

**Dubuque's average household water rate for fiscal year 2026 is \$43.74 per month.** This is the fourth lowest of Iowa's largest cities that soften their water. The highest (Des Moines) is 5.2% higher than Dubuque and the average is 5.2% lower than Dubuque.

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

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



## CITY OF DUBUQUE WATER DEPARTMENT

The Dubuque Water Department is dedicated to producing and delivering drinking water that is in compliance with all state and federal drinking water standards.

The City of Dubuque's distribution system is composed of 330.4 miles of water mains ranging from 4-inches to 30-inches in diameter, 8,008 control valves, and 2,606 fire hydrants throughout the city.

It is our goal to operate and maintain a water distribution system consistent with established procedures recognized by the American Water Works Association for efficient management practices. We continually strive to adopt new and better methods of delivering the best quality drinking water.

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



## WATER QUALITY REPORT

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2025



## 2024 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 2024.**

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.

For questions regarding this information, please contact Christopher Lester, Water Department Director, at 563-589-4291.

## 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 ([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. Immunocompromised 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 ([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).

## 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 was determined 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.



# 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.

Distribution System Report											
Analyte	MCL - (MCLG)		Compliance		Range		Date	Violation	Typical Source		
			Type	Value	Min	Max					
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80 (N/A)		LRAA	65	51	85	6/30/2024	NO	By-products of drinking water chlorination		
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60 (N/A)		LRAA	7	6	8	12/31/2024	NO	By-products of drinking water chlorination		
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4.0 (MRDLG = 4.0)		RAA	1.1	0.40	1.69	12/31/2024	NO	Water additive used to control microbes; disinfection		
Finished Water Tap Report											
Analyte	MCL MCLG		Compliance		Range		Date	Violation	Typical Source		
			Type	Value	Min	Max					
Nitrate [as N] (ppm)	10	10	SGL	0.7	N/A	N/A	2024	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	14	N/A	N/A	7/10/2024	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)				2		4		2024		0.004 (interim)	
PFOS (ppt)				2.4		4.2		2024		0.020 (interim)	

# PFAS CHEMICALS

In 2024, the City of Dubuque Water system exceeded and Environmental Protection Agency drinking water lifetime interim health advisory for the PFAS compounds shown above.

According to the EPA, PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that have been in use since the 1940s. PFAS are (or have been) found in a wide variety of consumer products and as an ingredient in firefighting foam. PFAS manufacturing and processing facilities, airports, and military installations are some of the contributors of PFAS releases into the air, soil, and water. Because of their widespread use, most people have been exposed to PFAS and there is evidence that exposure to certain PFAS may lead to adverse health effects.

**LEARN MORE**  
[www.cityofdubuque.org/PFAS](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/PFAS)  
[www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas](http://www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas)

**Health Effects of Exposure to PFAS**

Exposure to PFAS may result in a wide range of adverse health outcomes, including:

- developmental effects including to fetuses after exposure during pregnancy or postnatal development (e.g., low birth weight, accelerated puberty, skeletal variations, development of the immune system);
- cancer (e.g., testicular, kidney);
- liver effects (e.g., cellular lesions);
- immune effects (e.g., decreased antibody response to vaccination, decreased immune response immunity);
- thyroid effects and other effects (e.g., cholesterol changes).



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