

# 2021 Annual Consumer Report

## *Quality of Tap Water*



**South Milwaukee Water Utility's  
drinking water meets or surpasses  
all federal and state drinking water standards.**

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.

*This is an annual report on the quality of water delivered by South Milwaukee Water Utility. It meets the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirement for “Consumer Confidence Reports” and contains information on the source of our water, its constituents, and the health risks associated with any contaminants. Safe water is vital to our community. Please read this report carefully and, if you have questions, call the numbers listed below:*

*Providing this annual water quality report to our customers is an important part of our ongoing water quality efforts. If you have any questions about the Utility or this report, please call the Utility office at (414) 768-8070 or visit our web site at: [www.smwi.org](http://www.smwi.org). Regular monthly meetings of the Water/Wastewater Commission also provide opportunities for public participation and additional information. These meetings are scheduled on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 pm at the Water Utility (100 Marshall Ave.).*

**Ben Huffman, Superintendent**  
South Milwaukee Water Utility

## Water Source

South Milwaukee Water Utility is supplied by surface water from Lake Michigan.

## Treatment Process

South Milwaukee Water Utility uses an ultra-filtration pressurized membrane system. The membrane technology provides a verifiable barrier against viruses, turbidity, suspended solids, and pathogen contamination such as cryptosporidium for the City's drinking water supply.

## 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.

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 storm 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, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

## 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 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 (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 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).



## Concerning Lead in Our Water

The Utility is required periodically to test the drinking water in homes at 30 predetermined sites in the distribution system for lead and copper, which enters the drinking water by corrosion of home plumbing. For the last test year, 2020 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. South Milwaukee Waterworks 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.

Additional 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).

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)	304	60	60	16	11 – 17		NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	304	80	0	30.4	15.8 – 37.8		NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	307	60	60	23	13 – 22		NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	307	80	0	35.8	20.8 – 42.2		NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	402	60	60	17	10 – 22		NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	402	80	0	39.6	12.0 – 40.1		NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	407	60	60	25	15 – 30		NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	407	80	0	43.2	28.2 – 55.5		NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	80			4.3				
Bromoform (ppb)	80			0.65				
Chloroform (ppb)	80			4.0				
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	80			2.5				
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
ARSENIC (ppb)	10	n/a		1			NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
BARIUM (ppm)	2	2		.021			NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
COPPER (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3		0.21	0 of 30 + action level	9/17/2020	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
FLUORIDE (ppm)	4	4		0.6			NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
LEAD (ppb)	AL=15	0		5.7	1 of 30 + action level	9/17/2020	*	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
NICKEL (ppb)	100			0.63			NO	Nickel occurs naturally in soils, ground water and surface waters and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products.
NITRATE (NO3-N) (ppm)	10	10		0.45			NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
SODIUM (ppm)	n/a	n/a		18.00			NO	n/a
<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides</b>								
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3		0.0		7/20/2020	NO	
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	50	50		0.0		4/13/2020	NO	
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
COMBINED URANIUM (ppb)	30	0		0.8		4/13/2020	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS Alpha, Excl. R&U (pCi/l)	15	0		1.0		4/13/2020	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>								
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.								
Metolachlor (Dual) (ppm)	n/a	n/a		0.02	0.01-0.02	7/20/2020		
Bromochloroacetic acid (ppm)	n/a	n/a		4.0	3.4-4.5	2/19/2019		
Bromodichloroacetic acid (ppm)	n/a	n/a		5.9	5.3-6.4	2/19/2019		
Chlorodibromoacetic acid (ppm)	n/a	n/a		1.42	1.3-1.5	2/19/2019		
Monobromoacetic acid (ppm)	n/a	n/a		0.59	0.48-0.65	2/19/2019		
Dibromoacetic acid (ppm)	n/a	n/a		0.81	0.66-0.88	2/19/2019		
Dichloroacetic acid (ppm)	n/a	n/a		8.45	7.2-9.6	2/19/2019		
Bromochloroacetic acid (ppm)	n/a	n/a		7.43	6.6-8.3	2/19/2019		
<b>Contaminants with a Health Advisory Level or a Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level</b>								
This table lists contaminants which were detected in your water and that have either a 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, 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. Health Advisory Levels are levels at which concentrations of the contaminant present a health risk.								
Sulphate (ppm)	n/a	n/a		22.0	22.02		NO	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial wastes

\* 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.

**NOTE:** Not listed are other compounds for which the water was tested but undetected. This information is available upon request at the Utility office. South Milwaukee Water Utility did not test for radon in 2021. South Milwaukee Water Utility did not test for cryptosporidium in 2021.



## Turbidity Monitoring

In accordance with s. NR 810.29, Wisconsin Administrative Code, the treated surface water is monitored for turbidity to confirm that the filtered water is less than 0.1 NTU/0.3NTU. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor for it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. During the year, the highest single-entry point turbidity measurement was 0.03 NTU.

## National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance

We'll be happy to answer any questions about South Milwaukee Water Utility and our water quality. Call (414) 768-8070, or learn more about the South Milwaukee Water Utility water system at: [www.smwi.org](http://www.smwi.org).

### Definition of Terms

**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.

**Level 1 Assessment:** A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system, or both, on multiple occasions.

**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.

**MFL:** Million Fibers per Liter

**MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal**

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)

**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

**ppq: Parts per Quadrillion**, or picograms per liter

**SMCL: Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels**

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

**TCR: Total Coliform Rule**

**TT: Treatment Technique** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.