OF DES PLAINES VIOLATION SUMMARY

The City of Des Plaines is happy to announce that **NO** monitoring, reporting, treatment technique, maximum residual disinfectant level, or maximum contaminant level violations were recorded during 2015. Monitoring (and reporting) violations require that an annual public notice be distributed to all customers. To help save on cost, we are allowed to issue this annual public notice along with this Drinking Water Quality Report. Therefore, the remaining information is to satisfy our public notice requirements for the past year.

If you have any questions please contact us:

**City of Des Plaines
Public Works and Engineering**

Annual Water Quality Report
For Calendar Year 2015

Facility ID – IL0310630

847-391-5464

www.desplaines.org