

What is a Drinking Water Quality Report?

To comply with state and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) regulations, Stoughton Utilities issues an annual report providing the details of the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water sources and its potential contaminants. This report provides an overview of last year's (2012) drinking water quality.

Why does my drinking water look cloudy when first taken from a faucet?

The cloudy water is caused by air bubbles in the water, similar to the gas bubbles in carbonated soft drinks, and occurs more frequently in the winter when the water is cold. To confirm that the cloudiness is caused by air bubbles and not other contaminants, take a glass of water and watch as it clears up from the bottom to the top.

Why is my drinking water reddish or brown?

There are several possible causes for a reddish-brown appearance to your drinking water:

- Iron, found in the water pipes in the street leading to your home, or even inside your home, may be creating rusty-brown water
- The inside of your hot water tank may be rusting.
- Road construction or water line repairs can knock particles inside the pipe loose.

In these cases, the reddish-brown color is non-toxic, but it can stain clothing in the wash. The easiest solution is to allow your faucet to run for several minutes to clear the water, preferably at the lowest point in your home, such as a basement laundry tub.

Conserve water and save money:

There are many small changes that you can take at home to conserve water, and keep your monthly utility bill low.

- By taking a 5 minute shower daily instead of a bath, you can save up to 500 gallons of water per month.
- You can save over 150 gallons per month just by turning off the faucet while you brush your teeth.
- When taking a bath, don't run the water without closing the drain. The warmer water that comes after running the tap for a while will heat that first cold burst of water.

Above all, be sure to conserve water because it is the right thing to do, not just to keep your bills low. Don't waste water just because someone else is footing the bill, such as when you are staying as a guest at a hotel.

How do I report a water problem?

If you experience any problems with your water, or if you witness anything suspicious at our facilities, call the emergency line for our customer service department anytime, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at (608) 873-9322.

Ongoing system improvement efforts:

Like most water systems across the country, Stoughton Utilities has underground infrastructure that is aging, and many critical elements have exceeded their service lifespan and are scheduled for repair or replacement.

Stoughton Utilities' water main replacement project is an ongoing program to replace aged pipelines each year. Each year, the new larger water mains that are installed improve fire-fighting capabilities, increase water pressure, deliver more water, and help to avoid potential flood damage to homes, businesses and streets.

In 2013, scheduled projects include Fourth Street from Riverside Drive to Milwaukee Street, and Milwaukee Street to Stoughton Avenue; as well as Hillside Avenue from Main Street to Ridge Street.

Security of our drinking water system:

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. The security of our water facilities and distribution system is our highest priority.

We also urge our customers to be vigilant, and even overly cautious, as to any suspicious occurrences or persons claiming to be SU staff. If you're ever in question, request identification of any persons claiming to be SU personnel before allowing entrance to your home or business. All SU personnel wear identification badges. If you have any questions or concerns in this matter, please feel free to contact us to voice your questions or concerns.

If you should ever see or witness any suspicious activity, please do not hesitate to call 911.

How to contact us:

We welcome you to attend the monthly Stoughton Utilities Committee meetings at the administrative office located at 600 S. Fourth Street. Meeting notices, agendas, and past minutes are available at www.stoughtonutilities.com.

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

If you have a water emergency, please contact our office anytime, 24-hours per day, using our emergency phone number at (608) 873-9322.



2012 Drinking Water Quality Report

For more information on:

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Introduction:

Once again, the employees of Stoughton Utilities are pleased to provide you with this year's annual Drinking Water Quality Report. We are proud to announce that we continue to meet or surpass all state and federal water quality standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

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.

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 manmade. 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (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 at (800) 426-4791.

Water quality testing and 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, 2012, through December 31, 2012 (unless otherwise noted). Please note that only water parameters that had a detect are listed. If you would like to see the other constituents that were tested for, but did not have any detects, please contact us.

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 (MCL):** "Maximum Allowed" 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" 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 three storage facilities. The water is treated with chlorine and fluoride as it leaves the wells and storage facilities. In 2012, Stoughton Utilities pumped 545,699,000 gallons of water.

Stoughton Utilities is nonprofit and is owned directly by the City of Stoughton. All operations are funded entirely by the water, electric, and wastewater rates paid for our services by SU customers.

In lieu of taxes for 2012, Stoughton Utilities paid \$705,518 to the City of Stoughton, making it the largest tax payer in the city.

TABLE A:

Disinfection Byproducts:

Contaminant (units):	MCL:	MCLG:	Level Found:	Range:	Sample Date: (if prior to 2012)	Source of Contaminant:
TTHM (ppb)	80	0	5.9	2.2 – 5.9		Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.

Inorganic Contaminants:

Contaminant (units):	MCL:	MCLG:	Level Found:	Range:	Sample Date: (if prior to 2012)	Source of Contaminant:
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.035	.019 - .035	3/2/2011	Drilling waste; erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	1	n/d - 1		Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	.15	0 of 30	9/16/2011	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.1	.1 – 1.1		Water additive; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0	8.40	1 – 30	3/21/2011	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel (ppb)	100		3.2000	1.5000 – 3.2000	9/16/2011	Naturally occurring in soils and ground / surface waters.
Nitrate (N03-N)(ppm)	10	10	5.3	n/d - 5.30		Fertilizer use; erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	12.00	2.80 – 12.00	3/2/2011	n/a

Radioactive Contaminants:

Contaminant (units):	MCL:	MCLG:	Level Found:	Range:	Sample Date: (if prior to 2012)	Source of Contaminant:
Gross Alpha excl. (pCi/l)	15	0	5.3	3.8 – 5.3	3/2/2011	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha incl. (pCi/l)	n/a	n/a	5.3	3.8 – 5.3	3/2/2011	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium (pCi/l)	5	0	3.9	1.9 – 3.9	3/2/2011	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Beta Particle (pCi/l)	n/a	n/a	1.2	1.2	3/25/2009	Decay of natural and manmade deposits.

Unregulated Contaminants:

Contaminant (units):	MCL:	MCLG:	Level Found:	Range:	Sample Date: (if prior to 2012)	Source of Contaminant:
Trimethylbenzene (ppb)	n/a	n/a	.11	.11	9/16/2010	n/a
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	n/a	n/a	.88	.51 - .88		n/a
Bromoform (ppb)	n/a	n/a	1.30	.42 – 1.30		n/a
Chloroform (ppb)	n/a	n/a	2.20	.67 – 2.20		n/a
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	n/a	n/a	1.50	.63 – 1.50		n/a
Sulfate (ppb)	n/a	n/a	25.00	15.00 – 25.00	3/2/2011	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 Stoughton Utilities.