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City of Baxter

2023 Consumer Confidence Report

The Safety of Your Water

The City of Baxter is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2023. Baxter works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets state and federal requirements. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

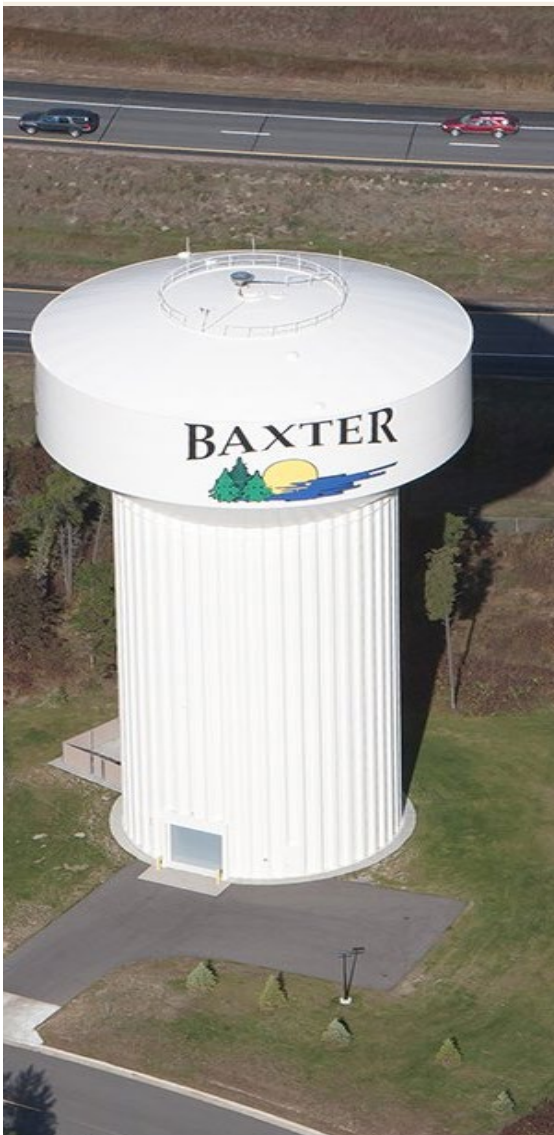
We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's webpage [Basics of Monitoring and Testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/sampling/html.) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/sampling/html.>)

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.

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 the 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.



Baxter's Water Supply: Source of Water

The City of Baxter provides drinking water to its residents from the following groundwater sources:

- *Four wells ranging from 121 – 136 feet deep, that draw water from the Quaternary Water Table aquifer.*
- *In the event of an emergency, the City of Baxter purchases treated water from the City of Brainerd, which obtains its water from the Quaternary Water Table aquifer.*



The Minnesota Department of Health has made a determination as to how vulnerable our systems' source(s) of water may be to future incidents.

If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 612-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours.

Also, you can view it online at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

Important Information for you to better understand this report:

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 or 1-800-818-9318 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.

Definitions:

Key to abbreviations:

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

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency.

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.

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 allow 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 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.

NA (Not applicable): Does not apply.

ppt (parts per trillion): One part per trillion is like one drop in one trillion drops of water, or about one drop in an Olympic sized swimming pool. ppt is the same as nanograms per liter (ng/l).

ppb (parts per billion): One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/l}$).

ppm (parts per million): One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

PWSID: Public water system identification.

Results of 2023 Water Quality Analyses: Monitoring Results – Regulated Substances

LEAD AND COPPER – TESTED AT CUSTOMER TAPS.						
Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Action Level	90% of Results Were Less Than	Number of Homes with High Levels	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead (12.01.22)	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	<2 ppb	0 out of 20	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper (12.01.22)	0 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0.83 ppm	0 out of 20	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.

INORGANIC & ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water.						
Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	90% of Results Were Less Than	Number of Homes with High Levels	Violation	Typical Sources
Barium	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.09 ppm	N/A	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposit.

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. In the past year, your drinking water was tested for unregulated contaminants as part of the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>). The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR 5) Data finder allows people to easily search for, summarize, and download the available UCMR 5 analytical results (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder>).

CONTAMINANTS RELATED TO DISINFECTION – TESTED IN DRINKING WATER						
Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	EPA's Limit (MRDL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	N/A	80 ppb	66.4 ppb	43.80 – 71.00 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	N/A	60 ppb	45.8 ppb	29.00 – 50.60 ppb	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Chlorine	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	1.03 ppm	0.80 – 1.21 ppm	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Total HAA refers to HAA5

OTHER SUBSTANCES – TESTED IN DRINKING WATER						
Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCL)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.6 ppm	0.32 – 0.56 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.

Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (If Applicable):

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 (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/fluoride.html>).

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 an optimal concentration 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.

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. Baxter provides high quality drinking water, but it cannot control the plumbing materials used in private buildings. Read below 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.mprnews.org/story/2016/06/24/npr-find-lead-pipes-in-your-home) (<https://www.mprnews.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 Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to get a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample: [Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program](https://apps.health.state.mn.us/eldo/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam) (<https://apps.health.state.mn.us/eldo/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/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/poulead.html) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/poulead.html>)

Learn more:

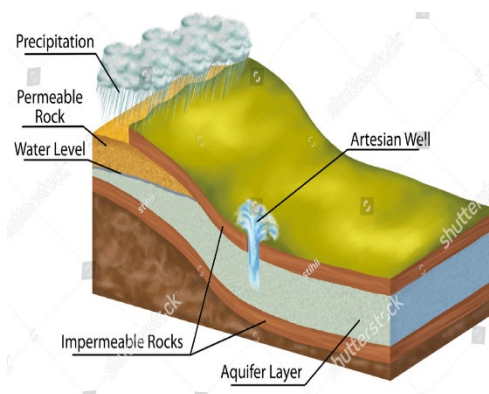
- Visit [Lead in Drinking Water](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/contaminants/lead.html#Protect) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/contaminants/lead.html#Protect>)
- Visit [Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead) (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>)
- 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 [Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/lead/sources.html) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/lead/sources.html>).

Compliance with National Primary Drinking

Water Regulations:

Drinking Water Sources:

Minnesota's primary drinking water are groundwater and surface water. Groundwater is the water found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land.



Groundwater supplies 75 percent of the Minnesota's drinking water. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25% 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.*

Protecting Our Area's Water Resources:

Help identify land uses and potential sources of contamination on your property (wells, tanks, septic systems, hazardous wastes, etc.)

Make sure any potential sources of contaminations under your control meet local, state and federal regulations.

Seal unused wells on your property, according to Minnesota Well Code. See the Minnesota Department of Health website for more information. Owners of active wells should refer to the Well Owner's Handbook for proper construction, maintenance and sampling information.

Use hazardous products only as directed and dispose of them properly when no longer needed. Visit the Crow Wing County website for information on handling and disposal of wastes.

Practice proper turf management techniques and avoid over-fertilization of your lawns or gardens. Visit the Minnesota Department of Agriculture website for more information.

Report spills or illegal dumping of hazardous wastes, fuels, or chemicals to law enforcement.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How Baxter 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](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa/) (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa/) or call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

How You Can Help Keep Water Clean

Reduce Pollution to Lakes and Rivers

Storm water runoff is rainwater that does not infiltrate into the ground, but instead runs off impervious areas (streets, sidewalks, parking lots) and into lakes, rivers and wetlands. It is the leading causes of water pollution in the United States, carrying grease, oil, bacteria, nutrients, sediment and other contaminants straight into our waters. Below are ways you can reduce storm water, and/or the pollutants it might come in contact with.

1. Mulch or Compost Leaves and Grass Clippings!

Grass clipping and leaves located on impervious surfaces such as streets, driveways, and sidewalks, wash away with storm water runoff into nearby lakes, rivers and wetlands via storm drains. They add excess nutrients to the water which results in algae blooms! Help clean streets of grass clippings and leaves and reduce nutrients in lakes. Compost grass clippings and leaves, thus keeping nutrients out of waters AND reduce the need for lawn fertilizers



The depositing of garbage or refuse on a public right-of-way or on adjacent property (i.e. blowing grass clippings into the street.)

Is a violation of City Ordinance 8-5-11: B.1. Illicit Discharge Prohibition and may result in a fine.

2. Keep Storm Drains Clean!

Storm drains drain to waters without treatment! In addition to keeping them free of leaves and grass clippings, we must also prevent debris, trash and hazardous chemicals (paint, herbicides) from getting into them and washing into lakes and rivers.

3. Use Phosphorus FREE fertilizers

If you must use fertilizers on your lawn and garden use phosphorus free. Lawn fertilizers carrying phosphorus have been banned in MN, but garden fertilizers still contain it. Phosphorus washes into streams and lakes with storm water runoff and causes algae blooms. Sweep excess fertilizers away from sidewalks, driveways, streets, and storm drains when finished using and remember the best methods for green lawns are to use mulch and compost and reduce mowing frequency! [Go Phosphorus Free!](#)

4. Build a Rain garden

Rain gardens reduce storm water runoff and associated pollutants and help prevent flooding. A rain garden is a shallow depression garden designed to catch and infiltrate storm water runoff. The plants absorb and breakdown nutrients and pollutants and attract many types of wildlife (birds and butterflies) to your yard increasing the beauty and aesthetics of your yard.

5. Get a Rain barrel

Another method for reducing storm water runoff is to get a rain barrel. Rain barrels catch runoff from your roof, which can later be used to water gardens. Using rainwater helps conserve water and is better for your plants as it does not contain chlorides.

6. Redirect Your Gutter

If you don't wish to get a rain barrel, you can still redirect your gutters so the water flows onto grass and gardens instead of hard surfaces that go to storm drains.

7. Fix Car Leaks!

Those drips from motor oil, brake fluid, anti-freeze and other liquids from cars, get washed into our waters so fix them quickly to prevent pollution.

8. Don't Dump Hazardous Materials

As said before, drains lead to water bodies. Although the drain from your sinks and bathrooms go to water treatment facilities before entering lakes and rivers, these treatment facilities do not have the capability of removing every contaminant from the water. Thus, READ LABELS on your household products to see if they are harmful and how to properly dispose of them. The Crow Wing County Landfill takes many hazardous household materials. Dumping materials down the drain or on soil leaks these chemicals to surface and groundwater.

9. Keep or Restore Buffers and Natural Shorelines!

If you own shoreline property, you can greatly improve the water quality simply by leaving a buffer strip of native vegetation near the water. The vegetation acts as a filter, capturing and containing pollutants that otherwise would have ended up in the water. It also serves as habitat for wildlife such as migrating birds. Many people mow these natural shorelines down, but that leads to water pollution and erosion and loss of property.

10. Remove Pet Waste

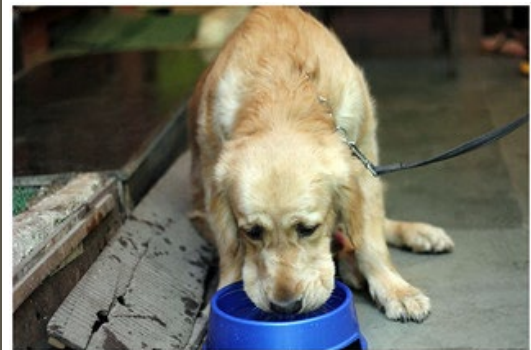
Although loveable and furry, pets produce waste that can get washed off our lawns and parks and into our waters, and waste carries bacteria. Picking up pet waste is a huge and simple step towards cleaner and healthier waters. You can even get compostable biobags for picking up pet waste with [Biobags!](#) These bags breakdown and can be buried, compost them in your yard away from potential rain and it can act as a fertilizer for your lawn.

Do your part to make your dog a friend of our fellow walkers, storm water facilities,
and the environment!



Question Welcome

If you have any questions about Baxter's drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water; please contact the Public Works Department at 454-5115, or you may email questions or comments to publicworks@baxtermn.gov.



OFTEN ASKED QUESTIONS:

Water Hardness:

The average water hardness is 13 grains/gallon.

Water Pressure:

The average pressure is 55 PSI.

UTILITY BILLING QUESTIONS:

If you have questions about your monthly utility bill, please call:

**Utility Billing Department
(218) 454-5121**

Questions or comments may be emailed to ub@baxtermn.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DRINKING WATER:

Minnesota Department of Health
– www.health.state.mn.us

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – www.epa.gov/drink