

# 2025 DRINKING WATER REPORT

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.

**Información importante. Si no la entiende, haga que alguien se la traduzca ahora.**

## Making safe drinking water

Your drinking water comes from the following groundwater sources: Savage purchases water from Burnsville and your system has seven wells ranging from 152 to 1029 feet deep, that draw water from the Prairie Du Chien Group, Mt. Simon, Quaternary Buried Artesian and Tunnel City-Wonewoc aquifers.

Savage works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

Contact Cliff Yandle, Utilities Superintendent, at **952-224-3408** or **[cyandle@savagemn.gov](mailto:cyandle@savagemn.gov)** if you have questions about Savage’s drinking water. You can also ask for information about how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap 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 visiting the website: [epa.gov/safewater](http://epa.gov/safewater).

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## Questions? We are happy to help.

If you have questions regarding the City of Savage drinking water or would like more information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of water, give us a call at **952-224-3440**.



CITY OF  
**SAVAGE**  
MINNESOTA

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## Savage monitoring results

This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's webpage Basics of Monitoring and testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html>).

## How to read the water quality data tables

The tables below show the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below with the detection date.

We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Explaining Special Situations for the Highest Result and Average

Some contaminants are monitored regularly throughout the year, and rolling (or moving) annual averages are used to manage compliance. Because of this averaging, there are times where the Range of Detected Test Results for the calendar year is lower than the Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result, because it occurred in the previous calendar year.

### Definitions

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

**Contaminant:** Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water.

**EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency

**MCL (Maximum contaminant level):** 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.

**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.

**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 disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**N/A (Not applicable):** Does not apply.

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

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ ).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg/l}$ ).

**ppt (parts per trillion):** one part per trillion is like one drop in one trillion drops of water, or about one drop in an Olympic sized swimming pool. ppt is the same as nanograms per liter ( $\text{ng/l}$ ).

**PWSID:** Public water system identification.

# WATER QUALITY DATA TABLES - SAVAGE

## Monitoring Results – Regulated Substances

### Lead and copper - tested at customer taps

| Contaminant<br>(Date, if sampled in previous year) | EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG) | EPA's Action Level             | 90% of Results Were Less Than | Number of Homes with High Levels | Range of Detected Test Results | Violation | Typical Sources                  |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Lead</b><br>(10/23/24)                          | 0 ppb                   | 90% of homes less than 15 ppb  | <2 ppb                        | 0 out of 32                      | 0 - 2 ppb                      | NO        | Corrosion of household plumbing. |
| <b>Copper</b><br>(10/23/24)                        | 1.3 ppm                 | 90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm | 0.37 ppm                      | 0 out of 32                      | 0.05 - 0.49 ppm                | NO        | Corrosion of household plumbing. |

Note: The next required test will be in 2027.

### Inorganic and organic contaminants - tested in drinking water

| Contaminant<br>(Date, if sampled in previous year) | EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG) | EPA's Limit (MCL) | Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result | Range of Detected Test Results | Violation | Typical Sources              |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| <b>Gross Alpha</b><br>(4/30/25)                    | 0 pCi/l                 | 15 pCi/l          | 9.6 pCi/l                                     | N/A                            | NO        | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| <b>Combined Radium</b><br>(4/30/25 at TP2)         | 0 pCi/l                 | 5 pCi/l           | 1.7 pCi/l                                     | N/A                            | NO        | Erosion of natural deposits. |

### Potential health effects and corrective actions (if applicable)

Combined Radium: Previously, we had a combined radium level above the MCL. Our water system has taken the initiative to limit the amount of water being pumped from the source(s) with elevated radiochemical levels. We have signed an Agreement with MDH that ensures all residents receive drinking water containing less than the MCL on an annual basis.

## Contaminants related to disinfection - tested in drinking water

| Substance<br>(Date, if sampled in previous year) | EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG) | EPA's Limit (MCL or MRDL) | Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result | Range of Detected Test Results | Violation | Typical Sources                            |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)</b> (11/4/25)   | N/A                              | 80 ppb                    | 21 ppb  | 11.00 - 21.00 ppb              | NO        | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| <b>Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA)</b> (11/4/25)    | N/A                              | 60 ppb                    | 5.8 ppb                                       | 2.60 - 5.80 ppb                | NO        | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| <b>Total Chlorine</b> (30 samples per month)     | 4.0 ppm                          | 4.0 ppm                   | 0.94 ppm                                      | 0.74 - 1.13 ppm                | NO        | Water additive used to control microbes.   |

Total HAA refers to HAA5

## Other substances - tested in drinking water

| Substance<br>(Date, if sampled in previous year)      | EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG) | EPA's Limit (MCL) | Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result | Range of Detected Test Results | Violation | Typical Sources  |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>Fluoride</b> (2/24/25, 4/30/25, 7/29/25, 10/21/25) | 4.0 ppm                 | 4.0 ppm           | 0.56 ppm                                      | 0.49 - 0.67 ppm                | NO        | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth. |

## Potential health effects and corrective actions (if applicable)

**Fluoride:** If your drinking water fluoride levels are below the optimal concentration range of 0.5 to 0.9 ppm, please talk with your dentist about how you can protect your teeth and your family's teeth from tooth decay and cavities. For more information, visit: MDH Drinking Water Fluoridation (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/fluoride.html>). Fluoride is nature's cavity fighter, with small amounts present naturally in many drinking water sources. There is an overwhelming weight of credible, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence that fluoridation reduces tooth decay and cavities in children and adults, even when there is availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste and mouth rinses. Since studies show that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water benefit public health, municipal community water systems adjust the level of fluoride in the water to an optimal concentration between 0.5 to 0.9 parts per million (ppm) to protect your teeth. Fluoride levels below 2.0 ppm are not expected to increase the risk of a cosmetic condition known as enamel fluorosis.

## Some people are more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants 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. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These people or their caregivers should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available on EPA's website: [epa.gov/safewater](http://epa.gov/safewater).



# WATER QUALITY DATA TABLES - SAVAGE

## Monitoring Results – Unregulated Substances/Emerging Contaminants

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water. MDH, EPA, and other health agencies may have developed comparison values for some of these compounds. Some of these comparison values are based solely on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations nor the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. These values may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impractical for a water system to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant). Sample data are listed along with comparison values in the table below; it is important to note that these comparison values are not enforceable.

Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The significance of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little to no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions-like a fetus, infants, children, elderly, and people with impaired immunity—may need to take extra precautions. We are notifying you of the unregulated/emerging contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the Agency should consider regulating those contaminants in the future.

- More information is available on MDH’s A-Z List of Contaminants in Water (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html>)
- Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html>)
- Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>)
- EPA has developed a UCMR5 Program Overview Factsheet (<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/ucmr5-factsheet.pdf>) describing UCMR 5 contaminants and standards.

In the past year, your drinking water may have tested for additional unregulated contaminants as part of the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>) and results are still being processed. The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR 5) Data finder allows people to easily search for, summarize, and download the available UCMR 5 analytical results (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder>).

### Unregulated/emerging contaminants - tested in drinking water

| Contaminant   | Comparison Value | Highest Average Result or Highest Single Test Result | Range of Detected Test Results |
|---|------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>Sodium*</b><br>(7/23/25 TP2) (6/21/22 TP2 and TP3)   | 20 ppm           | 9.82 ppm   | N/A                            |
| <b>Sulfate</b><br>(7/23/25 TP2) (6/21/22 TP2 and TP3)   | 500 ppm          | 24.7 ppm   | N/A                            |
| <b>Lithium</b><br>(4/12/23 TP3) (7/26/23 TP2) (9/12/23 TP2 and TP3)<br>(10/4/23 TP3- resample from 9/12/23) | 10 ppb           | 17.5 ppb   | 11.80 - 21.10 ppb              |
| <b>Perfluorobutanesulfonate (PFBS)</b><br>(4/12/23 TP3) (7/26/23 TP2)                                       | 100 ppt          | 0 ppt  | 0.00 - 1.00 ppt                |
| <b>Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)</b><br>(4/12/23 TP3) (7/26/23 TP2)   | 7000 ppt         | 7.3 ppt  | 0.00 - 23.00 ppt               |
| <b>Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)</b><br>(4/12/23 TP3) (7/26/23 TP2)                                       | N/A              | 0.17 ppt   | 0.00 - 0.66 ppt                |

\*Note that home water softening can increase the level of sodium in your water.

In early 2024, MDH released new comparison values for two PFAS compounds, PFOA and PFOS. Additionally, EPA released final MCLs for PFAS on April 10th, 2024 but has announced intent to make changes to this rule. Additional information on PFAS system results may also be available in the PFAS MCL section of this report.

# LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Drinking water sources

Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water and is found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water, and is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land. Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are five main types of contaminants in drinking water sources.

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.
- **Pesticides:** Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest
- **Herbicides:** Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation
- **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How Savage is protecting your drinking water source(s);
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources;
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at Source Water Assessments (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa>) or call 651-201-4700 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Lead in drinking water

Lead can cause serious health problems, babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk. You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. There is no safe level of lead.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes from service lines but cannot control the

variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk.

Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

1. **Let the water run** before drinking tap water flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.
    - Activities such as taking a shower, doing laundry or dishes help keep water moving in your home system but are not a replacement for running the tap before you drink if it has not been used for a long period of time.
    - The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.
  2. **Know your service line materials** by contacting your public water system, or you can search for your address online at the Minnesota Lead Inventory Tracking Tool (<https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/>).
    - **Protect Your Tap:** A quick check for lead (<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead>) is EPA's step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home.
  3. **Use cold water for drinking**, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.
  4. **Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.
    - Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to purchase a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample: Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (<https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam>) The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.
  5. **Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run. You can use a filter certified with ANSI/NSF standards 53 and 42 for lead reduction.
    - Read about water treatment units: Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html>)
- Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and other steps you can take to minimize exposure are available at:

- EPA Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>)
  - The Minnesota Department of Health Lead in Drinking Water (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html>)
  - To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/fs/common.html>)
- 6. Be Aware:** Head Start Programs, Child Care Centers, Public and Charter Schools all have requirements to test for lead in drinking water. These programs can learn more about requirements and resources for testing and remediation at MDH Drinking Water in Schools and Child Cares (<https://www.web.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/schools/index.html>)

## SERVICE LINE MATERIAL INVENTORY

Savage has completed and submitted our service line materials inventory to the Minnesota Department of Health. The service line inventory is publicly available, and you can check the materials for your service line by visiting the Lead Inventory Tracking Tool (LITT) (<https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/>). You may also contact us at [savagemn.gov](http://savagemn.gov) or 952-224-3440. City Ordinance No. 104 dated February 22nd, 1979, designates that K Copper and Ductile Iron will be used in potable water services. Staff and consultant services verified existing as-built record construction plans. Consultant and staff verified existing services for questionable property owners. As of November 17, 2025, our inventory contains 0 lead, 2 galvanized requiring replacement, 151 unknown material, and 10,510 non-lead service lines.

## HELP PROTECT THE MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE - WATER

### The value of water

Drinking water is a precious resource, yet we often take it for granted.

Throughout history, civilizations have risen and fallen based on access to a plentiful, safe water supply. That's still the case today. Water is key to healthy people and healthy communities.

Water is also vital to our economy. We need water for manufacturing, agriculture, energy production, and more. One-fifth of the U.S. economy would come to a stop without a reliable and clean source of water.

Systems are in place to provide you with safe drinking water. The state of Minnesota and local water systems work to protect drinking water sources. For example, we might work to seal an unused well to prevent contamination of the groundwater. We treat water to remove harmful contaminants. And we do extensive testing to ensure the safety of drinking water.

If we detect a problem, we take corrective action and notify the public. Water from a public water system like yours is tested more thoroughly and regulated more closely than water from any other source, including bottled water.

### Conservation

Conservation is essential, even in the land of 10,000 lakes. For example, in parts of the metropolitan area, groundwater is being used faster than it can be replaced. Some agricultural regions in Minnesota are vulnerable to drought, which can affect crop yields and municipal water supplies.

We must use our water wisely. Below are some tips to help you and your family conserve - and save money in the process.

- Fix running toilets—they can waste hundreds of gallons of water.
- Turn off the tap while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- Shower instead of bathe. Bathing uses more water than showering, on average.
- Only run full loads of laundry, and set the washing machine to the correct water level.
- Only run the dishwasher when it's full.
- Use water-efficient appliances (look for the WaterSense label).
- Use water-friendly landscaping, such as native plants.
- When you do water your yard, water slowly, deeply, and less frequently. Water early in the morning and close to the ground.

## You can prevent pollution

Many of our daily activities contribute to the pollution of Minnesota's surface water and groundwater. You can help protect these drinking water sources by taking the following actions:

- Lawn and property:
  - Limit use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers on your property.
  - Keep soil in place with plants, grass, or rocks.
  - Cover temporary piles of dirt with a tarp or burlap sack.
  - Keep leaves and grass off of streets and sidewalks.
  - Maintain any septic systems, private wells, and storage tanks to prevent leaks. Seal any unused wells.
- Out-of-date medications: Never flush unwanted or out-of-date medications down the toilet or sink. Always take them to a waste disposal or prescription medication drop-off site.
- Hazardous materials: Safety store hazardous materials such as paint, batteries, herbicides, pesticides, and pool chemicals. Dispose of them at a proper waste disposal facility or drop-off event. Do not dump down storm drains, sink or onto your land.
- Pet waste: Pick up after your pet and put waste in the trash.
- Trash: Seal trash bags and keep litter out of the street.
- Winter ice removal: Chemicals used to break up the ice are called deicers or anti-icers. They can be harmful to the environment, corrosive to driveways and sidewalks and harmful to plants, pets and humans. Always shovel first, and then only apply deicers/anti-icers lightly if needed.
- Keep an eye out for car and motor fluids: Seal or repair any fluid leaks that could run off onto streets and into storm drains. Take used motor oil or other fluids to a neighborhood drop-off site.
- Be a water advocate: Spread the word; get involved. There are many groups and individuals working to protect water across Minnesota.

## Reduce backflow at cross connections

Bacteria and chemicals can enter the drinking water supply from polluted water sources in a process called backflow. Backflow occurs at connection points between drinking water and non-drinking water supplies (cross connections) due to water pressure differences.

For example, if a person sprays an herbicide with a garden hose, the herbicide could enter the home's plumbing and then enter the drinking water supply. This could happen if the water pressure in the hose is greater than the water pressure in the home's pipes.

Property owners can help prevent backflow. Pay attention to cross connections, such as garden hoses.

The Minnesota Department of Health and American Water Works Association recommend the following:

- Do not submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, or sinks.
- Keep the end of hoses clear of possible contaminants.
- Do not use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device. Attach these devices to threaded faucets. Such devices are inexpensive and available at hardware stores.
- Use a licensed plumber to install backflow prevention devices.
- Maintain air gaps between hose outlets and liquids. An air gap is a vertical space between the water outlet and the flood level of a fixture (e.g. the space between a wall-mounted faucet and the sink rim). It must be at least twice the diameter of the water supply outlet, and at least one inch.
- Commercial property owners should develop a plan for flushing or cleaning water systems to minimize the risk of drawing contaminants into uncontaminated areas.

## HOME WATER TREATMENT

Most Minnesotans, whether they drink from a public water supply or a private well, have drinking water that does not need treatment for health protection. Water treatment units are best for improving the physical qualities of water—the taste, color, or odor.

No single treatment process can remove all substances in water. If you decide to install a home water treatment unit, choose a unit certified and labeled to reduce or remove the substance of concern. If there is more than one substance you want to remove from your water, you may need to combine several treatment processes into one system.

Even well-designed treatments systems can fail. You should continue to test your drinking water after you install a treatment unit. All home water treatment units need regular maintenance to work correctly. Regular maintenance may include changing filters, disinfecting the unit, or cleaning scale buildup. Always install, clean, and maintain a treatment unit according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

### Beware of water treatment scams

False claims, deceptive sales pitches, or scare tactics have been used by some water treatment companies. Every person has a right to decide what is best for themselves and their family, and you may choose to install additional water treatment to further lower the levels of contaminants of emerging concern, chlorine, and other chemicals in your water. However, you should be cautious about purchasing a water treatment system.



### Additional resources

- EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline **1-800-426-4791**
- EPA Ground Water and Drinking Water website **[water.epa.gov/safewater/lead](https://www.water.epa.gov/safewater/lead)**
- MDH **[websitehealth.state.mn.us](https://www.health.state.mn.us)**
- City of Savage website **[savagemn.gov](https://www.savagemn.gov)**

### The pros and cons of home water softening

Water softeners are water treatment devices. They remove water hardness (dissolved calcium and magnesium). The decision to soften your water is a personal choice that can affect your home and the environment. It is important to understand your home's water quality. This will help you decide if a home water softener is necessary and choose the best treatment device(s). Water softeners must be installed and maintained properly to be safe and effective.

The advantages of home water softening include:

- Prevents build-up of minerals (scale) on the inside of pipes, fixtures, and hot water heaters.
- Lengthens the life of some appliances.
- Reduces or prevents mineral spots on glassware.
- Prevents or reduces soap films and detergent curds in sinks, bathtubs, and washing machines.

The disadvantages of home water softening include:

- Can corrode your pipes. The corroded metal from the pipes can end up in your water.
- Potential health implications from additional sodium from water softening.
- Regular testing of the water and maintenance of the softener is necessary to make sure the softener is working properly.
- Negative impacts to the environment from salt use.
- Water waste: 5% of the water that goes through a softener is not usable.

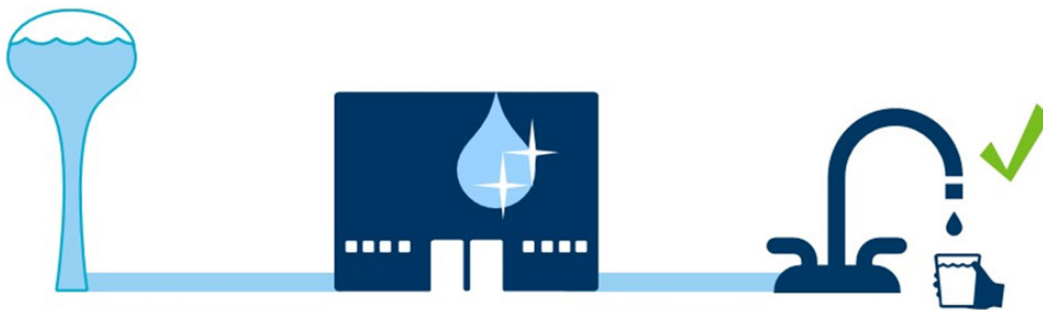
## HEALTH EQUITY AND DRINKING WATER AFFORDABILITY

Water systems have ongoing infrastructure, operations and maintenance costs in supplying safe drinking water, and many are implementing additional efforts to help insure health equity and manageable water bills with:

- Awareness to help all consumers minimize water use and costs
  - Turn the faucet off while brushing teeth.
  - Shower instead of bathing to reduce water use.
  - Fix running toilets by replacing flapper valves.
  - Run full loads of laundry and use a minimal water use setting.
- Community partnerships
  - Our water system partners with others to help consumers with limited resources make payments to their water bills.
  - Contact us to learn more.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Radium removal and remediation efforts at Water Treatment Plant #3 are anticipated to be completed June 2026. It is anticipated the pilot testing will be completed in July 2026. Upon successful completion, the water treatment plant is expected to be placed in service achieving an 85% reduction in radium removal. The plant must achieve four consecutive quarters of successful radium removal MCL of <5 pCi/L to be removed from the violation list. The City of Savage and MDH will test on a quarterly basis to ensure compliance.



## MORE DETAILS ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM

- Your drinking water is treated to disinfect against microbes, add fluoride, prevent corrosion of lead and copper, remove iron and manganese.
- 9 million gallons of water is available in storage for system capacity [and helping to maintain pressure with water towers].
- We have 170.3 total miles (public and private) of watermains that move finished drinking water from our treatment plants and interconnect to your home.

## WATER QUALITY DATA TABLES - BURNSVILLE

The tables on page 3 and 4 relate only to water drawn from wells in Savage. Homes and businesses in Savage also receive water via a pipeline that delivers groundwater collected from a quarry and treated by the City of Burnsville. This water accounts for 71.5% of all water distributed in Savage.

The tables on this page relate to tests conducted on the water distributed to Savage and water distributed by the City of Burnsville in 2023. In addition to the water from the quarry, the City of Burnsville gets its water from 17 wells that draw from the Jordan, Mt. Simon, Prairie du Chien Group, and Tunnel City - Mt. Simon aquifers.

### Monitoring Results – Regulated Substances

#### Lead and copper - tested at customer taps

| Contaminant<br>(Date, if sampled in previous year) | EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG) | EPA's Action Level             | 90% of Results Were Less Than | Number of Homes with High Levels | Range of Detected Test Results | Violation | Typical Sources                  |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Lead</b><br>(09/25/24)                          | 0 ppb                   | 90% of homes less than 15 ppb  | <2 ppb                        | 0 out of 30                      | 0 - 3.7 ppb                    | NO        | Corrosion of household plumbing. |
| <b>Copper</b><br>(09/25/24)                        | 1.3 ppm                 | 90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm | 0.59 ppm                      | 0 out of 30                      | 0.08 - 0.79 ppb                | NO        | Corrosion of household plumbing. |

#### Inorganic and organic contaminants - tested in drinking water

| Contaminant<br>(Date, if sampled in previous year) | EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG) | EPA's Limit (MCL) | Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result | Range of Detected Test Results | Violation | Typical Sources  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>Nitrate</b>                                     | 10 ppm                  | 10 ppm            | 0.21 ppm                                      | N/A                            | NO        | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| <b>Barium</b><br>(2/18/21)                         | 2 ppm                   | 2 ppm             | 0.21 ppm                                      | N/A                            | NO        | Discharge of drilling waste; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposit     |
| <b>Endothall</b> (2021)                            | 100 ug/L                | 100 ug/L          | 5.5 ug/L                                      | N/A                            | NO        | Runoff from herbicide use.   |
| <b>Gross Alpha</b>                                 | 0 pCi/l                 | 15 pCi/l          | 6.7 pCi/l                                     | N/A                            | NO        | Erosion of natural deposits.   |
| <b>Combined Radium</b>                             | 0 pCi/l                 | 5 pCi/l           | 2.3 pCi/l                                     | N/A                            | NO        | Erosion of natural deposits.   |

## Contaminants related to disinfection - tested in drinking water

| Substance<br><i>(Date, if sampled in previous year)</i> | EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG) | EPA's Limit (MCL or MRDL) | Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result | Range of Detected Test Results | Violation | Typical Sources                            |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)</b>                    | N/A                              | 80 ppb                    | 29.3 ppb                                      | 6.80 - 48.10 ppb               | NO        | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| <b>Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA)</b>                     | N/A                              | 60 ppb                    | 6.1 ppb                                       | 1.0 - 8.40 ppb                 | NO        | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| <b>Total Chlorine</b>                                   | 4.0 ppm                          | 4.0 ppm                   | 1.02 ppm                                      | 0.88 - 1.15 ppm                | NO        | Water additive used to control microbes.   |

Total HAA refers to HAA5

## Other substances - tested in drinking water

| Substance<br><i>(Date, if sampled in previous year)</i> | EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG) | EPA's Limit (MCL) | Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result | Range of Detected Test Results | Violation | Typical Sources  |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>Fluoride</b>   | 4.0 ppm                 | 4.0 ppm           | 0.58 ppm                                      | 0.46 - 0.57 ppm                | NO        | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth. |

## Potential health effects and corrective actions (if applicable)

**Fluoride:** If your drinking water fluoride levels are below the optimal concentration range of 0.5 to 0.9 ppm, please talk with your dentist about how you can protect your teeth and your family's teeth from tooth decay and cavities. For more information, visit: MDH Drinking Water Fluoridation (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/fluoride.html>). Fluoride is nature's cavity fighter, with small amounts present naturally in many drinking water sources. There is an overwhelming weight of credible, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence that fluoridation reduces tooth decay and cavities in children and adults, even when there is availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste and mouth rinses. Since studies show that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water benefit public health, municipal community water systems adjust the level of fluoride in the water to an optimal concentration between 0.5 to 0.9 parts per million (ppm) to protect your teeth. Fluoride levels below 2.0 ppm are not expected to increase the risk of a cosmetic condition known as enamel fluorosis.