

Drinking Water Report



Construction Work Abounds Around City of Wausau



Did you ever hear the old joke ... Wisconsin has two seasons, winter and road construction?! Well, that certainly seems to be the case around Wausau these days.

Wausau Water Works has numerous projects under way in coordination with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (DOT) Highway 51/29 upgrade.

In the photo above, PVC pipe is piled up on Westwood Drive awaiting installation. Another project that is almost complete is the extension of a looping watermain (on the west side of Highway 51) using Sherman Street as the corridor to connect the main at 48th Avenue. By installing this looping main west of Highway 51, continued water supply will be available to the industrial park and critical facilities, such as the hospital and the surrounding medical offices, during the DOT reconstruction projects. Wausau Water Works appreciates your patience during this period of construction, and associated delays. The cost to complete this work is part of the reason for the recent rate increase.

Hip-Hip-Hooray for Safe Drinking Water!!

As you will see from the tables on pages 4-5 of this report, Wausau Water Works supplied excellent drinking water throughout 2005.



Why do we prepare this report annually? We want our valued customers to be informed about their drinking water. The federal government also wants you to be informed about what substances are in your water, and requires all water utilities in the United States to provide this information to their customers on an annual basis. You should feel assured that the water you receive from your tap is safe for you and your family, because "Quality on Tap is our Commitment, Our Profession", and providing quality drinking water to you, our residents, is our **number one** priority!

Do you have Questions Regarding this Report?



If you have any questions regarding this report, or concerns about your water, please contact Joseph L. Gehin, Director of Administration - Public Works and Utilities, at 715-261-6530 or Dick Boers, Drinking Water Superintendent, at 715-261-7286.

If you would like to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled commission meetings which are generally held the first Tuesday of each month, at 1:30 p.m., in City Hall. If you wish to have an item included on the agenda for Commission consideration, please contact Deb Geier at 715-261-6533 two weeks prior to the next scheduled meeting.



Professor Faucet's Top 10 Reasons to Drink Water

We've all heard that drinking water is good for you, but did you know that every system in your body depends on water? Here's 10 reasons why drinking water is good for you and why you should make drinking 8-10 glasses of water part of your daily routine.

1. Get healthy skin. Drinking water moisturizes your skin from the inside out. Water is essential to maintaining elasticity and helps prevent dryness.

2. Lose weight. Increased water consumption can help you control weight by preventing you from confusing hunger with thirst. Water will also keep your body systems, including metabolism and digestion, working properly and give you the energy necessary for exercise.



3. Flush toxins. By helping to flush toxins, appropriate water intake lessens the burden on your kidneys and liver.

4. Reduce your risk of a heart attack. Researchers at Loma Linda University in California studied more than 20,000 healthy men and women and found that people who drank more than five glasses of water a day were less likely to die from a heart attack or heart disease than those who drank fewer than two glasses a day.

5. Cushion and lubricate your joints and muscles. Water makes up a large part of the fluid that lubricates and cushions your joints and muscles. Drinking water before, during, and after exercise can also help reduce muscle cramping and premature fatigue.

6. Stay regular. Water helps prevent constipation by adding fluid to the colon and bulk to stools, making bowel movements softer and easier to pass.

7. Stay hydrated, get energized, and be alert. On average, most adults lose about 10 cups of fluid a day through sweating, exhaling, urinating and bowel movements. Even minor dehydration can cause impaired concentration, headaches, irritability and fatigue.

8. Regulate your body temperature. Perspiration is your body's natural mechanism to control body temperature. And to sweat, you need plenty of water.

9. Reduce your risk of disease and infection. Water can help prevent kidney stones and reduce your chances of getting bladder, kidney and urinary tract infections. One study found that women who drank more than five glasses of water a day had a risk of colon cancer that was 45 percent less than those who drank two or fewer glasses a day.

10. Get well. The traditional prescription to "drink plenty of fluids" when you're sick still holds strong. Water can help control a fever, replace lost fluids, and thin out mucus.

Sources: www.WebMD.com,
www.mayoclinic.com, www.water.com,
www.purwater.com

Keep Your Sewer Mains Fat Free

Doctors tell us that low fat or fat free diets are good for us, but did you know that your sewer lateral and the mains in front of your home need fat free diets also? Fats, oil and grease can cause serious problems for sewer systems, which can in turn cause serious problems with sewage backing up into homes.

According to the Water Environment Federation, most grease gets into our sewers as a byproduct of cooking. Grease is found in such things as: meat fats, lard, cooking oil, shortening, butter and margarine, food scraps, baking goods, sauces

and dairy products. Too often, grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. Grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the streets). Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe.

Home garbage disposals do not keep grease or solids out of the plumbing system. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and allow grease to accumulate with the shredded material. Commercial additives, including detergents that claim to dissolve grease, may only move the grease down the line to eventually cause a problem downstream.

The results:

- Raw sewage backing up in your home or your neighbor's home.
- Expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid by you, the homeowner.
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments, which cause high sewer bills for customers.

What can we do to help? The easiest way to solve the grease problem and help prevent sewer backups of raw sewage is to keep this material out of the sewer system in the first place. There are several ways to do this.

1. Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.
2. Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, grills and cooking surfaces into a can or the trash for disposal.
3. Do not put grease down garbage disposals. Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain baskets/strainers into the trash for disposal.

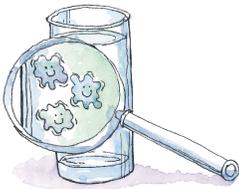
Routine Water Quality Testing....

The Water Quality Test Results shown on pages 4-5 only lists substances which are required to be tested and are detected. **We run numerous tests for substances which are not detected.** We also run routine tests to help us evaluate water characteristics such as pH, alkalinity, hardness, etc. A summary of those results is shown below.

pH - Typical result: 8.5. Ideal range: 7 to 8.5. Measure of acidity - low values may indicate corrosive water.

Alkalinity - Typical result: 70 to 80 mg/l. Measure of water's ability to neutralize acids - is related to pH and hardness.

Hardness - Typical result: 80 to 100 mg/l or 4-1/2 to 6 grains/gallon. Wausau's water is moderately soft. Hard water is beneficial to health, but high levels can decrease soap's cleaning ability and cause scaling inside of pipes.



Iron - Typical result: less than 0.05 mg/l. Natural levels in our well water can be high, but it is removed by our treatment plant - not a health concern, but it can cause taste and odor problems and staining of laundry when bleach is used.

Manganese - Typical result: less than 0.04 mg/l. Like iron, a naturally occurring mineral that is removed at the treatment plant.

What these tests indicate is that we have high quality, good tasting water available right at our taps!



Did You Know?

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain naturally dissolved elements/minerals. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk,



and generally are required for a balanced diet. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring, or are manmade. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. All 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 at **1-800-426-4791**.

Water Works Office Staff Move

As part of a reorganization effort in City Hall, Wausau Water Works office staff have found new homes. Joe Gehin has moved his office to the 3rd floor Engineering Department, while customer service, billing and administrative staff members Jamie Landwehr, Terry Larsen and Deb Geier have relocated to the Finance Department. Wausau Water Works phone number of 261-6530 remains the same.

In Memoriam

Our condolences go out to the family of Jim Wiesneski who passed away on April 14. Jim worked for over 30 years for the Drinking Water Division's Meter Department.

Water Protection Table Top Exercise

Wausau Water Works staff, along with representatives of the Wisconsin DNR, Aspirus Hospital, Marathon County Health Department, Wausau Fire and Police Departments, Public Works, Rib Mountain Sanitary District and Kronenwetter Water Utility met on Thursday, April 6 to perform a table top exercise which included different scenarios to determine the best way to protect Wausau's water supply should a terrorist or natural disaster occur. The table top exercise gave staff members an opportunity to discuss and strategize how to best handle emergency situations, including understanding how other agencies, such as Police, Fire, and health care agencies would play into the scenario. The exercise, which was a part of Wausau's emergency response planning, was co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Wausau Water Works.



Employees Help Keep Wausau Tidy

Wausau Water Works' employees Dave Erickson, Joe Gehin and Deb Geier, and retired employee Tom Wohlfahrt, were among those who volunteered their time to pick up garbage along city roadsides on April 20, as part of Mayor Tipple's Litter Pick-up Day. It's just our way of helping to keep Wausau the great city that it is!

Meter Reading Going High Tech

The installation of radio read technology is progressing well within the City. Wausau's east side has been almost completely changed over to the radio technology. We can now read 5000 meters in about two days, instead of 10+ days that it used to take.



WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

Substance	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Substance
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Disinfection Byproducts

HAA5	ppb	60	60.	5 average Range 4-7	NO 	Disinfection By-product
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Inorganic Contaminants

Arsenic	ppb	50	N/A	1 Range 1	NO 	Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	ppm	2	2	.005 Range .004-.005	NO 	Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	0.1370 Range .0064-.1740	NO 	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	1.2 average Range 1.0-1.3	NO 	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth.
Lead	ppb	0	AL=15	15.3 Range ND-55.40	NO * 	Corrosion of service lines and household plumbing systems.
Nitrate (N03-N)	ppm	10	10	.50 average Range .42-.58	NO 	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	ppm	N/A	N/A	11.45 average Range 10.30-12.60	NO 	Naturally occurring, contained in corrosion control additive

* Systems exceeding a lead and/or copper action level must take actions to reduce lead and /or copper in the drinking water. The lead and copper values represent the 90th percentile of all compliance samples collected. If you want information on the number of sites or the actions taken to reduce these levels, please contact Wausau Water Works at 261-6530.

The tables on these two pages display the number of contaminants that were required to be tested in the last five years. The Drinking Water Report may contain up to five years worth of water quality results. If a water system tests annually, or more frequently, the results from the most recent year are shown on the Drinking Water Report. If testing is done less frequently, the results shown on the Drinking Water Report are from the past five years.

Substance	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Substance
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Unregulated Contaminants

Chloroform	ppb	N/A	N/A	1.17 average Range .43-1.80	NO 	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Sulfate	ppm	N/A	N/A	13.30 average Range 12.50-14.10	NO 	Naturally occurring.

Volatile Organic Contaminants

TTHM (Total Trihalo-methane)	ppb	0	80	1.2 average Range 0.4-1.8	NO 	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
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Radioactive Contaminants

Gross Alpha (Excl. R&U) (Last sample date 3/07/2002)	pCi/l	0	15	3.2 Range .0-3.2	NO 	Erosion of natural deposits.
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Microbiological Contaminants

Coliform	TCR	0	Presence of coliform bacteria in >=5% of monthly samples	2%	NO 	Naturally present in the environment
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Definition of Terms: The information provided in the tables on pages 4 and 5 contain many terms and abbreviations that may be unfamiliar. To help you better understand, we've provided the following definitions.

- 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** or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- PPB Parts Per Billion** or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- pCi/l Picocuries per liter** - (a measure of radioactivity).
- MCL Maximum Contaminant Level** - the "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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 "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.
- TCR Total Coliform Rule.**
- ND None detected.**

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Data presented in these tables represent the most current test results. Some tests are performed on a 3 year cycle.

Important Info

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. As a result of materials used in your home's plumbing, it is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested, or you can flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be



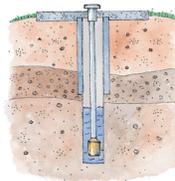
identified and removed, replaced or reduced.

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

You may also contact our office at 715-261-6530 if you have questions regarding your water quality, or to obtain information on lead testing in your home. Our office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Where Does Our Water Come From?

Wausau's drinking water comes from six municipal wells, all of which are located near the Wisconsin River. These wells range in depth from 95 feet to 160 feet, and pump anywhere from 900 to 3000 gallons per minute.



From the wells, the water travels to our Water Treatment Plant where it undergoes treatment to remove iron and manganese prior to distribution to your home or business.

Over 200 miles of water mains deliver the water from the Treatment Plant to more than 15,000 homes and business served by Wausau Water Works.

Thousands of Water Quality Tests Conducted

The substances shown on the tables on pages 4 and 5 indicate the contaminants that are detected in our drinking water. Other items that are tested, but are indicated as non-detects (meaning their amounts are so low, if at all present, that they are not detected during testing) include: Antimony, Arsenic, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Mercury, Selenium, Thallium, Aldicarb, Atrazine, Pentachlorophenol,



Toxaphene, Benzene, Styrene, Vinyl Chloride, Xylene, just to name a few.

Thousands of water quality tests are performed annually to ensure that you are receiving the best possible quality of drinking water.

Additional tests including inorganic substances, disinfection byproducts, radioactive substances, unregulated contaminants, microbiological, volatile organic and synthetic organic substances, which include pesticides and herbicides, are conducted on a three to five year cycle.

Northwoods Mist - A Unique Gift



Are you planning a family reunion or wedding this summer? Looking for something unique to give to your friends or family? **Northwoods Mist**, Wausau's very own bottled water, is cool and refreshing, and a perfect gift to include in welcome packages, for students heading off to college, or just for people on the go.

Northwoods Mist is available at Central Beer Distributors, 300 Creske Avenue in Kronenwetter (Behind Cedar Creek Mall), or at Wausau City Hall.



Did You Know??

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 human activity.

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 users.
- 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 systems.
- 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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which shall provide the same protection for public health.

Wausau Water Works Accepts Electronic Payments

Are you tired of writing out checks each quarter for your water and sewer bill? If so, Wausau Water Works has the answer. You can pay your Wausau Water Works bill via electronic payments. To sign up for this service, complete the shaded portion of the form below and return to Wausau Water Works, 407 Grant Street, Wausau, WI 54403-4783, along with a **VOIDED CHECK**. Payments are deducted on the 10th of the month that the bill is due. You will still receive a bill showing your usage and billing amount, and you will also receive a notification prior to the first withdrawal. If you have any questions, please call our office at 715-261-6530.

AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL	
COMPANY NAME WAUSAU WATER WORKS	COMPANY ID NUMBER
I (we) hereby authorize WAUSAU WATER WORKS hereinafter called COMPANY, to initiate entries and to initiate, if necessary, entries and adjustments for any entries in error to my (our) account indicated below and the depository named below, hereinafter called DEPOSITORY, to credit and/or debit the same to such account.	
DEPOSITORY NAME	BRANCH
TRANSIT/ABA NUMBER	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	
ACCOUNT NUMBER	
TYPE OF ENTRY (select only one) <input type="checkbox"/> CREDIT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEBIT	TYPE OF ACCOUNT (Select only one) <input type="checkbox"/> CHECKING <input type="checkbox"/> SAVINGS
This authority is to remain in full force and effect until COMPANY has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time as in such manner as to afford COMPANY and DEPOSITORY a reasonable opportunity to act on it.	
NAME (please print)	
SIGNATURE	DATE
NAME (please print)	
SIGNATURE	DATE

Water Works Rate Schedule

Rates Effective March 1, 2006

Water Rates

Quarterly Service Charge (based on size of water meter)

5/8 inch meter	\$ 15.00
3/4 inch meter	15.00
1 inch meter	24.00
1-1/4 inch meter	36.00
1-1/2 inch meter	42.00
2 inch meter	63.00
3 inch meter	114.00
4 inch meter	162.00
6 inch meter	306.00
8 inch meter	468.00
10 inch meter	687.00
12 inch meter	906.00

Plus Volume Charge below:

First 6,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$1.64 per 100 cubic ft.
 Next 54,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$1.49 per 100 cubic ft.
 Over 60,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$1.13 per 100 cubic feet.

Sewer Rates

Quarterly Service Charge (based on size of water meter)

5/8 inch meter	\$ 13.90
3/4 inch meter	15.60
1 inch meter	20.10
1-1/4 inch meter	24.20
1-1/2 inch meter	28.40
2 inch meter	43.00
3 inch meter	72.00
4 inch meter	113.00
6 inch meter	218.00

Plus Volume Charge below:

All volume, as recorded by the water meter each quarter, shall be charged at the rate of \$1.88 per 100 cubic feet. Unmetered sewer rate is \$64.38 per quarter outside the City of Wausau.

Private Fire Protection

(based on size of connection)

2 inch connection	\$12.00
3 inch connection	22.00
4 inch connection	37.00
6 inch connection	74.00
8 inch connection	117.00
10 inch connection	176.00
12 inch connection	256.00

Public Fire Protection

(based on size of water meter)

5/8 inch meter	\$8.70
3/4 inch meter	\$8.70
1 inch meter	\$21.60
1-1/4 inch meter	\$31.80
1-1/2 inch meter	\$42.90
2 inch meter	\$69.00
3 inch meter	\$129.00
4 inch meter	\$216.00
6 inch meter	\$432.00
8 inch meter	\$684.00
10 inch meter	\$1026.00

Payments must be received in the office of the Clerk/Customer Service, City Hall, by the 20th of each month. Payments received after the 20th of each month are subject to late payment charges, in the amount of 1% of the outstanding balance.

Payments made at grocery stores, electronically, or through the mail via the Milwaukee lockbox address should be made at least seven (7) days prior to the due date to ensure timely receipt.

Dlain ntaav tshaabxu nuav muaj lug
 tseemceeb heev nyob rua huv hws has txug
 cov dlej mej haus. Kuas it tub paab txhais
 rua koj, los nrug id tug kws paub lug tham.
 Este informe contiene informacion
 importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga
 que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hablé

**Important Water Quality
Information Enclosed**

407 Grant Street ♦ Wausau, WI 54403-4783

