

City of Fairmont 2015 Drinking Water Report

The City of Fairmont is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water by the Minnesota Department of Health for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2015. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and to heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources. This report is a review of the data compiled on potential contaminants in 2015. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to EPA and the Minnesota Department of Health Standards. Also listed are phone numbers and information about how you can acquire more information about your water system.

2015 Monitoring Results

No contaminants were detected at levels that exceeded the Federal Safe Drinking Water Standards in 2015. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table on the back page shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts in 2015. Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once per year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled by the Minnesota Department of Health in 2015. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table.

Fairmont's new Water Treatment Plant went online on September 9, 2013.



Source of Fairmont's Water

The City of Fairmont provides its water from Budd Lake, a surface water source. Water is drawn from Budd Lake through two intakes: a shallow intake and a deep intake. The Water Treatment Plant is operated to utilize the intake that has the best raw water quality. Fairmont's water is softened to 120 mg/l or 7 grains using a lime softening process. If you would like more detailed information on how Fairmont's water is treated or have any questions about the drinking water, please contact Doug Rainforth, Water/Waste Water Superintendent, at 507-235-6789.

The water provided to customers may meet drinking water standards but the Minnesota Department of Health has determined that one or more of the sources of water is potentially susceptible to contamination. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water please visit

www.health.state.mn/divs/water/swp/swa

or call

651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 and select option #5

Water Conservation Tips

Repair dripping faucets. A faucet dripping at one drop per second will waste 2700 gallons per year.

Don't let water run needlessly when you are washing dishes, shaving, or brushing your teeth.

Water lawns before 8 AM and after 8 PM. At any other time during the day, most of the water you are applying will be lost to evaporation.

For more tips, visit: www.fairmont.org.



Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline

1-800-426-4791

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 for 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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline by calling 1-800-426-4791.

2015 TREATED WATER QUALITY ROUNDUP

CONTAMINANT (UNITS)	MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL	MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL	FAIRMONT'S WATER 2015 AVERAGE	FAIRMONT'S WATER 2015 RANGE	SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
REGULATED CONTAMINANTS					
FLUORIDE (PPM)	4	4	1.13	0.46 - 0.82	STATE OF MINNESOTA REQUIRES ALL MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEMS TO ADD FLUORIDE TO THE DRINKING WATER TO PROMOTE STRONG TEETH; EROSION OF NATURAL DEPOSITS; DISCHARGE FROM FERTILIZER AND ALUMINUM FACTORIES
NITRATE (PPM)	10.4	10.4	0.5	N/A - 0.5	EROSION OF NATURAL DEPOSITS; RUNOFF FROM FERTILIZER USE; LEACHING FROM SEPTIC TANKS, SEWAGE
CHLORINE (PPM)	MRDLG OF 4	MRDL OF 4	2.86 *****	1.2 - 2.86 ****	WATER ADDITIVE USED TO CONTROL MICROBES
TURBIDITY (NTU)	NA*	TT	98%**	0.31***	SOIL RUNOFF
MERCURY (INORGANIC) (PPB)	2	2	0.11	N/A	EROSION OF NATURAL DEPOSITS; DISCHARGE FROM REFINERIES AND FACTORIES; RUNOFF FROM LANDFILLS; RUNOFF FROM CROPLAND
TTHM (TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES) (PPB)	0	80	41.78	6.7 - 52.6	BY-PRODUCT OF DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION
HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) (PPB)	0	60	34.18	7.4 - 44.3	BY-PRODUCT OF DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION

	UNIT	% REMOVAL REQUIRED	% REMOVAL ACHIEVED	# OF QUARTERS OUT OF COMPLIANCE	
TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON	% REMOVED	25 - 30 %	32.6 - 76.5%	0	NATURALLY PRESENT IN THE ENVIRONMENT

REGULATED AT THE CUSTOMERS TAP		ACTION LEVEL	90TH% LEVEL	# OF SITES OVER AL	
LEAD (PPB)*****	0	15	2.6	1 OUT OF 30	CORROSION OF HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING SYSTEMS; EROSION OF NATURAL DEPOSITS
COPPER (PPB)	1.3	1.3	.06	0 OUT OF 30	

* TURBIDITY IS A MEASURE OF THE CLARITY OF THE WATER. WE MONITOR IT BECAUSE IT IS A GOOD INDICATOR OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR FILTRATION SYSTEM. TURBIDITY HAS NO HEALTH EFFECTS. HOWEVER, TURBIDITY CAN INTERFERE WITH DISINFECTION AND PROVIDE A MEDIUM FOR MICROBIAL GROWTH. **LOWEST MONTHLY PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES MEETING THE TURBIDITY LIMITS. ***HIGHEST SINGLE MEASUREMENT. ****HIGHEST AND LOWEST MONTHLY AVERAGE. *****HIGHEST QUARTERLY AVERAGE. NTU-NEPHELOMETRIC TURBIDITY UNIT. USED TO MEASURE CLARITY IN DRINKING WATER.

*****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. CITY OF FAIRMONT 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 COOKING OR DRINKING. 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 AT 800-426-4791 OR AT THE EPA WEBSITE <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. TT-TREATMENT TECHNIQUE: A REQUIRED PROCESS INTENDED TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF A CONTAMINANT IN DRINKING WATER.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS ON THE TABLE : 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 allows for a margin of safety. MRDLG-Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. MRDL-Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. 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 PPM-Parts Per Million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l). PPB-Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (ug/l). AL-Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment of other requirements which the water system must follow. 90th Percentile Level - This is the value obtained after disregarding 10% of the samples taken that had the highest levels. For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10% of the samples taken. N/A - Not applicable (does not apply).