

# 2023 Consumer Confidence Report

## CEDAR FALLS UTILITIES

Water quality is our primary commitment at Cedar Falls Utilities. We believe that the best way to demonstrate that your drinking water is safe and reliable is to provide you with the facts.

The 2022 *Drinking Water Quality Report* on the second page of this publication lists the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water quality regulations and the level of contaminants detected in our water last year.

If you want to learn more or if you have questions, comments, or suggestions, call us or stop in for a visit. Gas and Water Operations' office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. You may also obtain more information about Cedar Falls Utilities by visiting our website at [www.cfu.net](http://www.cfu.net).

## HOW WE TREAT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The treatment process begins at each of our eight well sites where water is pumped from the Silurian-Devonian aquifer. The water obtained is of such high quality that only chlorine and fluoride are added at the well sites. Chlorine is added at all eight wells to ensure that your water is free from disease-causing organisms as it travels through the distribution system to your drinking water tap. Fluoride is added to the natural fluoride level at four wells to promote dental health. Water quality monitoring also begins at each well site and continues at various points in the water distribution system. This distribution system, consisting of 214 miles of water main, delivers the water to your home or business and provides fire protection for you and your family.



## WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

The Cedar Falls water supply consists of eight groundwater wells ranging in depth from 147' to 275' that draw water from the Silurian-Devonian aquifer. An aquifer is a geologic formation capable of yielding enough water to supply a well or spring. The Silurian-Devonian aquifer is an aquifer covered with clay soils. The aquifer yields large volumes of high-quality water.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has completed a detailed evaluation of this water source and has determined the Silurian-Devonian aquifer to be highly susceptible to contamination because of the characteristics of the aquifer. Overlying materials provide little protection from contamination at the land surface. The Silurian-Devonian aquifer wells are highly susceptible to surface contamination, such as leaking underground storage tanks, contaminant spills and excess fertilizer application.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency required cities our size to take samples in 2001 and 2002 in an assessment monitoring phase for the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). None of the 24 contaminants were detected in the Cedar Falls Water supply. In 2008, a second round of assessment monitoring was required for an additional 10 contaminants. None of these 10 contaminants were detected in the Cedar Falls water supply. A third round of assessment monitoring was required in 2014. Of the 21 contaminants in this assessment, 6 were detected in the parts per billion range. The fourth round of UCMR sampling was completed in 2018. Of the 20 additional contaminants, 5 were detected in the parts per billion range. The EPA will review the findings of this nationwide assessment to determine if any new regulations are needed. Additional information about the unregulated contaminants is available from the Cedar Falls Utilities Gas & Water Operations Department.

## QUALITY TAP WATER

Cedar Falls Utilities (CFU) continues to work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We continue to partner with our customers to protect and conserve our water sources and to provide an economical, safe, and dependable supply of water now and into the future. We are happy to report that our water surpasses all federal and state water quality standards and that our water rates continue to be among the lowest in Iowa.

Water operators take daily, weekly, monthly, and annual water tests to confirm the safety and quality of water delivered to our customers. Automated continuous chlorine monitoring equipment is in operation at well houses, booster stations, and other water distribution system locations. These monitors sample the water once every 2 ½ minutes to confirm disinfection levels in the water system.

Over 1.42 billion gallons of water were pumped to residents and businesses in Cedar Falls in 2022, an average of 3.89 million gallons per day. Peak water usage occurred on August 1st when 7.01 million gallons were pumped. Residential customers in Cedar Falls used an average of 4,171 gallons of water per month at a cost of \$23.71, or 1.94 gallons for one cent.

In 2022, 7,720 feet of new water mains and 31 hydrants were installed in the West Viking Industrial Park and in Wild Horse 5th and 6th Additions. Water system replacements included 3,600 feet of water main and 9 fire hydrants in connection with City street reconstruction projects on 18th St, Iowa St, Olive St, E 4th St, Cyber Lane, Cedar Heights Dr, and Greenhill & S Main St. Hydrant flushing, inspection, and system valve turning took place throughout the distribution system.

These and other activities were all part of our ongoing operations and system maintenance to provide the safe, clean drinking water that our customers enjoy.



For more information on this *Consumer Confidence Report* or other water quality, please contact:

### Cedar Falls Utilities Gas & Water Operations

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### Public meeting information:

The Municipal Water Utility Board of Trustees for the City of Cedar Falls, Iowa meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Board meetings are open to the public and begin at 2:00 p.m. at Cedar Falls Utilities on Utility Parkway. The five members of the Board are appointed to staggered six-year terms by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Inquiries about public participation and policy decisions may also be directed to:

### CFU Board of Trustees

P.O. Box 769  
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613  
Phone: (319) 268-5351  
Fax: (319) 266-8158  
E-mail: [cfu@cfunet.net](mailto:cfu@cfunet.net)



EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline  
1-800-426-4791  
<http://water.epa.gov/drink>

AWWA Safe Drinking Water Website  
[www.drinktap.org](http://www.drinktap.org)

## DRINKING WATER AND HEALTH INFORMATION FROM THE EPA

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

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 from their health care providers about drinking water. The EPA and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

Nitrate levels in drinking water above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants under six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Many customers wish to know if bottled water is safer than regular tap water. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Any bottled water labeled "drinking water" has to meet EPA's drinking water regulations. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of a contaminant does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by contacting the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

# 2022 Water Quality Results - Cedar Falls Utilities

SUBSTANCE	YEAR TESTED	VIOLATION YES/NO	HIGHEST LEVEL ALLOWED (MCL)	HIGHEST DETECTED LEVEL	UTILITY RANGE	EPA MCLG (EPA GOAL)	SOURCES OF CONTAMINANT
<b>MICROORGANISMS</b>							
Total Coliform Bacteria	2022	No	TT	1 sample positive (1) RTCR	0-1	TT	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water.
<b>INORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>							
Arsenic (µg/L)	2021	No	10	2.20	ND-2.20	0	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronic production wastes.
Barium (mg/L)	2021	No	2	0.193	0.0873-0.193	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (mg/L)	2021	No	4	0.9	0.3-0.9	4	Additive to promote strong teeth: discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate [as N] (mg/L)	2022	No	10	9.5 (2)	<0.1-9.5	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium (µg/L)	2021	No	50	2.30	ND-2.30	50	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; discharge from mines.
Sodium (mg/L)	2022	No	N/A	15.9	5.75-15.9	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.
Sulfate (mg/L)	2021	No	N/A	55.4	19.6-55.4	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>RADIONUCLIDES</b>							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	2021	No	15	2.9	ND-2.9	0	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2021	No	5	1.2	ND-1.2	0	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>DISINFECTANT</b>							
Chlorine (mg/L)	2022	No	4.0	1.0 RAA	0.51-1.44	4.0	Water additive to control microbes.
<b>DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes (µg/L)	2022	No	80	10.0 LRAA	10.0-10.0	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
<b>SUBSTANCE REGULATED AT CUSTOMER TAP</b>							
	YEAR TESTED	VIOLATION YES/NO	ACTION LEVEL	90th PERCENTILE	UTILITY RANGE	EPA MCLG (EPA GOAL)	SOURCES OF CONTAMINANT
Copper (mg/L)	2022	No	1.3	0.224	0.0287-0.768	1.3	Corrosion of home plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (µg/L)	2022	No	15	1.60	ND-3.0	0	Corrosion of home plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.

**NOTE:** The EPA requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those listed above are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water. For a complete list, contact Cedar Falls Utilities.

(1) One positive sample in 40 monthly distribution samples

(2) Nitrate level detected in Well #3 ranged from 7.4-9.5 mg/L

## Definitions

**Action Level (AL)**-The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.

**Inorganic Contaminant**-Such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally or come from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

**LRAA**-Locational Running Annual Average

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**-The highest level of a contaminant 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 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 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.

**Microbiological Contaminants**-Very small organisms, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

**N/A**-Not applicable

**ND**-Not detected at testing limit.

**NTU**-Nephelometric Turbidity Units.

**Organic Contaminants**-Includes synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are industrial and petroleum process byproducts and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

**pCi/L**-Picouries per liter

**ppb**-Parts of contaminant per billion parts of water. One part per billion (ppb) is equivalent to a single penny in ten million dollars. Ppb may also be referred to as **ug/L** or micrograms per liter.

**ppm**-Parts of contaminant per million parts of water. One part per million (ppm) is equivalent to a single penny in ten thousand dollars. Ppm may also be referred to as **mg/L** or milligrams per liter.

**Pesticides and Herbicides**-May come from agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential use.

**RAA**-Running Annual Average.

**RTCR**-Revised Total Coliform Rule

**Radioactive Contaminants**-Occur naturally or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

**TOC**-Total organic carbon in untreated water.

**Treatment Technique (TT)**-A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.

## Additional Information

**Chlorine Disinfectant**-The most common drinking water treatment is disinfection. Disinfection is considered to be the primary mechanism to kill bacteria and other germs to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases. Chlorine is the most widely used disinfectant. Disinfectants combine with organic and inorganic matter present in water to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts. The EPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfectants and disinfection byproducts in drinking water. The water quality chart in this report reflects these standards and the utility's ability to meet those standards.

**Fluoride**-Some fluoride is naturally present in the source water. The amount is carefully monitored every day so optimum concentration is maintained. If you have concerns about fluoride, you should discuss this topic with your dentist and doctor.

**Nitrate**-Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants under 6 months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water may cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agriculture activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your healthcare provider.

**Lead**-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 compounds associated with service lines and home plumbing. Cedar Falls Utilities 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. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

**Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)**-Establishes a maximum contaminant level for E.coli and uses E.coli and total coliforms to initiate a "find and fix" approach to address fecal contamination that could enter into the distribution system. It requires public water systems to perform assessments to identify sanitary defects and subsequently take action to correct them.

**Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)**-Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

