PWS ID
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Water Quality Report

2024

For reporting year 2023

Stoughton Utilities

stoughtonutilities.com • (608) 873-3379

INTRODUCTION

The employees of Stoughton Utilities are pleased to provide you with this year's annual Drinking Water Quality Report. We regularly monitor Stoughton's drinking water for contaminants to ensure that it meets all health and safety standards. The purpose of this report is to inform our customers of the findings from our ongoing water quality monitoring. We want you to understand the efforts we make continuously to improve water quality and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring that the quality of your drinking water remains at the highest possible level.

If you would like to know more about the information in this report, please contact Stoughton Utilities Customer Service at (608) 873-3379, or email us at *customerservice@stoughtonutilities.com*.

ABOUT STOUGHTON UTILITIES

Stoughton Utilities' water comes from four wells located throughout the city and is pumped directly into the water distribution system and three storage facilities. The water is treated with chlorine and fluoride as it leaves the wells. In 2023, Stoughton Utilities pumped a total of 439,434,000 gallons of water.

Stoughton Utilities is not for profit and is owned directly by the City of Stoughton. All utility operations are funded entirely by the water, electric, and wastewater rates paid for our services by customers. In lieu of taxes for 2023, Stoughton Utilities paid $756,567 to the City of Stoughton, making it the largest taxpayer in the city.

Well No. 4
Source: Groundwater | **Depth:** 969 Feet | **Status:** Active

Well No. 5
Source: Groundwater | **Depth:** 1,113 Feet | **Status:** Active

Well No. 6
Source: Groundwater | **Depth:** 1,137 Feet | **Status:** Active

Well No. 7
Source: Groundwater | **Depth:** 1,040 Feet | **Status:** Active

WATER SYSTEM OVERVIEW

2
Water Towers

4
Wells

75
Miles of Water Main

741
Fire Hydrants

5,353
Water Meters

1.3
Million Gallons of Storage

OUTDOOR WATER USE

When using water outdoors for watering lawns and gardens or refilling your pool, please keep in mind that Stoughton Utilities does not offer sewer or wastewater billing credits unless you have already installed a secondary "water-only" meter to measure the usage that goes only to your outside faucets.

To have a water-only meter, you will first need to work with a plumber to complete in-house plumbing revisions to create a separate water line to your outside faucets and/or sprinkler system. Once that is complete, Stoughton Utilities will install a second meter in your home. Your primary meter will measure all water consumed inside the home, and standard wastewater charges will apply to its measured usage. The second meter will only measure water consumed outside the home, and wastewater charges will not apply since it's known that this water is not going down the drain. Water-only meters must remain in place throughout the year, and must be installed for a minimum of 12-months.

In addition to your plumbing costs, Stoughton Utilities charges a one-time installation fee of $40.00 to set and activate the second meter. After that, there is a $10.15 monthly charge that is in addition to your current monthly charges, and any metered usage is billed at $3.55 per every 1,000 gallons of water used.

You should consume at least 23,000 gallons of water annually through your outside faucets and/or sprinkler systems in order to offset the additional monthly charges, and therefore benefit from a water-only meter.

DID YOU KNOW?

The average family of four in Dane County pays

$66.32

per month for water

The average Stoughton family of four pays only

$58.85

per month for water

*Figures based on information from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. Average monthly water usage for a family of four is 8,000 gallons.

WHAT CAUSES RUSTY WATER?

Customers occasionally ask us, "what causes dirty or rusty water, and is it safe to drink?" Rusty water may look and taste unpleasant, and possibly stain sinks and clothing, but it is not a health concern.

Rust is oxidized iron and is introduced to tap water from the corrosion of the water mains under the street and/or the plumbing inside your home, apartment, or business. Tap water can turn brown, red, orange, or yellow due to the iron particles that break free from corroded iron or steel pipes.

Rust and sediment is always present in water mains, and regularly mixes with drinking water in microscopic amounts. Certain events can stir up the sediment in the water mains, causing discoloration as the particulates become visible to the naked eye, including water main breaks, water main replacement during construction projects, vehicular accidents involving a fire hydrant, fire fighting efforts with high water use, or other disturbances that cause a significant change in water flow.

Stoughton Utilities flushes our 75 miles of water mains at least once per year, which allows us to not only remove sediment that has accumulated in the mains, but to also verify the proper operation of hydrants and valves and maintain firefighting capabilities. Although this flushing is essential to provide high water quality and prevent long-term sedimentation and discoloration issues, it can cause short-term discoloration as the sediment is disturbed due to the higher water flows.

When sediment gets stirred up in the water system, the resulting discoloration will typically last approximately 2-4 hours or less. After this time, the sediment will settle back out and the water will become clear. You can speed up the process by turning on the cold water tap at full pressure nearest where the water enters your home, such as a basement laundry tub or a first-floor sink, and allowing the water to run until it is clear. During these periods, it is important to try to avoid using hot water as the sediment can be drawn into your hot water heater's water tank, which could require you to have to flush the tank later.

WATER MAIN BREAKS

Every year, our water operators repair several water main breaks throughout the city. A water main break can be identified by unexplained water coming up out of the ground or street. Water mains can break from damage during construction, older materials that weaken and deteriorate over time, and stress on the pipes from fluctuations in temperature. We tend to see more water main breaks in the winter when the ground begins to freeze and in the spring when the ground begins to thaw.

If you notice any unexplained water seeping up out of the ground or pavement, please let us know. The sooner we are able to fix a water main break, the less water is wasted!

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

The sources of drinking water - whether it is obtained from the tap or store bought - 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, sometimes containing radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals and from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- 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.
- 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.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which shall provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking Water FAQ's

What is the hardness of Stoughton's water?
Stoughton's water is 18.0 grains of hardness.

What is the PH level of Stoughton's water?
The PH level of the water supply ranges from 7.4 – 8.5.

How much iron is in Stoughton's water?
The average iron content in our water supply is 0.17 parts per million (ppm). This amount will vary between 0.00 ppm and 0.26 ppm based on your location within the city.

What is added to Stoughton's water?
Stoughton Utilities disinfects our water with chlorine, which is a step in the water treatment and distribution process to ensure the biological safety of water. We add different amounts of chlorine throughout the year to help combat possible contaminants that may become problematic in water with elevated temperatures.

Stoughton Utilities fluoridates the water that leaves our wells. Fluoridated water keeps teeth strong and reduces cavities by about 25% in children and adults. Community water fluoridation is recommended by nearly all public health, medical, and dental organizations. It is recommended by the American Dental Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Public Health Service, and World Health Organization.

Can Stoughton Utilities test my home's water for contaminants?
Stoughton Utilities does not offer personal water testing services. To have the water tested at your home, please contact a certified laboratory to request a test kit. Options include:

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
(800) 442-4618
https://www.slh.wisc.edu/

Northern Lake Service, Inc
(715) 478-2777
https://nlslab.com/

INFORMATION FROM THE EPA

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 calling the Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) are the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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, persons 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 lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

WATER QUALITY TESTING & RESULTS

Stoughton Utilities routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations. All sources of drinking water, including bottled water, are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or are man-made. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials.

Your water was tested for many contaminants last year. We are allowed to monitor for some contaminants less frequently than once a year. The following tables list only those contaminants which were detected in your water. If a contaminant was detected last year, it will appear in the following tables without a sample date. If the contaminant was not monitored last year, but was detected within the last 5 years, it will appear in the tables below along with the sample date.

The following Table A. shows the results of our monitoring for the period from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 (unless otherwise noted). If you would like to see the other constituents that were tested for but did not have any detects, please contact us.

Table A.

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2023)	Typical Source of Contamination
Disinfection Byproducts						
HAA5 (site 19) (ppb)	60	60	5	5		By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (site 19)(ppb)	80	0	18.3	18.3		By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (site 20)(ppb)	60	60	0	0		By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (site 20)(ppb)	80	0	1.5	1.5		By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants						
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.046	0.0021 - 0.046		Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	0.07	0.00 - 0.07		Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.8	0.5 - 0.8		Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nickel (ppb)	100		1.5000	0.0000 - 1.5000		Occurs naturally in soils, ground water and surface waters and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products.
Nitrate (N03-N) (ppm)	10	10	4.0	0.00 - 4.0		Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	24.00	3.30 - 24.00		n/a
Radioactive Contaminants						
Gross Alpha, Excl. R & U (pCi/l)	15	0	7.5	2.5 - 7.5		Erosion of natural deposits
Radium, (226 + 228) (pCi/l)	5	0	3.5	2.3 - 3.5		Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha, Incl. R & U (n/a)	n/a	n/a	7.8	2.8 - 7.8		Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Uranium (ug/l)	30	0	0.7	0.5 - 0.7		Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. The EPA requires us to participate in this monitoring. A summary of these contaminants is shown in Table B. Table C. shows the individual results of this testing. Only contaminants that were detected are shown.

Table B.

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2023)	Typical Source of Contamination
Unregulated Contaminants						
Manganese (ppb)	n/a	n/a	11.0	0.77 - 17.00	3/6/2018 and 9/11/2018	n/a
Bromide (ppb)	n/a	n/a	47.0	47.00 - 49.00	3/6/2018 and 9/11/2018	n/a
Dichloracetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	0.27	0.20 - 0.32	3/6/2018 and 9/11/2018	n/a

Table C.

Contaminant (units)	Facility Name	Sample Point Name	Collection Date	MRL	Analytical Result Value
Other Detected Contaminants					
HAA5 (ppb)	Distribution System	Well No. 5	3/6/2018	n/a	0.306
		Well No. 7	3/6/2018	n/a	0.200
			9/11/2018	n/a	0.318
HAA9 (ppb)	Distribution System	Well No. 5	3/6/2018	n/a	0.306
		Well No. 7	3/6/2018	n/a	0.200
			9/11/2018	n/a	0.318
Manganese (ppb)	KW617	Entry Point to Dist. System	9/11/2018	0.4	16.895
			3/6/2018	0.4	16.280
	BF566	Entry Point to Dist. System	9/11/2018	0.4	14.182
			3/6/2018	0.4	13.901
	HR527	Entry Point to Dist. System	9/11/2018	0.4	12.844
			3/6/2018	0.4	12.561
	BF551	Entry Point to Dist. System	3/6/2018	0.4	0.933
			9/11/2018	0.4	0.774

CONTAMINANTS WITH A HAL OR A SMCL

The following table lists contaminants which were detected in your water and that have either a Public Health Groundwater Standard (PHGS), Health Advisory Level (HAL), or a Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL), or both. There are no violations for detections of contaminants that exceed Health Advisory Levels, Public Health Groundwater Standards or Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels. Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels are levels that do not present health concerns but may pose aesthetic problems such as objectionable taste, odor, or color. Public Health Groundwater Standards and Health Advisory Levels are levels at which concentrations of the contaminant present a health risk.

Table D.

Contaminant (units)	SMCL	HAL	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2023)	Typical Source of Contamination
HAL or SMCL Contaminants						
Aluminum (ppm)	0.05	0.2	0.01	0.00 - 0.01	8/5/2019	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Chloride (ppm)	250		45.00	3.00 - 45.00	8/5/2019	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, road salt, water softeners
Iron (ppm)	0.3		0.26	0.07 - 0.26	8/12/2019	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial wastes
Manganese (ppm)	0.05	0.3	0.02	0.00 - 0.02	8/12/2019	Leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	250		21.00	13.00 - 21.00		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial wastes

PFAS

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s. The following Table E. lists PFAS contaminants which were detected in your water and that have a Recommended Public Health Groundwater Standard (RPHGS) or Health Advisory Level (HAL). There are no violations for detections of contaminants that exceed the RPHGS or HAL. The RPHGS are levels at which concentrations of the contaminant present a health risk and are based on guidance provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Additional health information regarding PFAS can be found at *www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm.*

Table E.

Contaminant (units)	RPHGS or HAL (ppt)	Level Found	Range	Typical Source of Contamination
PFAS Contaminants with a Recommended Health Advisory Level				
PFBS (ppt)	450,000	1.80	0.00 - 1.80	Drinking water is one way that people can be exposed to PFAS. In Wisconsin, two-thirds of people use groundwater as their drinking water source. PFAS can be introduced into groundwater from places that make or use PFAS and released from consumer products in landfills.
PFHXS (ppt)	40	3.30	0.00 - 3.30	
PFHXA (ppt)	150,000	0.72	0.00 - 0.72	
PFOS (ppt)	20	1.00	0.00 - 1.00	
PFOA (ppt)	20	0.71	0.00 - 0.71	
PFOA AND PFOS TOTAL (ppt)	20	2.21	0.00 - 2.21	

ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Stoughton Utilities is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Table F.

Contaminant (units)	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile Level Found	# of Results	Sample Date (if prior to 2023)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.1400	0 of 60 results were above the action level		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0	4.20	0 of 60 results were above the action level		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

DEFINITIONS

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

HAL - Health Advisory Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice.

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.

MRL - Minimum Reporting Level: The minimum concentration that can be reported by a laboratory as a quantitated value for a method analyte in a sample following analysis.

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

ppb - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

ppm - parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

RPHGS - Recommended Public Health Groundwater Standards: Groundwater standards proposed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice.

SMCL - Secondary drinking water standards or Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. The SMCLs do not represent health standards.

TCR - Total Coliform Rule

WATER CONSERVATION

Save water (and money!) with these easy water conservation tips.

- Install a water-saving showerhead. They use one-third to one-half the water that regular showerheads use.
- Take short showers. They use less water than a bath!
- Repair leaky water faucets. A leaking faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 250 gallons of water per month.
- Install faucet aerators, which will reduce the amount of water released when you turn on the tap.
- Listen for running toilets. A running toilet can waste as much as 200 gallons per day! You can also check to see if your toilet is running by placing a few drops of food coloring in the tank of the toilet. If the water in the bowl starts to change color after a few minutes, you have a leak.

HOW TO CONTACT US

We welcome you to attend the monthly Stoughton Utilities Committee meetings. Meeting dates, locations, notices, agendas, and past meeting minutes are available at *stoughtonutilities.com*.

If you have any questions regarding this report, your drinking water utility, or Stoughton Utilities in general, please contact us at (608) 873-3379 or at *customerservice@stoughtonutilities.com*.

If you have a water emergency, please contact us anytime, 24-hours per day and seven days per week, at (608) 873-3379.

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

Dlaim ntawv tshaabzu nuav muaj lug tseemceeb heev nyob rua huv kws has txug cov dlej mej haus. Kuas ib tug paab txhais rua koj, los nrug ib tug kws paub lug thaam.