



# 2021 Litchfield Water System Annual Drinking Water Report

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it. Información importante. Si no la entiende, haga que alguien se la traduzca ahora.

## Making Safe Drinking Water

Your drinking water comes from a groundwater source: four wells ranging from 132 to 165 feet deep, that draw water from the Quaternary Buried Artesian aquifer. Litchfield works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

**Contact Michael Geers, Operations Engineer, at 320-693-7201 or [mike.geers@ci.litchfield.mn.us](mailto:mike.geers@ci.litchfield.mn.us) if you have questions about Litchfield's drinking water.** You can also ask for information about how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

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 at 1-800-426-4791.

**ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS:  
AWWA: AMERICAN WATER WORKS  
MRWA: MINNESOTA RURAL WATER**

## Monitoring Report Summary

This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2021.

We work with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health. Learn more by visiting the MDH's webpage **Basics of Monitoring and Testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota** (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html>).

The tables below show the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below with the detection date.

We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

\*Some contaminants are monitored regularly throughout the year, and rolling (or moving) annual averages are used to manage compliance. Because of this averaging, there are times where the Range of Detected Test Results for the calendar year is lower than the Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result, because it occurred in the previous calendar year.

Substances Detected in the Litchfield Water Supply						
Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Range	Average Result*	Violations	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10.4	N/A	<b>6.00</b>	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; glass & electronics production waste.
Barium (ppm) (07/08/20)	2.0	2.0	N/A	<b>.33</b>	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (ppm)	10.0	10.4	N/A	<b>.95</b>	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Arsenic: While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

## Other Substances Tested

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Range	Average Result*	Violations	Typical Source of Contaminant
Fluoride (ppm)	4.0	4.0	0.67-0.71	<b>.69</b>	No	Water additive to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits.

Fluoride: Fluoride is nature's cavity fighter, with small amounts present naturally in many drinking water sources. There is an overwhelming weight of credible, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence that fluoridation reduces tooth decay and cavities in children and adults, even when there is availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste and mouth rinses. Since studies show that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water benefit public health, municipal community water systems adjust the level of fluoride in the water to optimal concentrations between 0.5 to 0.9 parts per million (ppm) to protect your teeth. Fluoride levels below 2.0 ppm are not expected to increase the risk of a cosmetic condition known as enamel fluorosis.

## Contaminants Related To Disinfection

Contaminant (units)	MRDLG	MRDL	Average Range	Result*	Violations	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	<b>0.26-0.81</b>	<b>.44</b>	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	N/A	60.0	N/A	<b>12.7</b>	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	N/A	80	N/A	<b>41.1</b>	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

## Lead & Copper — Tested at customer taps.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% < Level	# sites over AL	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	0	<1.3	0.83	0 out of 20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead (ppb)	0	<15	< 1.6	0 out of 20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

## Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Comparison Value	Average Result*	Range
Sodium (ppm)**	20 ppm	16.2 ppm	N/A
Sulfate (ppm)	500 ppm	16.7 ppm	N/A

\*\*Note that home water softening can increase the level of sodium in your water.

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water. Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The meaning of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time. The above table shows the unregulated contaminants we detected last year, as well as human-health based guidance values for comparison, where available. The comparison values are based only on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants as very low concentration or the cost and technology of prevention and /or treatment. They may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impossible for water systems to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant). A person drinking water with contaminants at or below the comparison value would be at little or no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions—like a fetus, infants, children, elderly, and people with impaired immunity—may need to take extra precautions. Because these contaminants are unregulated, EPA and MDH require no particular action based on detection of an unregulated contaminant. We are notifying you of the unregulated contaminants we have detected as public education opportunity. More information is available on MDH's **A-Z List of Contaminants in Water and Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4)**. (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html>) & (<https://www.health.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html>) Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Key: **MCL**: Maximum contaminant level-the highest amount allowed in drinking water. Set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. **MCLG**: Maximum contaminant level goal-level below which there is no known or expected risk to health, allows for a margin of safety. **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 below which there is no known or expected risk to health but this does not reflect the benefits of disinfectant use. **AL**: Action Level-the concentration which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements system must follow. **PPM**: parts per million. **PPB**: parts per billion. **ND**: Not detected. **N/A**: Not Applicable (does not apply). **EPA**: Environmental Protection Agency **PWSID**: Public Water System Identification. Three different groups test Litchfield's water: The MDH, Litchfield Water Department employees, and Independent Labs. The water is tested for both regulated and unregulated substances. Levels of regulated substances are enforced through Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) established by Congress. Unregulated substances do not have established MCLs, but may have recommended maximums set by the Safe Drinking Water Act or are assessed using state standards known as Health Risk Limits. Be assured the Litchfield Water Department will take corrective action and notify customers immediately if a health issue related to regulated or unregulated substances ever arises.

## Lead in Drinking Water

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. Coming in contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. Babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk. Lead is rarely in a drinking water source, but it can get in your drinking water as it passes through lead service lines and your household plumbing system. Litchfield is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but it cannot control the plumbing materials used in private buildings.

Read to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water. Let the water run for 30-60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has not been turned on in over six hours. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home. You can find out if you have a lead service line by contacting your public water system, or you can check by following the steps at: Are your pipes made of lead? Here's a quick way to find out (<https://www.nprnews.org/story/2016/06/24/npr-find-lead-pipes-in-your-home>).

The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure. Use cold water for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water. Test your water. In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water. Contact a MDH accredited laboratory to get a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample: Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (<https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam>)

The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results. Treat your water if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run. Read about water treatment units: Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html>) Learn more: Visit Lead in Drinking Water (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html>) Visit Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>) Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit Common Sources (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/fs/common.html>).

## Water Treatment

Seldom does water come straight from the ground or from a surface water source needing no treatment to improve its quality. Litchfield Water Department processes source water in the following ways so that the water will be safe and pleasing to drink and use for household and industrial tasks:

### Iron and Manganese Removal.

These harmless minerals are common in Minnesota ground water, and our wells are typical of the state. Iron concentrations greater than 0.3 parts per million (ppm) can leave rust-colored stains on laundry, porcelain, and fixtures. Levels of manganese greater than 0.05 ppm can tint the water, cause black spots in ice cubes, and cause the water to have a bitter, metallic taste. These minerals are removed from the water by a process known as oxidation and filtration so customers will not be troubled by their nuisance characteristics. **Disinfection.** Any possible disease-causing organisms are eliminated using chlorine.

**Fluoridation.** Fluoride: If your drinking water fluoride levels are below the optimal concentration range of 0.5 to 0.9 ppm, please talk with your dentist about how you can protect your teeth and your family's teeth from tooth decay and cavities. For more information, visit: MDH Drinking Water Fluoridation ([http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/com/fluorid\\_e/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/com/fluorid_e/index.html)).

**Corrosion Control.** A corrosion inhibitor is added to the water that provides a protective coating to the inside of your pipes. This minimizes the amount of lead and copper that can be leached into the water from your plumbing.

## Water Treatment Results

\*Water with hardness of 150 to 300 ppm is considered "hard."  
Water with hardness greater than 300 ppm is considered "very hard."

Parameter	Before treatment	Average After treatment	Ideal
pH	7.4-7.7	7.4	6.5-8.5
Iron (ppm)	2.4-3.4	0.02	<0.3
Manganese (ppm)	0.2 - 0.3	0.09	<0.05
Fluoride (ppm)	0.20	0.56-78	0.5 -0.9
Hardness (ppm)	320	320 *	

## Learn More About Your Drinking Water

Minnesota's primary drinking water sources are groundwater and surface water. Groundwater is the water found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water. Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are five main types of contaminants in drinking water sources.

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.

**Pesticides and herbicides** are chemicals used to reduce or kill unwanted plants and pests. Sources include agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and commercial and residential properties.

**Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including: How Litchfield is protecting your drinking water source(s); Nearby threats to your drinking water sources; How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed. Find your source water assessment at Source Water Assessments ([www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa/](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa/)) or call 651-201-4700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**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. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These people or their caregivers should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.**

## Questions?

Call the Experts. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791  
Minnesota Department of Health (651) 201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa)  
City of Litchfield Water Department (320) 693-7201

