



CEDAR FALLS UTILITIES  
**2026 Consumer  
Confidence Report**

**Drinking Water Quality Report**

January-December 2025 • Providing safe, reliable drinking water for the Cedar Falls community.



## Dear Cedar Falls Neighbors,

Each year, this report gives us the opportunity to share more than test results. It gives us a chance to connect with the people we serve about the water we all count on every day.

At Cedar Falls Utilities, this work is personal. Our employees are a part of this community. We take pride in that shared connection, and we take seriously the responsibility of providing water that is safe, reliable and worthy of the community we call home.

This Consumer Confidence Report includes water quality testing results and information about where your water comes from, how it is treated and monitored and the steps we take every day to maintain a dependable water supply. We are pleased to report that Cedar Falls Utilities continues to meet all federal and state drinking water standards.

This report covers testing from January through December 2025. We encourage you to take a few moments to review it and learn more about your drinking water.



**We take pride in the connection between our shared community and the water we deliver every day.**

# Quality Tap Water You Can Trust

Providing high-quality drinking water is not just our job. It is our commitment to the community we serve.

Our water team works around the clock to deliver safe, reliable water to every tap while keeping rates affordable now and into the future. We are proud to report that Cedar Falls drinking water meets or surpasses all federal and state water quality standards.

## Tested Every Step of the Way

Water quality is confirmed through a comprehensive testing and monitoring program. Certified water operators conduct daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual tests to ensure the water delivered to homes and businesses is safe and dependable.

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## Where Does My Water Come From?

Cedar Falls' drinking water begins deep underground in an aquifer. Unlike communities that rely on rivers or lakes, aquifer water is naturally protected from surface conditions.

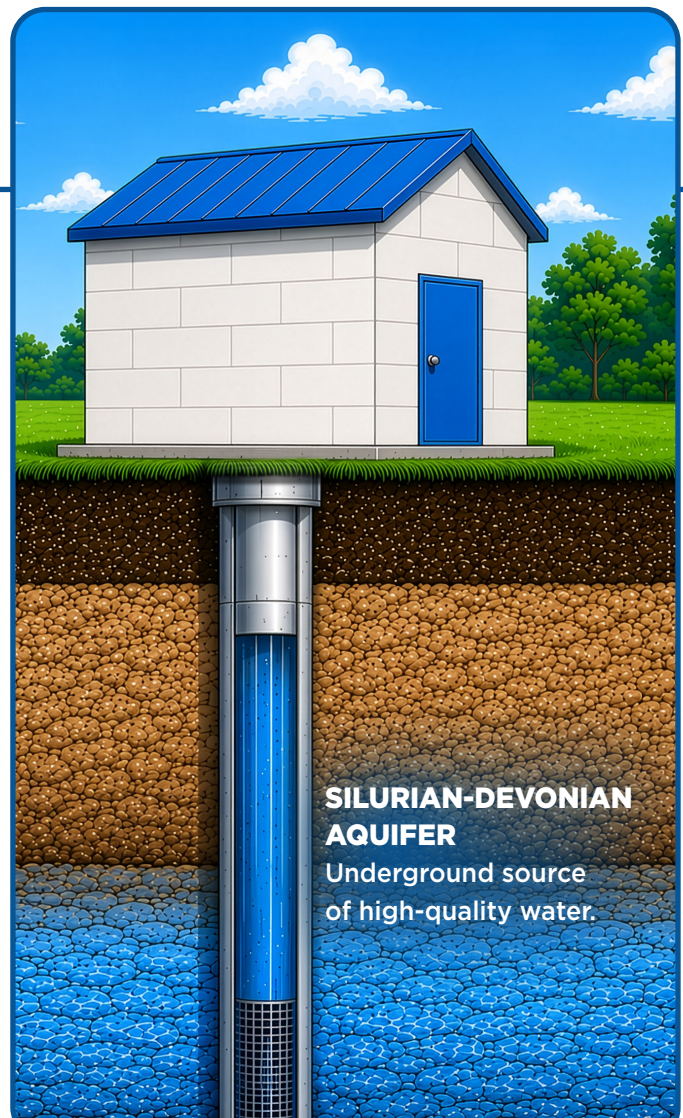
Using groundwater from an aquifer helps provide consistent water quality year-round and reduces vulnerability to seasonal changes such as flooding or drought. This protected source plays an important role in delivering reliable, high-quality drinking water to the Cedar Falls community.

## Investing in a Reliable System

Maintaining water quality also means investing in the system that delivers it. In 2025, more than 10,000 feet of water main was installed to extend services or replace aging infrastructure as part of ongoing street reconstruction projects.

Throughout the year, crews also completed hydrant flushing, valve inspections and other preventive maintenance activities across the distribution system. These efforts help protect water quality, ensure dependable service and extend the life of our infrastructure.

Together, these investments and daily practices allow CFU to deliver the safe, clean and great tasting drinking water our customers expect and trust.



# By the Numbers: Cedar Falls Water in 2025



**1.4  
BILLION**

gallons of water  
delivered to homes  
and businesses



**3.85  
MILLION**

gallons per day  
on average



**6.95  
MILLION**

gallons delivered on  
the highest use day  
September 29



**4,195  
GALLONS**

used per month  
by the average  
residential customer



**\$30.80**

average monthly  
residential  
water bill



**1.36  
GALLONS**

for every penny



These numbers reflect the scale, reliability and value of Cedar Falls' drinking water system, and the daily work required to deliver safe, high-quality water to every customer.

## How We Treat and Monitor Your Water

The treatment process begins at each of our eight well sites, where water is pumped from the Silurian-Devonian aquifer.

Because this source water is naturally high in quality, Cedar Falls Utilities uses a simple treatment process focused on disinfection and careful monitoring.

**Chlorine** is added at all eight wells to help keep water safe as it travels through the distribution system and keep it free of bacteria and other germs. Disinfection is a standard and essential part of drinking water treatment across the country. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets standards for disinfectants and for the small amounts of disinfection byproducts that can form during this process. The water quality tables in this report reflect those standards and Cedar Falls Utilities' continued compliance.

**Fluoride** is naturally present in our source water. At four of our eight wells, fluoride is added to bring levels to 0.7 parts per million, which is the level recommended for dental health by the American Dental Association, American Medical Association, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Iowa Department of Natural Resources. At these wells, fluoride levels are continuously monitored, and if levels were ever to exceed the recommended amount, the well would automatically shut down. Customers with questions or concerns about fluoride should discuss this topic with their dentist or doctor.

Water quality monitoring begins at each well site and continues at multiple points throughout the distribution system. Cedar Falls Utilities maintains 219 miles of water main that deliver safe, reliable drinking water to homes and businesses across the community and provide fire protection for Cedar Falls.



# How CFU Gets Water To You

1

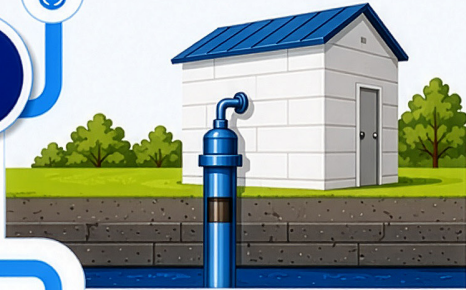


Silurian-Devonian aquifer

## 1. SOURCE: A PROTECTED AQUIFER

Cedar Falls water begins deep underground in a naturally protected aquifer, where layers of rock and soil help filter and protect the water year-round.

2



## 2. WELLS: CAREFULLY MAINTAINED

Water is pumped at 8 different municipal wells that are routinely inspected, maintained and upgraded to ensure long term reliability and water quality.



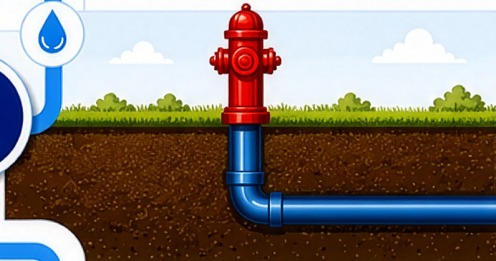
3



## 3. TREATMENT & TESTING: SIMPLE, EFFECTIVE AND CLOSELY MONITORED

Because our source water is naturally high quality, Cedar Falls uses a simple treatment process and regular testing to meet or surpass all state and federal health standards.

4



## 4. DISTRIBUTION: MAINTAINED PIPES, FLUSHED REGULARLY

Water travels through underground pipes. Seasonal hydrant flushing and routine maintenance help keep water fresh and the system working as intended.

5



## 5. STORAGE: READY WHEN YOU NEED IT

Treated water is stored in secure water towers to maintain water pressure and provide availability for everyday use and fire protection.

6



## 6. YOUR TAP: CLEAN, LOCAL, TRUSTED

The result is clean, great-tasting water delivered straight to your tap, locally sourced and carefully managed by Cedar Falls Utilities.



# Top 10 Questions

## Customers Ask About Their Drinking Water

### 1) Is my tap water safe to drink?

Yes. Your water meets state and federal drinking water standards. We regularly test and monitor water quality, and the results are included in this report.

### 2) Where does my water come from?

Cedar Falls' drinking water comes from an underground aquifer. Using groundwater from an aquifer helps protect water quality and provides a reliable, consistent supply year-round.

### 3) Why does water sometimes look, taste or smell different?

Taste, smell or appearance can change slightly because of natural minerals or routine system maintenance such as hydrant flushing. These changes are usually temporary and do not affect water safety. If you have questions about the taste, smell or appearance of your water, please call CFU Water Services at (319) 268-5332.

### 4) Do I need a water filter or treatment system?

A water filter is not required for Cedar Falls tap water. Some people choose filters to improve taste or for added peace of mind. If you use one, look for products certified for the specific concern and follow filter replacement instructions.

### 5) Is my water hard, and what does that mean?

Yes, our water is considered hard, which means it contains natural minerals like calcium and magnesium. Hard water is safe to drink,

but it can leave spots on dishes or scale in appliances. Some customers choose water softeners for household convenience.

### 6) How often is my water tested?

Water is tested regularly based on state and federal requirements. Some items are monitored more frequently than others and results are included in this report.

### 7) Is bottled water safer than my tap water?

No. Cedar Falls Utilities' tap water is tested regularly and must meet state and federal drinking water standards. Bottled water is regulated differently and is not necessarily safer.

### 8) Why have nitrates been in the news?

Nitrate is often discussed because levels can vary by water source and region. Unlike communities that must rely on rivers, Cedar Falls Utilities draws water from an aquifer and carefully manages well operations to provide the cleanest, lowest nitrate water to our community.

Wells with lower nitrate levels are generally operated as primary wells, while wells with more moderate nitrate levels are reserved for backup use or activated during times of extremely dry weather. In 2025, 87% of the total water volume produced averaged 1.9 parts per million (ppm), with a maximum level of 3.3 ppm, well below the EPA limit of 10 ppm.

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## Top 10 Questions Customers Ask About Their Drinking Water (Continued)

### 9) How do I know if there is lead in my pipes or water?

Lead in drinking water usually comes from older pipes or plumbing inside some homes, not from the water source. The only way to know for sure is through testing. In 2025, we completed an EPA required Water Service Line

Inventory and we're happy to report that our system contains no lead service lines.

### 10) Where can I get additional information or ask questions?

For more information about water quality or this report, please contact Cedar Falls Utilities Water Operations at (319) 268-5330.

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## Definitions

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

**Contaminant:** Any physical, chemical, biological or radiological substance or matter in water.

**Herbicide:** Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

**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 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.

**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.

**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:** Picocuries 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.

**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.

**ppt:** Parts of contaminant per trillion parts of water. One part per trillion (ppt) is equivalent to a single penny in ten billion dollars. Ppt may also be referred to as ng/L or nanograms per liter.

**Pesticide:** Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest.

**RAA:** Running Annual Average.

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

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

# 2025 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>Inorganic Chemicals</b>							
Arsenic (ppb)	2021	No	10	2.20	ND-2.20	0	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronic production waste
Barium (ppm)	2021	No	2	0.193	0.0873-0.193	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	No	4	0.86	0.3-0.86	4	Additive to promote strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as N] (ppm)	2025	No	10	9.5	<0.1-9.5	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2021	No	50	2.30	ND-2.30	50	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; discharge from mines
Sodium (ppm)	2025	No	N/A	15.6	5.3-15.6	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	2021	No	N/A	55.4	19.6-55.4	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Organic Chemicals</b>							
Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb)	2023	No	6	1.10	ND-1.10	0	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
<b>Radionuclides</b>							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	2021	No	15	2.9	ND-2.9	0	Erosion of natural deposits

*Continued on next page.*

## 2025 Water Quality Results *(continued)*

Substance	Year Tested	Violation Yes/No	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Highest Detected Level	Utility Range	EPA MCLG (EPA Goal)	Sources of Contaminant
<b>Radionuclides</b>							
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2021	No	5	1.2	ND-1.2	0	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfectant</b>							
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	No	4.0	1.1 RAA	0.48-1.39	4.0	Water additive to control microbes
<b>Disinfectant Byproducts</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2025	No	80	8.00 LRAA	8 - 8	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2025	No	60	6.00 LRAA	6 - 6	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Substance Regulated at Customer Tap</b>							
Substance Regulated at Customer Tap	Year Tested	Violation Yes/No	Action Level	90th Percentile	Utility Range	EPA MCLG (EPA Goal)	Sources of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	2025	No	1.3	0.3	0.0297-0.937	1.3	Corrosion of home plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2025	No	15	1.40	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.

<b>Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR5)</b>			
Compound	Highest Detected Level	Utility Range	Sources of Contaminant
PFOA (ppt)	1.10	ND-1.10	Food packaging; Non-stick and stain-resistant consumer products; Aqueous fire-fighting foams; Cosmetics; Industrial processes
PFOS (ppt)	0.92	ND-0.92	

Additional information about the unregulated contaminants is available from the Cedar Falls Utilities Water Operations Department.

# Additional Required Health and Compliance Statements

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than others. 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. 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.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or 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. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the

amount of certain contaminants in water provided in public water systems. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's 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.

In 2025, the EPA required a Water Service Line Inventory which was prepared and submitted. No lead service lines were found during the extensive research. Cedar Falls has successfully completed its lead service line inventory in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's requirements outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations 40 CFR 141.84(a) (9)). To determine the water service materials throughout Cedar Falls, Cedar Falls Utilities leveraged multiple resources, including the 1988 Lead Ban, service card records, construction field data, distribution maps, construction

oversight, plumbing codes, field inspections and statistical analysis.

We are pleased to report that our system contains no lead service lines, galvanized lines requiring replacement or any unknown materials that may contain 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).



## Additional Required Health and Compliance Statements *(continued)*

An aquifer is a geological formation capable of yielding enough water to supply a well or spring. The Silurian-Devonian aquifer is an aquifer that consists of the thick succession of carbonate rocks, i.e., limestones and dolostones, of Devonian and Silurian age. Although several carbonate formations that make up the aquifer are distinct geologic entities, it is common practice to treat them as one hydrologic unit and is referred to as the Silurian-Devonian aquifer.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) completed a detailed evaluation of the water source in 2012 and determined the Silurian-Devonian aquifer in certain areas can be highly susceptible to contamination because of the characteristics of the aquifer. Overlying materials may provide little protection in some areas from contamination such as leaking underground storage tanks, contaminant spills and excess fertilizer application at the land surface. Because of this susceptibility, Cedar Falls Utilities closely monitors water quality and manages well operations to ensure drinking water continues to meet all health standards.

For more information, contact Cedar Falls Utilities Water Operations at 319-268-5332.





For more information about this Consumer Confidence Report or Cedar Falls drinking water, please contact Cedar Falls Utilities Water Operations using the information below. Board meetings and public participation opportunities are open to the public and listed here in accordance with state and federal requirements.

**Cedar Falls Utilities  
Water Operations**

**Jerald Lukensmeyer**

Phone: (319) 268-5330

Fax: (319) 266-8158

E-mail: [Jerald.Lukensmeyer@cfunet.net](mailto:Jerald.Lukensmeyer@cfunet.net)

**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)

