

# 2021 WATER QUALITY REPORT

RIVER FALLS MUNICIPAL UTILITIES WATER DEPARTMENT



We are pleased to report that our water is safe and meets or exceeds state and federal standards. Our municipal water supply monitoring schedule is based in part on a source water vulnerability assessment prepared by the utility.

A copy of this study is available at City Hall. The municipal well water is vulnerable to contaminant sources in close proximity to the well. One potential contaminant source is unused, unsafe, and non-complying private wells located within the city. As of June 30, 2003, no private wells are permitted within the city limits, except in cases where municipal services are not available. The utility has completed a survey identifying the water supply sources and wellhead protection area for River Falls Municipal water system. From this, a wellhead protection ordinance was developed and formally adopted in 2001.

If you have any questions concerning your water utility, please contact Interim Water / Wastewater Superintendent Dean Seemuth at 715-426-3428. Drinking water is a complex business. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Utility Advisory Board meetings. They are held on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 pm (in the City Hall Council Chambers or virtually).

## HEALTH INFORMATION

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 systems 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 microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Quality & Reliability Since 1894**

**Keeping your water safe and refreshing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week**



**Address:**  
222 Lewis Street  
River Falls, WI 54022  
[www.rfmu.org](http://www.rfmu.org)

**Phone:**  
715-425-0906  
**After Hours Emergency & Outages:**  
715-852-1715

## EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

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. Chlorine is added to maintain a residual for disinfecting. Fluoride is added at levels around 0.7 mg/l to help prevent tooth decay.

## 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.
- 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 activities.

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. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which provides the same protection for public health.

## LEAD 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. River Falls Water Utility is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water hasn't been used for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two 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 (800-426-4791) or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## YOUR WATER SOURCE & MONITORING

River Falls has a ground water supply with five production wells in two different aquifers. All are located within the city limits. The Prairie du Chien/Jordan (Trempealeau) Aquifer is the major municipal groundwater source in the region.

Two wells are cased into the Jordan Aquifer. Three wells are cased into the Prairie du Chien Aquifer, but not through it. Therefore, we get some water from both formations. To obtain a summary of the source water assessment, please contact Interim Water / Wastewater Superintendent Dean Seemuth at 715-426-3428.

Source ID	Source	Depth (in feet)	Status
2	Groundwater	401	Active
3	Groundwater	379	Active
4	Groundwater	415	Active
5	Groundwater	440	Active
6	Groundwater	568	Active

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 five years, it will appear in the tables below along with the sample date.

Please see the orange and yellow contaminant charts below on the following pages:

Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2021)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>								
HAA5 (ppb)	D105	60	60	1	1		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	D105	80	0	3.3	3.3		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	D30	60	60	1	1		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	D30	80	0	0.0	0.0		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
BARIUM (ppm)		2	2	0.008	0.008		No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
FLUORIDE (ppm)		4	4	0.2	0.2		No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
NICKEL (ppb)		100		2.7000	2.7000		No	Nickel occurs naturally in soils, ground water and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products
NITRATE (NO3-N) (ppm)		10	10	0.15	0.00 - 0.15		No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
SODIUM (ppm)		n/a	n/a	2.50	2.30 - 2.50	7/27/2020	No	n/a
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. R & U (pCi/l)		15	0	4.5	2.6 - 4.5	7/27/2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM, (226 + 228) (pCi/l)		5	0	2.6	1.7 - 2.6	7/28/2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. R & U (n/a)		n/a	n/a	5.4	3.5 - 5.4	7/27/2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
COMBINED URANIUM (ug/l)		30	0	1.7	1.2 - 1.7	7/27/2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Contaminants with a Health Advisory Level or a Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level</b>								
Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2021)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
IRON (ppm)		0.3		0.18	0.10-0.18	5/2/2017	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial wastes
MANGANESE (ppm)		0.05	0.3	0.05	0.04-0.05	5/2/2017	No	Leaching from natural deposits
SULFATE (ppm)		250		17.00	17.00		No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial wastes
ZINC (ppm)		5		0.05	0.01-0.05	5/1/2017	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial wastes

Unregulated Contaminants							
Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. EPA required us to participate in this monitoring.							
Contaminant (units)	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2021)				
SULFATE (ppm)	17.00	14.00 - 17.00					
Manganese (ppb) UCMR-4	47	36 - 47	12/4/2021				
HAA5 (ppb) UCMR-4	1.1	.33 - 1.1	12/3/2021				
HAA6 (ppb) UCMR-4	0.44	ND - .44	12/3/2021				
HAA9 (ppb) UCMR-4	1.54	.33 - 1.54	12/3/2021				
Lead and Copper							
Contaminant (units)	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile Level Found	# of Results	Sample Date (if prior to 2021)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
COPPER (ppm)	AL = 1.3	1.3	0.3000	0 of 30 results were above the action level.	7/17/2020	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD (ppb)	AL = 15	0	0.93	0 of 30 results were above the action level.	7/16/2020	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

## DEFINITIONS

### 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):

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 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.

### MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL (MRDL):

The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is a convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

### MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL GOAL (MRDLG):

The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

### MREM/YEAR:

Millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

### ND:

No Detect

### NTU:

Nephelometric Turbidity Units

### PCI/L:

Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

### PPM:

Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

### PPB:

Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

### PPT:

Parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

### SDWA:

Safe Drinking Water Act

### TCR:

Total Coliform Rule

### TREATMENT TECHNIQUE (TT):

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

### UCMR:

Unregulated contaminant monitoring rule