

Is my water safe?

Yes. The City of Grand Rapids meets or exceeds all of the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). We are pleased to present the 2024 Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the SDWA. This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because we care about you and want you to be informed about the water you drink.

2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT



Where does my drinking water come from?

Lake Michigan, a surface water source, is the sole source of water treated for the Grand Rapids Water System.

How can I get involved?

Call Customer Service:
Dial 311 or 616.456.3000.

For more information please contact:

City of Grand Rapids Customer Service
300 Monroe Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: 311 or 616.456.3000
Email: water@grcity.us

grandrapidsmi.gov/water

Why are there contaminants in my 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. The sources of drinking water, both tap and bottled, includes 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 all of the following:

- **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.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water supplies. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the United States EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800.426.4791.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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 system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people may seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Center 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 800.426.4791.

Additional Information for 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. The City of Grand Rapids 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 at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Customer Service at 311 or 616.456.3000. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead. There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

The City of Grand Rapids Water System has a total of 80,196 service lines. There are 19,444 known lead or presumed lead service lines. A map of the City's water service line records can be viewed at grandrapidsmi.gov/LSLmap or by scanning the QR code below.

SCAN TO VIEW THE MAP



To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the EPA has regulations that limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report, unless otherwise noted. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All of the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old. In this table, you may find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detected In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.								
Chlorine [as Cl ₂] (ppm)	4	4	1.03	0.04	1.52	2024	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids Group [HAA5] (ppb)	N/A	60	35	13.5	40.7	2024	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [THMs] (ppb)	N/A	80	57	18.4	70.6	2024	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.67	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.6	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)								
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid [PFOS] (ppt)	N/A	16	1.9	ND	2.7	2024	No	Firefighting foam; discharge from electroplating facilities; discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Radioactive Contaminants								
Combined radium [226 & 228] (pCi/L)	zero	5	0.94	N/A	N/A	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	zero	30	0.4	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminants								
Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science.								
Brominated Haloacetic Acids Group [HAA6Br] (ppb)	N/A	MNR	11.60	6.08	17.63	2019	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids Group [HAA9] (ppb)	N/A	MNR	41.47	19.22	77.73	2019	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Manganese (ppb)	N/A	MNR	0.446	ND	0.446	2019	No	Naturally-occurring element; used in steel production, fertilizer, batteries and fireworks; essential nutrient
Microbiological Contaminants								
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	0.3	100%	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Soil runoff
100% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.120. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.								
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile	Range		Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Copper [action level at consumer taps] (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.0	ND	0.1	2024	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead [action level at consumer taps] (ppb)	zero	15	6	ND	173	2024	2	Lead services lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits
These 2024 sample results are from 50 homes selected as high risk for lead and copper contamination.								
Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detected In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Additional Monitoring								
Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science.								
Arsenic (ppb)	zero	10	ND	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Chromium-6 [hexavalent chromium] (ppb)	N/A	MNR	ND	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits; industrial contaminant
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	zero	TT	ND	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Naturally present in the environment
<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	zero	TT	ND	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Naturally present in the environment
Mercury [inorganic] (ppb)	2	2	ND	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid [HFPO-DA] (ppt)	N/A	370	ND	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities utilizing the Gen X chemical process
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid [PFBS] (ppt)	N/A	420	ND	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid [PFHxS] (ppt)	N/A	51	ND	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Firefighting foam; discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorohexanoic acid [PFHxA] (ppt)	N/A	400,000	ND	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Firefighting foam; discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorononanoic acid [PFNA] (ppt)	N/A	6	ND	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; breakdown of precursor compounds
Perfluorooctanoic acid [PFOA] (ppt)	N/A	8	ND	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments

Important Drinking Water Definitions & Units

90th Percentile: The minimum level of contamination found in the highest 10 percent of samples collected.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG 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.

MNR: Monitored Not regulated .

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 disinfection to control microbial contaminants.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

N/A: Not applicable.

ND: Not detected.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppm (parts per million): Number of milligrams of substance in one liter of water (mg/L).

ppb (parts per billion): Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water (µg/L).

ppt (parts per trillion): Number of nanograms of substance in one liter of water (ng/L).

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

Source Water Assessment

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) completed a Source Water Assessment for the City of Grand Rapids water supply in 2003. This report found that our water supply has a moderately high susceptibility to contaminants. Source water contamination is not likely to occur if potential contaminants are properly used and managed. The Grand Rapids Water Treatment Plant routinely and continuously monitors the water for a variety of chemicals to ensure safe drinking water. The Grand Rapids Water System continues to be involved in and supports watershed protection efforts. This report is available. For a copy, please call our Customer Service at 311 or 616.456.3000.

Note: The data table contains the highest annual test results for all required and voluntary monitoring of regulated substances. The Grand Rapids Water System monitors many regulated and unregulated substances more frequently than required and, as a consequence, these results are included in the table. In addition to the test results listed in the table, we analyzed the water for 82 different contaminants/chemicals in 2024; none of which were found at detectable levels.