

2011 Finished Water Quality Contaminant Table for Consumer Confidence Report

The table below shows the regulated contaminants detected in Milwaukee's drinking water during 2011. All are below levels allowed by state and federal laws. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (Maximum Contaminant Level, or MCL), the ideal goals for public health (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or MCLG), the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, and footnotes explaining the findings and units of measurement. The presence of a substance in drinking water does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Certain quantities of some substances are essential to good health, but excessive quantities can be hazardous. A list of the hundreds of other compounds tested for but not detected in the Milwaukee water quality monitoring program can be found at www.milwaukee.gov/water/about/WaterQuality.htm; scroll down to Resource Links, choose 2010 Undetected Chemical Contaminants.

Substance	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Median Value	Highest Level Detected	Source(s) of Contaminant
Aluminum	0.2 mg/L	NR	0.04 mg/L	0.11 mg/L	Water treatment additive; Natural deposits
Barium	2 mg/L	2 mg/L	0.02 mg/L	0.02 mg/L	Natural deposits
Bromate	10 µg/L	10 µg/L (RAA)	< 5 µg/L (RAA)	NR	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine, total	4 mg/L	4 mg/L	1.36 mg/L	1.89 mg/L	Residual of drinking water disinfection
Chromium, total	100 µg/L	100 µg/L	< 2 µg/L	< 2 µg/L	Natural deposits
Copper	1.3 mg/L	1.3 mg/L (AL)	0.034 mg/L (AL)	NR	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Fluoride	4 mg/L	4 mg/L	1.05 mg/L	1.36 mg/L	Water treatment additive; Natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids, total	NA	60 µg/L	2.4 µg/L	9.4 µg/L	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Lead	Zero	15 µg/L (AL)	6 µg/L (AL)	NR	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Organic Carbon, total	TT	TT	1.2 mg/L	1.9 mg/L	Natural deposits
Potassium	NR	NR	1.4 mg/L	1.8 mg/L	Natural deposits
Radium, combined	Zero	5 pCi/L	1.98 pCi/L	1.99 pCi/L	Natural deposits

Substance	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Median Value	Highest Level Detected	Source(s) of Contaminant
Sodium	NR	NR	8.8 mg/L	15.9 mg/L	Natural deposits
Sulfate	500 mg/L	NR	42 mg/L	50 mg/L	Natural deposits
Trihalomethanes, total	NA	80 µg/L	10.0 µg/L	17.3 µg/L	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity	NA	<0.3 NTU 95% of the time	0.04 NTU 95% of the time	0.18 NTU 1-day max	Natural deposits
Uranium, total	Zero	20 pCi/L	0.23 pCi/L	0.25 pCi/L	Natural deposits

Definitions

< “less than” or not detected

AL Action Level; the concentration of a contaminant that when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow. Action Levels are reported at the 90th percentile for homes at greatest risk.

Haloacetic Acids Mono-, di-, and tri-chloroacetic acid; mono- and di-bromoacetic acid; and bromochloroacetic acid

Median The middle value of the entire data set for the parameter (range from high to low)

µg/L Microgram per liter or parts per billion

mg/L milligram per liter or parts per million

NA Not applicable

NR Not regulated

NTU Nephelometric Turbidity Unit - unit to measure turbidity

pCi/L Picocuries per liter, a measure of radioactivity. A picocurie is 10⁻¹² curies.

RAA Running Annual Average - The average of four (4) quarterly samples collected in one year

TT Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

Trihalomethanes Chloroform, bromochloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform