

## How Much Do You Know About Bottled Water?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which 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 must provide the same protection for public health.

When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably expect to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk.

## Are You Taking Responsibility for Your Watering?

If you have an automatic system, are the heads spraying in the right direction? Are the sprinklers in proper working order? Is the timing set correctly or are you watering the street? Do you know how many inches of water your turf really needs? Do you know how many minutes it takes to get to that level of water?

**NOBODY LIKES WATER IN THE SIDEWALK OR STREET, PLEASE WATER RESPONSIBLY.**

## Wise Watering Tip

Remember watering efficiently saves you money. Watering before 10:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m. insures that all water that you use to water will go on the grass and not lost due to evaporation. Watering used during the heat of the day has about a 50% evaporation rate.

## Ongoing Efforts

Stoughton Municipal Utilities is replacing water mains in Lynn Street during the 2004 construction season. Replacing undersized water mains and eliminating dead end mains is an integral part of our 20-year Capital Projects Program. Learn more about our service to our neighbors at [www.stoughtonutilities.com](http://www.stoughtonutilities.com)

## Did You Know?

Your Water Utility System Division is on call 24 hours a day and maintains.....

5 Wells

1 400,000 gallon ground storage facility

2 Elevated Towers with 600,000 gallons of capacity

4,567 Water Meters

533 Fire Hydrants

906 Water Valves

57.57 Miles of Water Mains

603 Water samples per year taken for testing

Annual system demand 481,552 million gallons

maximum peak day 1.86 million gallons

daily avg demand 1.32 million gallons

## Working for You

The City of Stoughton Municipal Water Utility is an integral part of the Stoughton Municipal Utilities, municipally owned directly by the City of Stoughton and funded entirely by the water rates.

The Stoughton Municipal Water Utility is governed by the Utilities Committee and the City Council.

## Water Supply Security

While our mission has always been and continues to be to deliver a safe and dependable supply of drinking water to our customers, the challenges inherent in achieving that mission have expanded to include security. The nation's drinking water supply continues to be a high profile, critical infrastructure that must be guarded and protected against intentional acts aimed to substantially disrupt the ability of the system to provide a safe and reliable supply of drinking water.

The Stoughton Municipal Utilities has put in place numerous safeguards and emergency response plans to ensure the drinking water supply is safe for our citizens. These safeguards may not be apparent to you and the actual plans will not be disclosed in an effort to protect the confidentiality of the plans, but please be assured we are using all the tools available to keep our water safe. We continue to improve security at our water supply facilities and will do so as new technology and information unfolds.

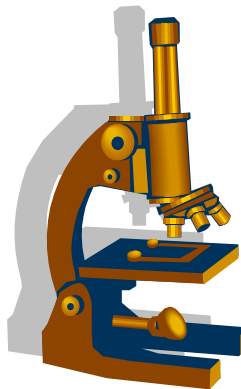


## For more information

**Customer Service Information.....873-3379**  
**Ext. 110 or [www.stoughtonutilities.com](http://www.stoughtonutilities.com)**

- Open new or transfer accounts
- Billing inquiries
- Water conservation
- Water, sewer and electric rates
- Automatic payment plans
- Credit card payments

# City of Stoughton 2003 Drinking Water Quality Report



## INTRODUCTION

The Stoughton Municipal Water Utility is proud to report that our drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and local standards set for quality and safety.

Please keep in mind that many of our water quality professionals and their families live in the same neighborhoods you do. When we turn on the tap we expect the same thing you expect—a reliable supply of high-quality drinking water.

You may remember learning about the water cycle when you were in school. If you understand the water cycle, then you understand we are using the same water that dinosaurs used when they roamed the earth millions of years ago. We can never destroy water, we can only change its form. However, we should use it wisely. Water purification is expensive and pumping water through the pipes consumes a large amount of electrical energy. The dirtier the water is, the more expensive it is to clean, and this explains why the wastewater portion of your bill is more expensive than the water portion.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact:

Mr. Robert Kardasz P.E., Director of Utilities  
608) 873-3379 Ext. 123

[bkardasz@stoughtonutilities.com](mailto:bkardasz@stoughtonutilities.com)

## DISCUSSION

Again, please note that the Stoughton Municipal Water Utility's drinking water complies with all State and Federal regulations, as shown in Table A "All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or are man made. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials."

All 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at MCL level for a lifetime to have one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## WATER QUALITY TESTING/RESULTS

The Stoughton Municipal Water Utility routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water in accordance with State and Federal laws. The following Table A shows the results of our monitoring for the period from January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2003 (unless otherwise noted). Please note that the only water parameter that had a detect is listed. If you desire to see the other constituents that were tested for, but did not have any detects, please contact the Stoughton Municipal Water Utility. In this table, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions:

- **Parts per million** (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years, or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion** (ppb) or Micrograms per liter – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Picocuries per liter** (pCi/l) – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **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** – the "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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** – the "Goal" (MCLG) is 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

**Table A****Radioactive Contaminates**

Substance	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Range	Likely Source of Substance
<b>Alpha Emitters</b>	15	0	10.0	1.3-10.0	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Combined Radium</b>	5	0	4.1	2.5-4.1	Erosion of natural deposits

**Inorganic Contaminates**

Substance	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Range	Likely Source of Substance
<b>Barium</b>	2	2	0.31	.020-.031	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Copper</b>	AL=1.3	1.3	.106	.106	Corrosion of household plumbing system
<b>Fluoride</b>	4	4	1.2	.1-1.3	Water additive promoting strong teeth
<b>Lead</b>	AL=15	0	11.2	11.2	Corrosion of household plumbing system
<b>Nitrate</b>	10	10	2.53	nd-5.69	Runoff from fertilizers
<b>Sodium</b>	N/A	N/A	8.70	2.50-8.70	N/A
<b>Chromium</b>	100	100	1	nd-1	Erosion of natural deposits

**Unregulated Contaminates**

Substance	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Range	Likely Source of Substance
<b>Sulfate</b>	n/a	n/a	30.80	14.30-30.80	N/A

**Volatile Organic Contaminates**

Substance	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Range	Likely Source of Substance
<b>THM (ppb)</b>	100	0	0	-	By-product of drinking water chlorination