

Appleton Water Treatment Facility - Safe Water on Tap

The table below identifies the regulated substances detected in the 2018 Appleton water regulatory testing. Every regulated substance that is detected, even in trace amounts, is listed here. The levels detected for these contaminants were all below levels allowed by state and federal regulations in 2018.

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MC LG	Level Found	Range	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	10	n/a	0.70	0.70	None	Erosion of natural deposits; Run off from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.003	0.003	None	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm) (2017)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.13	0 of 30 results were above the action level	None	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.69	0.69	None	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. SMCL = 4.0 ppm
Haloacetic Acid (HAA5) multiple sites (ppb)	60	60	21 (average)	15-25	None	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Lead (ppb) (2017)	AL=15	0	5.9	1 of 30 results were above the action level	None	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (N03-N) (ppm)	10	10	0.91	0.91	None	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (226 + 228) (pCi/l) (2014)	5	0	1.4	1.4	None	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	12.0	12.0	None	n/a
Sulfate (ppm)	n/a	n/a	27.0	27.0	None	n/a
Trihalomethanes, Total (TTHM) multiple sites (ppb)	80	0	41 (average)	30-49	None	By-product of drinking water chlorination Reported is the highest annual location average and largest range from the multiple sites.

Definitions and Notes

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

Haloacetic Acids – Total of Mono-, di-, and tri-chloroacetic acid; mono- and di-bromoacetic acid; and bromochloroacetic acids

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.

n/a – Not Applicable

ND – Not Detected

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)

SMCL – Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level: Inorganic chemicals that are not hazardous to health but may be objectionable to an appreciable number of persons.

Trihalomethanes, Total – Total of chloroform, bromo-dichloromethane, dibromochloromethane and bromoform

In accordance with NR 810.29, Wisconsin Administrative Code, the treated surface water is monitored for turbidity to confirm that the filtered water is less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in at least 95 percent of the measurements taken each month and never exceeds 1 NTU. In 2018, the highest single entry point turbidity measurement was 0.13 NTU. The lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100 percent.

Safe Drinking Water On Tap

The Safe Drinking Water Act provides a regulatory framework to maintain and protect public water supplies. To get an easy to read EPA booklet on drinking water go to:

http://water.epa.gov/drink/guide/upload/book_waterontap_full.pdf

Lead and Copper Monitoring

The Utility is required to periodically test for lead in the drinking water of homes. Currently there are 30 sites throughout the City that are tested for lead and copper. Lead can enter the drinking water by corrosion of home plumbing. For the last test year, 2017, and since the introduction of polyphosphates in 1994, the water supply complies with the lead and copper action levels.

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. Appleton Waterworks is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in private plumbing components.

When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap until it runs cold 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