



# WATER QUALITY REPORT

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2024



## Drinking Water 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 or potential health effects can be obtained by submitting a form on the Environmental Protection Agency's website at [www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water) or from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons including those 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 lower the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available on the Environmental Protection Agency's website at [www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water) or from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Dubuque's average household water rate for fiscal year 2025 is \$39.06 per month.

This is the fourth lowest of Iowa's largest cities that soften their water. The highest (West Des Moines) is 13.18% higher than Dubuque and the average is 1 cent higher than Dubuque.

**100 gallons**  
of City water costs only  
**\$0.65**

Compare to 100 gallons of bottled water (20 oz. at \$1.99 each at a convenience store) costs over \$1,270!

## Source Water Information

The City of Dubuque obtains water from the sand and gravel of the Apple-Plum Alluvial aquifer and the Jordan (Cambrian-Ordovician) aquifer. Every aquifer has a degree of susceptibility to contamination because of the characteristics of the aquifer, overlying materials, and human activity including contamination from leaking underground storage tanks, contaminant spills, and excess fertilizer application. Susceptibility to contamination generally increases with shallower aquifers because the characteristics of the aquifer and the overlying materials provide little protection from contamination at the land surface. Susceptibility to contamination generally decreases with deeper wells in the Jordan aquifer because the characteristics of the aquifer and the overlying materials provide moderate protection from contamination at the land surface.

The Apple-Plum Alluvial aquifer is considered to be highly susceptible to contamination, while the Jordan (Cambrian-Ordovician) aquifer has been determined to be slightly susceptible to contamination. A detailed evaluation of your source water was completed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and is available on our website, [www.cityofdubuque.org/water](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/water). You may also call 563-589-4291 to obtain a copy of the report.

**CITY OF DUBUQUE  
WATER DEPARTMENT**

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[cityofdubuque.org/water](http://cityofdubuque.org/water)  
563-589-4291

# 2023 DRINKING WATER SUMMARY

The City of Dubuque's Water Department is proud of the high quality of the City's readily available water supply, which meets all state and federal drinking water quality requirements.

**We are pleased to inform you that Dubuque had no drinking water violations in 2023.**

The City's water quality testing results shown in this report include testing for regulated contaminants that were at detectable levels in the distributed water. The contaminants or analytes are reported in comparison to a maximum contaminant level (MCL) established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Act. Testing is not required for each parameter every year.

Water suppliers, including the City of Dubuque, participated in a study with the EPA related to the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). The USEPA establishes a new list of contaminants to be monitored and the conditions for that monitoring. The rule benefits the public health by providing the EPA with valid data on the National occurrence of selected contaminants. Under UCMR Round 5, all community water systems, and non-transient, non-community water systems serving more than 10,000 persons must participate in assessment monitoring.

## TABLE DEFINITIONS

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

**LRAA** - Locational Running Annual Average

**Maximum Contaminant Level (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 technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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 (MRDL)** - The highest level of a drinking water 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 (MRDLG)** - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**N/A** - Not Applicable

**ND** - Not Detected

**ppb** - parts per billion

**ppm** - parts per million

**RAA** - Running Annual Average

**Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)** - Establishes a maximum contaminant level (MCL) based on the presence or absence of total coliforms, modifies monitoring requirements including testing for fecal coliforms or E. coli, requires use of a sample siting plan.

**SGL** - Single Sample Result

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

## PFAS CHEMICALS

PFAS, or perfluoroalkyl substances, remains a significant concern in the drinking water industry.

The Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, is seeking to implement enforceable regulation or Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 4.0 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS, individually; and for PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (GenX Chemicals), an MCL of 10 parts per trillion.

**In response to these upcoming requirements, the City is proactively investing in the advancement of a new deep well water supply.**

Deep well analytics have shown no detects of PFAS to date per sampling requirements. The estimated cost to advance a new deep well is estimated at \$4.6 million.

Funding for the project is divided over three years, with additional funding dedicated in future years for PFAS removal at the Eagle Point Water Treatment Plant. This commitment underscores Dubuque's dedication to ensuring high quality drinking water for its residents.

### LEARN MORE

[www.cityofdubuque.org/PFAS](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/PFAS)

**DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM REPORT**

ANALYTE	MCL - (MCLG)	COMPLIANCE		RANGE		DATE	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
		TYPE	VALUE	MIN	MAX			
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80 (N/A)	LRAA	59	50	63	6/30/2023	NO	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60 (N/A)	LRAA	11	6	14	3/31/2023	NO	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4.0 (MRDLG = 4.0)	RAA	1.1	0.06	1.76	12/31/2023	NO	Water additive used to control microbes; disinfection
Total Coliform Bacteria	TT (TT)	RTCR	2 positive samples	N/A	N/A	2023	NO	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other waterborne pathogens may be present, or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water.

**FINISHED WATER TAP REPORT**

ANALYTE	MCL MCLG		COMPLIANCE		RANGE		DATE	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
			TYPE	VALUE	MIN	MAX			
Nitrate [as N] (ppm)	10	10	SGL	0.72	N/A	N/A	2023	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	SGL	0.62	0.29	0.95	7/21/2021	NO	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	SGL	16	N/A	N/A	7/21/2021	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Added to water during treatment process

**LEAD AND COPPER REPORT**

ANALYTE	AL	MCLG	SAMPLES		COMPLIANCE		DETECT		DATE	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
			TOTAL	EXCEED AL	TYPE	VALUE	MIN.	MAX.			
Lead (ppb)	15	0	30	0	90th	5.00	ND	11	2023	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	30	0	90th	0.03	ND	0.05	2023	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

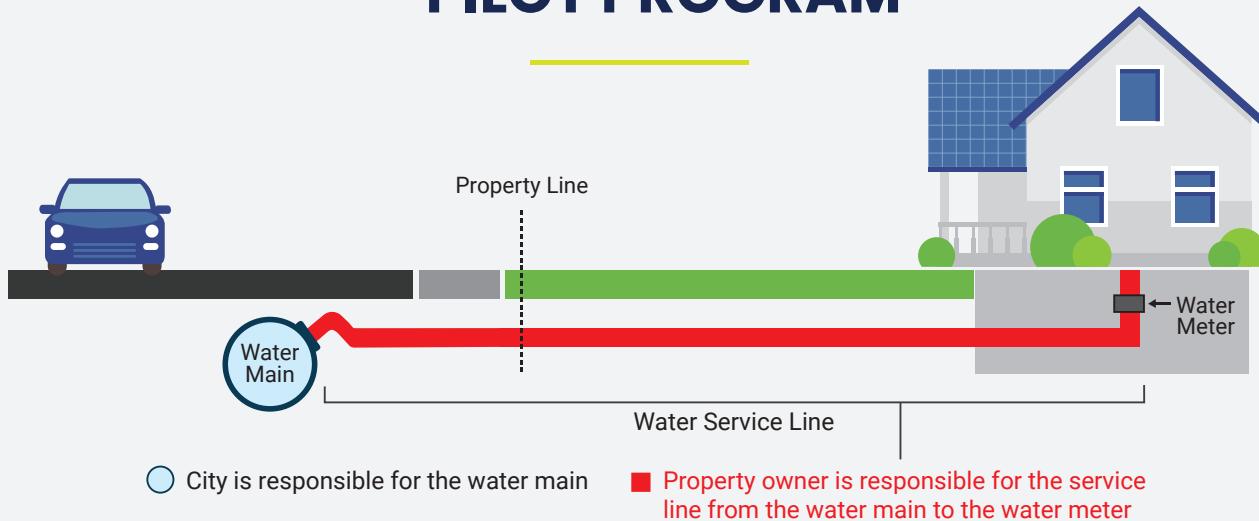
**PFAS**

ANALYTE	RESULT	RANGE		DATE	HEALTH ADVISORY LEVEL (ppt)
		MIN	MAX		
PFOA (ppt)	5.1	3	5.1	2023	0.004 (interim)
PFOS (ppt)	3.6	3.2	3.6	2023	0.020 (interim)

In 2023 our water system exceeded an EPA drinking water lifetime interim health advisory for the PFAS compounds shown above. Public notice was previously provided for these contaminants when we became aware of the situation. Please refer to the past notification for more information regarding these results.

Note: Contaminants with dates, indicate results from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

# LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PILOT PROGRAM



## The City of Dubuque has secured Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding to conduct a Lead Service Line Replacement Pilot Program.

Approximately 585 private lead water service lines will be replaced over three years. Replacement of lead water service lines will begin in 2024 and be completed by the end of 2026. **Residents who qualify for this pilot program have already been contacted. A map of the program area is available at [www.cityofdubuque.org/leadreplacement](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/leadreplacement).**

In Dubuque, the entire service line from the water main to the water meter inside the property is privately (customer) owned. This pilot program

will replace the customer-owned service line at no cost to the owner or tenant in census tracts and neighborhoods meeting the criteria established by the Socioeconomic Assessment Tool provided by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa Finance Authority. The City is eligible for 49% loan forgiveness under the current Iowa State Revolving Fund financing structure. The remaining 51% will be funded with State Revolving Fund construction loans at 0% interest.

## Help us verify your water service line!

The City of Dubuque has over 150 years of data related to the City's water distribution system; however, we are always looking for ways to update and improve the accuracy of our information. To help us verify our records, visit [cityofdubuque.org/waterline](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/waterline) or scan the QR code to submit a photo of the water service line entering your home or building.



**FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:**  
Christopher Lester  
Water Department Director  
563-589-4291

[www.cityofdubuque.org/water](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/water)