

## What are PPM and PPB?

Parts per million (ppm) and parts per billion (ppb) are units used to measure the concentration of a substance in water. Here are some examples that illustrate how small a ppm and a ppb actually are:

One part per million (ppm) is the same as:  
One second in 11 days; one minute in two years  
One penny in \$10,000  
One dollar in a stack of new dollar bills 250 feet high

One part per billion (ppb) is the same as:  
One second in 32 years; one minute in 1990 years  
One silver dollar in a roll of silver dollars from Detroit to Salt Lake City  
One kernel of corn in a 45-foot high, 16-foot diameter silo

## Flushing the Distribution System

Stoughton Utilities performs systematic flushing of the water distribution system. Customers are notified about flushing through newspaper ads, and the Utilities website. Flushing is a process of sending a rapid flow of water through the water mains to clean them. This helps to maintain water quality by removing naturally-occurring sediment. Flushing may cause temporary discoloration of your water. While this discoloration is unpleasant, it is not harmful. If this happens, call the Utilities or visit Stoughton Utilities website for instructions on flushing your service. If your water does not clear up after the flushing process, please call Customer Service at 877-7418.

## Lead in Drinking Water

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.

## Conserving

Fix leaking faucets, pipes and toilets, ect.  
Replace old fixtures; install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.  
Turn off the tap while you shave or brush your teeth  
Do not use the toilet for trash disposal or garbage disposals.  
Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when full  
Defrost frozen food without running water

## Sampling

Before the water reaches your tap, samples from the water distribution system and the wells are collected and tested in State-certified laboratories. Stoughton Utilities has a regular program of water analysis and system inspection that assures safe water for you and your family. We have nine State-certified water operators who assure that the water operations provided excellent water quality three hundred sixty-five days a year.

## Ongoing Efforts

Like most water systems across the country, Stoughton Utilities water system is aging, and many critical elements have exceeded their service life span and are in need of repair or replacement. The water main replacement project is an-going program to replace failing pipelines each year. The new larger water mains installed over the years improve fire-fighting capabilities, increase water pressure, deliver more water, and avoids potential flood damage to homes, businesses and streets.

This year's projects include a portion of S. Van Buren Street from Main St. to South St, a new main from Eastwood Estates to Racetrack Park, a new water tower in Racetrack Park and rehab. of Well 7 in Virgin Lake Park. Learn more about our service to our neighbors at [www.stoughtonutilities.com](http://www.stoughtonutilities.com)

## Security of Our Water System

All Our lives have changed dramatically and our outlook on security has evolved since the tragic events of September 11, 2001. To this end, we want to ensure all our water customers that the security of our facilities and our distribution system is our highest priority.

Throughout the past few years, several security measures have been implemented to protect our drinking water. The majority of our new precautions, however, cannot be disclosed to the public because we want to prevent those who might try to compromise the Stoughton Utilities distribution system from having access to information about how we protect our water supply. We urge all our customers to be vigilant also and even overly cautious as to any suspicious occurrences or questionable persons claiming to be Utility staff. Please, if in question, request identification of any person (s) claiming to be Utility personnel before allowing entrance to your home or business. All Utility personnel wear identification badges. If you have any questions or concerns in this matter, please feel free to call Robert Kardasz at 877-7423 and voice your concerns or questions. If you should see or witness any suspicious activity, please do not hesitate to call 911.

We want you to rest assured that we are doing everything in our power to provide the highest level of security for our system and your safety.

## How to Contact Us

We welcome you to attend our Stoughton Utilities Committee meetings at the Stoughton Utilities Administration Office located at 600 S. Fourth Street held on the first Monday after the second Tuesday of the month. Meeting agendas and past meeting minutes are available at [www.stoughtonutilities.com](http://www.stoughtonutilities.com). If you have, any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, or Stoughton Utilities in general contact, Robert Kardasz, at 877-7423 or Roger Thorson at, at 877-7422. If you have a water emergency, please contact our emergency number at 873-9322.



**Stoughton Utilities**

**For more information  
Customer Service Information.....877-7418 or  
[www.stoughtonutilities.com](http://www.stoughtonutilities.com)  
600 S. Fourth Street**

- Open new or transfer accounts
- Billing inquiries
- Water conservation
- Water, wastewater and electric rates
- Automatic payment plans
- Credit card payments
- E-Pay (Internet Payments and usage history)

# City of Stoughton Utilities 2009 Drinking Water Quality Report



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## INTRODUCTION

Once again, the employees of Stoughton Utilities are pleased to provide you with this year’s Annual Water Quality Report. We are proud to announce that we continue to meet and surpass all State and Federal water quality standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Our goal is and always will be to provide you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make continually to improve water quality and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water remains at the highest possible level.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your Stoughton Utilities, please contact: Robert Kardasz P.E., Director of Utilities at (608) 877-7423 [bkardasz@stoughtonutilities.com](mailto:bkardasz@stoughtonutilities.com)

## DISCUSSION

Again, please note that the Stoughton Utilities drinking water complies with all State and Federal regulations, as shown in Table A “All sources of drinking 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.”

## INFORMATION FROM THE EPA

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. 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.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at MCL level for a lifetime to have 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, 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 lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## WATER QUALITY TESTING/RESULTS

Stoughton Utilities routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water in accordance with State and Federal laws. The following Table A shows the results of our monitoring for the period from January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009 (unless otherwise noted). Please note that the only water parameter that had a detect is listed. If you desire to see the other constituents that were tested for, but did not have any detects, please contact the Stoughton Utilities. In this table, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions:

- **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.
- **Picocuries per liter** (pCi/l) – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Action Level** (AL) – the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level** – 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** – 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
- **(TCR) -Total Coliform Rule**

Stoughton Utilities water comes from four wells located throughout the city and is pumped directly into the system and into two storage facilities. The water is treated with chlorine and fluoride as it leaves the wells and storage facilities. Last year we pumped 453,135,000 gallons of water.

Did you know that in lieu of taxes, Stoughton Utilities pays \$486, 822.00 annually to the City? Stoughton Utilities is the largest tax payer in the City.

Stoughton Utilities is owned directly by the City of Stoughton and funded entirely by the water, electric and wastewater rates citizens pay for our services.

TABLE A  
**Disinfection Byproducts**

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2009)	Source of Contaminant
HAA5 (ppb)	60	60	0	0		
TTHM (ppb)	80	0	4.5	.3-4.5		By-product of drinking water chlorination

### Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2009)	Source of Contaminant
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	.2	.0-.2	3/19/08	Discharge from petroleum refineries, electronics
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.032	.019-.032	3/19/08	Drilling waste;Erosion of natural deposits
Cadmium (ppm)	5	5	.1	.0-.1	3/19/08	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	3	1-3	3/19/08	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	.830	.0120-.1200	12/10/08	Corrosion of household plumbing Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.5	.3-1.5	3/19/08	Water additive; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0	9.8	nd-54.00	12/14/08	Corrosion of household plumbing Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (ppb)	100		3.500	.6200-3.5000	3/19/08	Natural occurs in soils, ground/ surface waters
Nitrate(N03-N) (ppm)	10	10	5.20	nd-5.20		Fertilizer use; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppm)	50	50	3	0-3	3/19/08	Discharge from petroleum refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	8.50	3.10-8.50	3/19/08	n/a

### Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date	Source of Contaminant
Radium	5	0	1.3	1.3		Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particle	n/a	n/a	1.2	1.2		Decay of natural and man made deposits.

### Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date	Source of Contaminant
(ppb)						<b>(if prior to 2009)</b>
Bromodichloromethane	n/a	n/a	.52	nd-.52		n/a
Bromoform (ppm)	n/a	n/a	.1.90	nd-.1.90		n/a
Chloroform (ppb)	n/a	n/a	.66	.25-.66		n/a
Dibromochloromethane	n/a	n/a	.1.40	nd-1.40		n/a
Sulfate	n/a	n/a	24.00	13.00-24.00	3/19/08	n/a

**Nitrate** in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than 6 months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

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.