

# The Water We Drink

## A Report of the City of Menomonie Water Utility

An Annual Water Quality Report has been prepared to meet the requirements of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) adopted by Congress, and to keep you informed about the excellent water services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

Our water source is drawn from four wells in the Mount Simon Aquifer, with the three main wells having iron treatment, radium removal, chlorination, and fluoridation. Well #3 is located downtown, along Crescent Street overlooking Lake Menomin; Well #4 is located on Tainter Street in a residential area; and Well #6 is located in the Dunn County Rec. Park. These three wells are the sources for city water.

**Background Information:** We're pleased to report that *our drinking water is safe* and meets federal and state requirements.

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 animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

**The Findings:** The City of Menomonie Water Department routinely monitors the drinking water for contaminants according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the testing results for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

**Definitions:** In this report you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

**Non-Detects (ND):** laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter:** one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**TCR:** Total Coliform Rule.

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

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

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

### Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2011)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Coliform (TCR)	Presence of coliform bacteria in >=3% of monthly samples	0	2			Yes	Naturally present in the environment.

### Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2011)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.034	.026-.034		No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	.2	0 of 35 results were above the action level		No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.3	4-1.3		No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0	2.00	1 of 35 results were above the action level		*	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel (ppb)	100	2,300	1,800-2,300			No	Nickel occurs naturally in soils, ground water and surface waters and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products.
Nitrate (NO3-N) (ppm)	10	10	.18	ND - .18		No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrite (NO2-N) (ppm)	1	1	.067	ND - .067		No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	6.10	4.10-6.10		No	N/A

\*Systems exceeding a lead and/or copper action level must take actions to reduce lead and/or copper in the drinking water. The lead and copper values represent the 90th percentile of all compliance samples collected. If you want information on the NUMBER of sites or the actions taken to reduce these levels, please contact your water supply operator.

### Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2011)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Gross Alpha, Excl. R & U (pCi/l)	15	0	7.9	2.4-7.9	10/12/2010	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha, Incl. R & U (n/a)	N/A	N/A	7.9	2.4-7.9	10/12/2010	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium (226+228) (pCi/l)	5	0	4.9	2.1-4.9	07/13/2010	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

### Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2011)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sulfate (ppm)	N/A	N/A	12.00	6.10-12.00		No	N/A

### Volatile Organic Contaminant

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2011)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	5	0	0.3	ND - 0.4		No	Leaching from PVC pipes; discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	5	0	0.3	ND - 0.4		No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.

### Health Effects For Any Contaminants with MCL Violations

Contaminant	Health Effects
Coliform (TCR)	Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indication that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

### Sources of Water

Source ID	Source	Depth (in Feet)	Status
3	Groundwater	396	Active
4	Groundwater	394	Active
6	Groundwater	417	Active

\*N/A = Not Applicable

Please note that many tests are conducted on your water. However, only the listed substances were detected.

**What does this mean?** As you can see by the table, the city's drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected but the EPA has determined that your water *IS SAFE* at these levels. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or man made. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. All 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 the water poses a health risk. The maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) are set at very stringent standards. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals 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 health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**In Conclusion:** Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The cost of these improvements are reflected as rate adjustments on the quarterly utility bill. Thank you for understanding. The City of Menomonie works diligently to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us to protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

**Questions?** If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jeremy Hoyt, Water Department Superintendent at 715-232-2395. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. Issues regarding the water utility are discussed at City Council meetings. They are held on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Check the posted agenda for water related items.