

Information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 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.

The EPA imposes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems to ensure that tap water is safe to drink. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

By law, SPRWS staff must take corrective action and notify our customers immediately if the utility is ever in non-compliance with federal or state drinking water standards. We continue to comply with all regulations.

For test results or questions about SPRWS drinking water, call our lab at 651-266-1635.

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 people and animals. Your water is regularly tested for the following contaminants:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural 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, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production; they 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.



Mississippi River

Where our water comes from

We draw a large percentage of our water from the Mississippi River, which travels through a chain of lakes, including Charles, Pleasant, Sucker, and Vadnais before reaching our treatment plant.

Groundwater from 10 deep wells, ranging from 425 to 465 feet in depth, that tap into the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer, provides a small percentage of our water supply.

An assessment of our water sources indicates that, while susceptible to contamination, SPRWS has consistently and effectively treated our source water to meet drinking water standards.

For a copy of the source water assessment, call the Minnesota Department of Health: 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (press 5) or view it online at: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa

We take pride in providing you with quality drinking water at a reasonable cost. Every day, SPRWS produces an average of 45 million gallons of drinking water and distributes it through more than a thousand miles of water main to 415,000 residents of Saint Paul and the surrounding communities. To participate in decisions that may affect the quality of the water supplied by SPRWS, the public may attend the Board of Water Commissioners meetings held at 5:00 p.m.

the second Tuesday of each month in room 330 at Saint Paul City Hall, 15 Kellogg Blvd. W., Saint Paul, MN

To request additional copies of this report, please contact Customer Service.

SPRWS Customer Service

651-266-6350

SPRWS Water Quality

651-266-1635

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline

800-426-4791

Minnesota Department of Health

651-201-4700

Email: waterinquiries@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Website: www.stpaul.gov/water

Español: Este reporte contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien se lo traduzca, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

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

Hmong: Dlaim ntawv tshaabxu 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.



2014 SPRWS Water Quality Test Results

Special cases

Saint Paul Regional Water Services is issuing the results of monitoring conducted on our drinking water during the testing period from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2014.

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. Contaminants that have not been detected in the reporting period are not listed.

Some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below maximum contaminant levels. These substances are shown on the table. Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2014. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled, they are included in the table along with the date the detection occurred. Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Results may be available by calling 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 during normal business hours. Monitoring for unregulated contaminants as required by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rules (40 CFR 141.40) was conducted in 2014. Results of the unregulated contaminant monitoring are available upon request from Cindy Swanson, Minnesota Department of Health, at 651-201-4656.

Total organic carbon, a naturally occurring substance in surface and ground water, contributes to the formation of disinfection by-products. SPRWS is required to remove at least 15% to 30% of total organic carbon during the treatment process. In 2014, removals ranged from 43.3% - 58.1%.

Key to chart

MCLG: Maximum contaminant level goal. The concentration of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. **MCL:** Maximum contaminant level. The highest level allowed in drinking water. **MCLs** are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. **AL:** Action level. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment methods or other requirements that the utility must follow. **PPB:** Parts per billion. **PPM:** Parts per million. **PCI/I:** PicoCuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity). **ND:** Not detected at testing limits. **NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit. Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The percentage of total organic carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by the US EPA. **TT:** Treatment technique. The EPA has two requirements: 1) that the maximum level found must be less than 1 NTU, and 2) that the level must be under 0.3 NTU 95% of the time. **SPRWS** met both requirements. **N/A:** Not applicable (Does not apply).

* This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

** Follow-up sampling showed no contamination present.

Regulated substances controlled prior to distribution

Substance (units)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Range Detected	Average Level*	Recommended Maximum (MCLG)	Typical Source	Meets Standards?
Fluoride	4	1.2	0.89 - 1.2	1.07	4	State mandated dental health additive; fertilizer, aluminum factory discharge	Yes
Total Coliform Bacteria	Present in ≤ 5% of monthly samples	1%**	0% - 1%**	1%**	0 present	Naturally present in the environment	Yes
Nitrate as Nitrogen (ppm)	10	0.41	N/A	N/A	10	Fertilizer, sewer, natural deposits	Yes
Trihalomethanes (Total THM) (ppb)	80	39.6	24.8 - 39.6	37.23	0	Disinfection by-product	Yes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	60	24	13 - 24	23.98	0	Disinfection by-product	Yes

Substance (units)	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	Lowest/Highest Monthly Average	Highest Quarterly Average	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	4.0	4.0	2.6/3.0	2.78	Microbe control additive

Turbidity (NTU)

Substance (units)	Highest Level Allowed	Lowest Monthly Percent of Samples Meeting the Limits	Highest Single Measurement	Average Level	Typical Source
Turbidity	TT	100 %	0.067 NTU	0.021	Soil runoff

Regulated substances controlled at the customer's tap

Substance (units)	Action Level (AL) (90 percent of samples must be at or under this level)	Number of Sites Over the Action Level	90 % of samples were below this level	Typical Source
Lead (ppb) (6/2014)	15.0	3 out of 50	9.8	Corrosion of home plumbing
Copper (ppm) (6/2014)	1.3	0 out of 50	0.04	Corrosion of home plumbing

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants found 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.

Environmental Protection Agency/Centers for Disease Control 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 800-426-4791.

Concerning lead levels

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.

Saint Paul Regional Water Services 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 800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.