



City of Gothenburg

**Annual Water Quality Report
For the period of January 1 to December 31, 2008**

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the City of Gothenburg water system to provide safe drinking water.

For more information regarding this report, contact:
SHANE D GRUBER
308-537-3668

If you would like to observe the decision-making processes that affect drinking water quality, please attend the regularly scheduled meeting of the Village Board/City Council. If you would like to participate in the process, please contact the Village/City Clerk to arrange to be placed on the agenda of the meeting of the Village Board/City Council.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Source Water Assessment Availability

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) has completed the Source Water Assessment. Included in the assessment is a Wellhead Protection Area map, potential contaminant source inventory, vulnerability rating, and source water protection information. To view the Source Water Assessment or for more information please contact the person named on the cover of this report or NDEQ at (402) 471-6988.

Para Clientes Que Hablan Español:

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Sources of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

The source of drinking water used by the City of Gothenburg is groundwater. This water is pumped from wells maintained by the City of Gothenburg.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic tanks.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Drinking Water Health Notes

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

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using your tap water will clear the line of any lead that may have leached into the water while the line was idle. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Public Health/Office of Drinking Water (402-471-2541).

The City of Gothenburg is required to test for the following contaminants: Coliform Bacteria, Antimony, Arsenic, Asbestos, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Cyanide, Fluoride, Lead, Mercury, Nickel, Nitrate, Nitrite, Selenium, Sodium, Thallium, Atrachlor, Atrazine, Benzo(a)pyrene, Carbofuran, Chlordane, Dalapon, Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate, Dibromochloropropane, Dinoseb, Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, Diquat, 2,4-D, Endothal, Endrin, Ethylene dibromide, Glyphosate, Heptachlor, Heptachlor epoxide, Hexachlorobenzene, Hexachlorocyclopentadiene, Lindane, Methoxychlor, Oxamyl (Vydate), Pentachlorophenol, Picloram, Polychlorinated biphenyls, Simazine, Toxaphene, Dioxin, Silvex, Benzene, Carbon Tetrachloride, o-Dichlorobenzene, Para-Dichlorobenzene, 1,2-Dichloroethane, 1,1-Dichloroethylene, Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene, Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene, Dichloromethane, 1,2-Dichloropropane, Ethylbenzene, Monochlorobenzene, 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, 1,1,2-Trichloroethane, Trichloroethylene, Vinyl Chloride, Styrene, Tetrachloroethylene, Toluene, Xylenes (total), Gross Alpha (minus Uranium & Radium 226), Radium 226 plus Radium 228, Sulfate, Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, Chlorodibromomethane, Bromoform, Chlorobenzene, m-Dichlorobenzene, 1,1-Dichloropropene, 1,1-Dichloroethane, 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane, 1,2-Dichloropropane, Chloromethane, Bromomethane, 1,2,3-Trichloropropane, 1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane, Chloroethane, 2,2-Dichloropropane, o-Chlorotoluene, p-Chlorotoluene, Bromobenzene, 1,3-Dichloropropene, Aldrin, Butachlor, Carbaryl, Dicamba, Dieldrin, 3-Hydroxycarbofuran, Methomyl, Metolachlor, Metribuzin, Propachlor.

TEST RESULTS (COLLECTED IN 2008 UNLESS NOTED)

Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positive Total Coliform Samples in any month	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples in 2008	Violation?	Likely Source Of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly sample	1	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli MCL: A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive	0	No	Naturally present in the environment

Lead and Copper Date Sampled: 6/19/2007

Lead MCLG	Lead Action Level (AL)	Lead 90th Percentile	# Sites Over Lead AL	Copper MCLG	Copper Action Level (AL)	Copper 90th Percentile	# Sites Over Copper AL	Likely Source of Contamination
0 ppb	15 ppb	1.2 ppb	0	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0.0977 ppm	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Regulated Contaminants	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Violation?	Likely Source Of Contaminant
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic	8/20/2006 9.27	6.99-9.27	ppb	0	10	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from electronics production wastes
Barium	0.162	0.0975-0.162	ppm	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	15.2	12.6-15.2	ppb	100	100	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	0.54	0.45-0.54	ppm	4	4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Fertilizer discharge
Nickel	10/9/2006 6.91	1.46-6.91	ppb	n/a	100	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Nitrate-Nitrite	1.3	0.066-1.3	ppm	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants							
Combined Radium (Radium 226 and 2)	0	Not Applicable	pCi/l	0	5	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Water Quality Data	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Unit of Measurement
Sulfate 10/9/2006	110	43 - 110	ppm

Note: The state requires monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of this data may be more than one year old.
 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. AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
 ppm: parts per million ppb: parts per billion ppt: parts per trillion pCi/l: picocuries per liter (measurement of radioactivity)

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

CROSS-CONNECTION QUESTION AND ANSWER:

Q: What is a cross connection?

A: A cross connection is a direct arrangement of a piping line which allows the potable water supply to be connected to a line which contains a contaminant. An example is the common garden hose attached to a sill cock with the end of the hose lying in a cesspool. Other examples are a garden hose attached to a service sink with the end of the hose submerged in a tub full of detergent, supply lines connected to bottom-fed tanks, supply lines to boilers.

This notice will not be mailed to individual households. A copy is available upon request at the City Office, 409 9th Street. Thank you.