

# UNIVERSITY OF UTAH WATER SYSTEM, NO. 18057

## WATER QUALITY REPORT 2023

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. The University of Utah Water system is designated as a consecutive connection to Salt Lake City's public water system as we purchase all our drinking water from Salt Lake City. We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets federal and state requirements.

This report includes results of our required testing performed between **January 1 and December 31, 2023**. We've also included the water quality data provided by Salt Lake City as they are our water source. All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

### DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

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/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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

### WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR 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 components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The University of Utah 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## CROSS CONNECTIONS AND BACKFLOWS

One of our responsibilities as a public water system is to protect our drinking water supply from the possibility of contamination. Cross connections are not allowed unless controlled by an approved and properly operating backflow prevention assembly or device.

A cross connection is any physical connection or arrangement of piping or fixtures which **may** allow non-potable water or industrial fluids or other material of questionable quality to come into contact with potable water inside a water distribution system. Backflow is the reversal of flow from a residential or building's plumbing system back into the public drinking water system. A backflow incident could occur if the water system pressure decreases or the customer's water pressure is higher than the water systems pressure. A backflow incident could carry pollutants or contaminants into our public drinking water system making it unsafe to drink.

The Plumbing Code and the Utah Public Drinking Water Rules require that all cross connections be eliminated or protected against backflow by installing an approved backflow device or assembly that will ensure that no impurities or contaminants are introduced to the public drinking water supply. Backflows are required to be inspected and tested annually.

**For more information please contact:**

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# UNIVERSITY OF UTAH WATER QUALITY DATA

## MICROBIOLOGICAL

Total Coliform	Year Sampled	# Positive	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Coliform Bacteria	2023	1	0	5	0	Naturally present in the environment

## LEAD AND COPPER

Contaminants	Year Sampled	MCLG	AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Samples Exceeding AL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	2023	1300	1300	1106	2	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	2023	0	15	6.7	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

## REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Year Sampled	Lowest Level	Highest Level	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2023	1.21	62.71	0	60	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2023	1.74	55.55	0	80	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Inorganic Contaminants	Year Sampled	Lowest Level	Highest Level	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic (ppb)	2023	0	1.4	0	10	No	Erosion of Natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2023	0.02	0.121	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	2023	0	6	200	200	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories

Inorganic Contaminants	Year Sampled	Lowest Level	Highest Level	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	0	0.605	4	4	No	Erosion of Natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	2023	0.141	4.178	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2023	0	2.4	50	50	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits and discharge from mines.
Sodium (ppm)	2023	5.716	72.491	500	None	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits and discharge from mines.
Sulfate (ppm)	2023	10.017	291.492	1000	1000	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills, Runoff from cropland.
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (ppm)	2023	188	928	2000	2000	No	Erosion of natural deposits

#### UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

Term	Definition
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required but recommended.
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

#### IMPORTANT DRINKING WATER DEFINITIONS

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

Term	Definition
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 Disinfection 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.
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### Monitoring Requirements Not Met for University of Utah Water System

Our water system violated several drinking water standards over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

*We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 2023 we did not complete all monitoring or testing for Total Coliform and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.*

#### What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for this contaminant and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
Total Coliform	60 samples every month	58 samples for September 2023	September 2023	November 2023 at new sampling locations
Total Coliform	60 samples every month	58 samples for October 2023	October 2023	November 2023 at new sampling locations

#### What happened? What is being done?

- X *The water to 2 of our sampling locations, Buildings 701 and 702, was turned off due to decommissioning of buildings. No occupants were in buildings, no water was available to sample during September and October. Since those buildings no longer have occupants, two new sampling locations nearby have been selected and were added to our sampling plan beginning in November. We have since taken the required samples, as described in the last column of the table above. The samples showed we are meeting drinking water standards.*

For more information, please contact Steffanie Brown at 801-587-8089 or [steffanie.brown@fm.utah.edu](mailto:steffanie.brown@fm.utah.edu).

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being sent to you by the University of Utah Water System.

Water System ID#: 18057

Date distributed: June 25, 2024