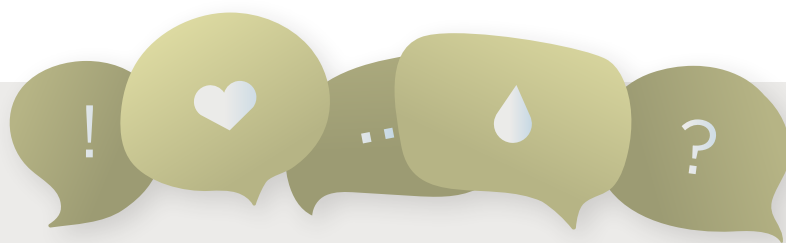


2022

WATER QUALITY REPORT

COMMITTED TO QUALITY

Fort Collins Utilities is committed to delivering high-quality drinking water. Look inside this report to learn where your drinking water comes from and how it compares to drinking water standards.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community members are welcome to attend Utilities' Water Commission meetings, a citizen committee that advises City Council on matters of policy and budget. Please see the schedule and location at www.fcgov.com/cityclerk/water.

PROTECTING AND TREATING SOURCE WATER

Utilities works closely with the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (CPRW) and other stakeholders to improve the health and resiliency of the Poudre River. CPRW is leading stakeholders in Cameron Peak Wildfire local recovery groups. Several priority restoration projects were completed in 2022 and additional restoration work has been targeted for 2023.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

970-212-2900 V/TDD: 711
fcgov.com/water-quality
utilities@fcgov.com



TEST RESULTS

Utilities' Water Quality Lab performed 16,779 water quality analyses on 3622 samples in 2022. Samples are collected weekly at various locations throughout the water distribution system.

Para más información de este informe de su calidad de agua potable en español, llame Fort Collins Utilities a 970-212-2900, V/TDD: 711 o mande preguntas en español a utilities@fcgov.com.

Auxiliary aids and services are available for persons with disabilities. 23-25077

WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

RAW AND FINISHED WATER SAMPLES

Parameter	Average	Range	Number of Samples	Unit of Measure	Minimum Ratio*	Meet Standard?	Typical Sources
Total Organic Carbon Ratio, Utilities	1.26	1.05 to 1.62	12	Ratio	1.00	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon Ratio, SCFP	1.11	1.01 to 1.20	12				

* This ratio reflects the amount of organic carbon removed vs the amount of organic carbon required to be removed.

SAMPLED AT THE ENTRY POINT TO THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Parameter	Month	Result	Standard	Meet Standard?	Typical Sources
Turbidity, Utilities	June	Highest single measurement = 0.19 NTU	Maximum is 1 NTU for any single measurement	Yes	Soil Runoff
Turbidity, SCFP	March	Highest single measurement = 0.048 NTU			
Turbidity, Utilities	All 12 months	All monthly percentages were at least 95%	In any month, at least 95% of samples must be less than 0.3 NTU		
Turbidity, SCFP	All 12 months	All monthly percentages were at least 95%			

Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of the water and is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

Parameter	Average	Range	Number of Samples	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Meet Standard?	Typical Sources
Barium, Utilities	0.01	0.01 to 0.01	1	ppm	2	2	Yes	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Barium, SCFP	0.017	0.015 to 0.018	4					
Fluoride, Utilities	0.61	0.61 to 0.61	1		4	4		Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Fluoride, SCFP	0.62	0.58 to 0.67	4					
Nitrate, Utilities	0.06	0.06 to 0.06	1		10	10		Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate, SCFP	0.05	0 to 0.13	4					

SAMPLED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Parameter	Monitoring Period	Standard	Results	Number of Samples Not Meeting Standards	Number of Samples	Meet Standard?	Typical Sources
Chlorine Residual	All months of 2022	At least 95% of samples per month must have a chlorine residual of at least 0.2 ppm	100% of all monthly samples had a chlorine residual of at least 0.2 ppm	0	Monthly sample size ranged from 125-154 samples	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes
	All quarters of 2022	The running annual average must be <=4.0 ppm	The running annual average for all four quarters was <4.0 ppm	0			

Parameter	Monitoring Period	90th Percentile	Standard	Unit of Measure	Number of Samples	Number of Samples Above Standard	Meet Standard?	Typical Sources
Copper	03/03/21 to 10/1/2021	0.17	1.3	ppm	73	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead		2	15	ppb	73			

Parameter	Average	Range	Number of Samples	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Meet Standard?	Typical Sources
Haloacetic Acids, Utilities	19.92	15.2 to 27	32	ppb	60	N/A	Yes	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes, Utilities	25.64	18.6 to 35.1	32		80	N/A		
Chlorite, Utilities	0.23	0.2 to 0.27	12		1.0	0.8		
Chlorite, SCFP	0.35	0.30 to 0.41	12	ppm	1.0	0.8		

Parameter	Average	Range	Unit of Measure	Number of Samples	Meet Standard?	Typical Sources
Sodium, Utilities	2.81	2.81 to 2.81	ppm	1	There is no standard for this parameter	Naturally occurring
Sodium, SCFP	12.55	8.5 to 16.0		4		

Our Water Treatment Facility produces nearly all the water it distributes; however, customers may occasionally receive a blend of water treated by Utilities and the Soldier Canyon Filter Plant (SCFP). Both treatment facilities use Horsetooth Reservoir and the Cache la Poudre River as sources of water. The SCFP is owned by Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Authority. To determine your water provider, view an [interactive map](#) of water districts in Fort Collins and surrounding areas.

- The monitoring results shown here are representative of water treated by Utilities and the SCFP. The lead and copper data is from 2021; all other data shown are from monitoring completed in 2022.

DEFINITIONS

AL: Action level — concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow

CDPHE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

EPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency

MCL: Maximum contaminant level — highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water; MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible, using the best available treatment technology

MCLG: Maximum contaminant level goal — 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

N/A: Not applicable

NTU: Nephelometric turbidity unit — measure of particles in the water or clarity

ppb: Parts of contaminant per billion parts of water, µg/L

ppm: Parts of contaminant per million parts of water, mg/L

Ratio: amount of organic carbon removed/amount of organic carbon to be removed

SCFP: Soldier Canyon Filter Plant

Watershed: Land area that collects, stores and drains water into a shared network of streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs

TREATING SOURCE 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 the 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 (800-426-4791).

As water travels over the land's surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals and humans. To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the CDPHE regulates the allowable amount of certain contaminants in water from public water systems.



SOURCE WATER MAY CONTAIN:

ORGANIC CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production. These contaminants also may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

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

PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES

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

MICROBIAL CONTAMINANTS

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

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS

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

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM AND GIARDIA

Cryptosporidium and *Giardia* come from animal and human waste in the watershed and are common in untreated surface water. When ingested, the organisms may cause fever, nausea and diarrhea. They are removed by a well-maintained water treatment process.

In 2022, Fort Collins Utilities tested the untreated source waters for these organisms. *Giardia* was found in the Poudre River samples. Neither organism was found in the Horsetooth Reservoir samples.

MONITORING AND PROTECTING OUR SOURCE WATER

Fort Collins' drinking water supply comes from two primary surface water sources: the upper Cache la Poudre River (Poudre River) and Horsetooth Reservoir. Poudre River water originates as rain and snow in the mountains on the eastern slope of the Continental Divide, northwest of Fort Collins. Horsetooth water is delivered from the Colorado River Basin on the western slope via the Colorado-Big Thompson Water Project.

SOURCE WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Fort Collins Utilities' Watershed Program collaborates with regional partners to monitor water quality trends in the Poudre River and Horsetooth Reservoir. Monitoring includes analyses of chemical, physical and biological parameters throughout our source watersheds.

The 2020 Cameron Peak (208,913 acres) and East Troublesome wildfires (192,457 acres) are considered the two largest wildfires in Colorado history. Neither fire directly impacted the City's drinking water infrastructure; however, water quality in the Poudre River has been negatively impacted by increases in ash, sediment, turbidity, nutrients and other constituents which can be challenging to water treatment. Water treatment staff have mitigated these challenges by alternating between the two water supplies during black water pollution events. Ultimately, the City's source watersheds continued to provide high-quality water (learn more fcgov.com/source-water-monitoring) due to the success of this management strategy.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

The City of Fort Collins' Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) was completed in 2016. The SWPP identifies and prioritizes major pollution threats to the City's source watersheds and identifies key protection or mitigation strategies. The threat of large-scale catastrophic wildfires continues to be the highest priority threat to both source water supplies and drinking water infrastructure. Historical mines, vehicle related chemical spills and flooding are moderate priority threats. Utilities' Watershed Program is leading the development of a collaborative Source Water Protection plan, which will include Fort Collins, City of Greeley, Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Authority, Northern Water and City of Thornton.

Utilities continues to work closely with the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (CPRW), Colorado State Forest Service, Larimer Conservation District and other key watershed stakeholders to improve the health and resiliency of the Poudre River. CPRW is currently leading Cameron Peak Wildfire watershed recovery efforts. Restoration work has included the implementation of both structure protection best management practices and 9,244 acres of watershed-scale wood mulching to help stabilize erosive soils. Additional structural protection work has been targeted for 2023.



A helicopter transporting a bag of mulch for aerial application to burned hillslopes in the upper Poudre Watershed following the Cameron Peak Fire.



Post-fire stream channel erosion and a damaged culvert in a tributary to the Poudre River.

Learn more about our Watershed Program and source water monitoring efforts, including seasonal updates, annual and five-year reports at fcgov.com/source-water-monitoring.

FLUORIDATION

As directed by City Council and our customers, Utilities adds fluoride to the water, resulting in levels that range from 0.60 to 0.75 milligrams of fluoride per liter of treated water.

If you or members of your household are sensitive to fluoride or fluoridation-related substances or if you provide our water to an infant younger than six months of age, please consult your physician or another health expert regarding precautions you may want to consider.

Visit fcgov.com/water/fluoride.php for more information.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 healthcare 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 at (800) 426-4791.



LONG-STANDING CORROSION CONTROL

Fort Collins Utilities' source water has a low mineral content and is naturally soft because it comes from snowmelt and rainfall. Without additional treatment, soft water can be corrosive.

To help prevent corrosion (the leaching of metals) of water mains, services lines and home plumbing, Utilities began implementing specific treatment measures in 1984. These measures continue today. This additional treatment, which includes adding calcium and carbon dioxide to the water before it leaves the treatment plant, helps minimize corrosion.

As a check to ensure our approach is effective, and as required by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Utilities monitors lead and copper levels in the drinking water of a minimum of 50 homes every three years. These tests have shown the levels to be substantially below EPA's action level.

If our source water has a low mineral content, where do the metals come from? If there is lead present in drinking water, it is primarily from plumbing leading to or inside a building. Some plumbing installed after the mid-1980s included a combination of copper pipes and lead solder. If this plumbing corrodes or deteriorates, lead can seep into the water if it sits in the pipes for an extended period.

While Utilities provides high-quality drinking water to our customers, we have limited control regarding the material used in home plumbing. You share responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from lead in your home plumbing. Ways to protect your family include identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing.

Also, consider flushing your water line first thing in the morning or after it has been stagnant for six or more hours. This flushing can include running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water.

If you have concerns about your water quality or questions about water testing, contact the Water Quality Lab at 970-221-6863 or V/TDD 711. Any concerns about home plumbing should be directed to a licensed plumber.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, particularly for pregnant women and young children. For more information, testing methods and steps to minimize exposure, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or visit epa.gov/safewater/lead.

WHAT IS SWAP?

Through the Safe Water Action Program (SWAP), Fort Collins Utilities is working to replace 70 known galvanized lines and investigate the remaining 591 service lines that may potentially have small lead connectors called goosenecks. Fort Collins Utilities does not have full lead service lines and there is effectively no lead in the drinking water. However, to provide the highest level of protection for our customers, we are proactively working to locate, remove and replace this small but potential source of lead material in the water system through this multi-year program. Water testing results both before and after lead gooseneck replacement showed that the presence of lead goosenecks did not have any detectable effect on lead concentrations in the drinking water and risk to customers is low.



Sample collection and analysis is part of SWAP

WE WANT YOU TO KNOW

A drinking water monitoring requirement was violated in 2022 by Soldier Canyon Filter Plant, which on occasion provides water to the City of Fort Collins. This violation did not pose any risk to our customers and no action was required on your part.

To ensure safe drinking water, public water providers are required to monitor the water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During the fourth quarter of 2022, Soldier Canyon mistakenly made a clerical error with one Total Organic Carbon sample.

Specifically, a December 2022 water sample was collected and submitted on time with incorrect location information. The sample met all water quality regulations but was labeled as a violation due to the labelling error. This violation reflects a clerical error and at no time was public health or the safety and quality of the City's drinking water at risk. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Water Quality Control Division considered this violation resolved in February of 2023.

You do not need to take any action because of this. If a situation ever arises where the water is not safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

To prevent this occurrence in the future SCFP samples and sample results will be manually verified and mailed to eliminate the possibility of clerical errors occurring within the computerized sample submittal portal system. 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).

For more information, contact Mark Kempton, mkempton@soldiercanyon.com or 970-428-3143.

