

## **Does Stoughton Utilities have hard water? Should I install a water softener?**

Water hardness is defined by the amount of calcium and magnesium present. When the levels are comparatively low, water is described as soft. When the levels are comparatively high, water is described as hard. Water in Stoughton is described as moderately hard to hard. Harder water does not lather as easily and does not form as many suds when using soap or detergent. However, there is increasing evidence that the presence of calcium and magnesium found in hard water is desirable for good cardio-vascular health. We do not recommend the installation of water softeners for drinking water.

## **Would a home water purification device make my water safer?**

If you are a Stoughton Utilities customer, these devices are not necessary to make your water safe. Your water is safe as it comes from the tap. If not properly maintained, these devices may actually cause problems with your water, including uncontrolled growth of disease-causing bacteria.

## **Hydrant Flushing**

A routine flushing of the mains and hydrants will be done during the daytime hours in the spring and fall. Fire hydrant flushing is done to remove any sediment or stagnant water from the distribution system and to test fire hydrant operation. These steps are being taken to improve the overall water quality within the distribution system and to insure the delivery of the highest quality of water possible. Be aware that this procedure may cause some disturbances and discoloration in the water system. Customers in low-pressure areas may experience a further drop in pressure. The staff of the water utility appreciates your patience and understanding during this time.

## **Ongoing Efforts**

Stoughton Utilities is replacing water mains in Page Street, Washington Street, Madison Street and Hamilton Street during the 2005 construction season. Replacing undersized water mains and eliminating dead end mains is an integral part of our 20-year Capital Projects Program. Learn more about our service to our neighbors at [www.stoughtonutilities.com](http://www.stoughtonutilities.com)

## **Did You Know?**

The Stoughton Water Utility was founded in 1886 and presently provides drinking water to over 4,693 customer accounts every day.

We maintain over 58 miles of water mains and 540 fire hydrants in Stoughton. In 2004, we safely pumped and treated 493,254,000 gallons of drinking water for the citizens and visitors to our community.

## **Conserving Our Water**

Conservation means making changes in water use habits that will reduce the amount of water we use as well as water waste. This is important because as water use continues to increase, we have to manage a limited available supply for many purposes, such as recreation, manufacturing, fire protection, health care and food production.

We can all do our part to conserve by changing the ways we use water. Taking shorter showers, turning off the water when we brush our teeth, limiting lawn watering to 2 days a week can all make a difference.

## **“Our water is cloudy when it comes out of the tap, but then clears up. Is it safe to drink?”**

Yes, it is safe to drink. The cloudiness is usually dissolved oxygen that is being released. The oxygen is under pressure from the water system and when it comes out of the tap into a glass, the pressure is removed and the bubbles form.

## **“Is bottled water safer than tap water?”**

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulate bottled water. It is considered a food product and is only tested by the FDA for microbial contamination. Tap water, on the other hand, must pass the microbial inspection plus hundreds of other test. Most “mineral” waters sold in bottles would not be allowed for tap water.

## **Do you want to save money on your water and wastewater bill?**

Do you have an older toilet that needs to be replaced? Consider replacing any older toilets in your home with new low-flow models that use 1.6 gallons per flush. Toilets 10 years old or older may be using 3 ½ to 7 gallons per flush. You can reduce the water you use to flush the toilet by almost 50% and reduce flows to our wastewater treatment facility as well.

## **How to contact us?**

We are proud of our water utility and want you to be informed. If you have, any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, contact Robert Kardasz, or Roger Thorson at Stoughton Utilities, 873-3379. Also, you are invited to attend any of the regularly scheduled Utilities Committee Meetings held on the third Monday of the month at the Stoughton Utilities Administration Office. Meeting agendas are available at [www.stoughtonutilities.com](http://www.stoughtonutilities.com).

If you have a water emergency, please contact our emergency number at 873-9322.



**For more information**

**Customer Service Information.....873-3379  
Ext. 110 or [www.stoughtonutilities.com](http://www.stoughtonutilities.com)  
600 S. Fourth Street**

- Open new or transfer accounts
- Billing inquiries
- Water conservation
- Water, wastewater and electric rates
- Automatic payment plans
- Credit card payments
- E-Pay (Internet Payments and usage history)

# **City of Stoughton 2004 Drinking Water Quality Report**



## INTRODUCTION

Stoughton Utilities is again proud to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and local standards set for quality and safety.

Our 27 employees take great pride in producing and delivering to you, our customers, water that meets all Federal and State regulations.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact:

Robert Kardasz P.E., Director of Utilities 608)  
873-3379 Ext. 123

[bkardasz@stoughtonutilities.com](mailto:bkardasz@stoughtonutilities.com)

## DISCUSSION

Again, please note that the Stoughton Utilities drinking water complies with all State and Federal regulations, as shown in Table A “All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or are man made. 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.

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 MCL level for a lifetime to have one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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

## WATER QUALITY TESTING/RESULTS

Stoughton Utilities routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water in accordance with State and Federal laws. The following Table A shows the results of our monitoring for the period from January 1, 2004, through December 31, 2004 (unless otherwise noted). Please note that the only water parameter that had a detect is listed. If you desire to see the other constituents that were tested for, but did not have any detects, please contact the Stoughton Utilities. In this table, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions:

- **Parts per million** (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years, or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion** (ppb) or Micrograms per liter – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Picocuries per liter** (pCi/l) – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Action Level** (AL) – the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **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.

**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

In 2004 we installed 2,216 feet of reinforcement main on Lynn Street and added 6,831 feet of watermain elsewhere to our distribution system.

Did you know that in lieu of taxes, Stoughton Utilities pays \$346, 749.00 to the City?

Stoughton Utilities works around the clock to provide top quality drinking water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water resources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children’s futures.

## Water Treatment Process

Because Stoughton Utilities source water is very clean to begin with, only minimal treatment is required by the State Of Wisconsin for its use as drinking water. Treatment includes the addition of fluoride to meet Department of Health requirements and the recommended addition of chlorine to protect the system from biological growth or bacteria. These additives are metered into the water as the water is pumped from our deep wells so that no untreated water is ever added to the water system.

TABLE A  
**Disinfection Byproducts**

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2004)	Source of Contaminant
HAA5 (ppb)	60	60	0(average)	nd-1		

**Inorganic Contaminants**

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2004)	Source of Contaminant
Barium(ppm)	2	2	0.031	.020-.031		Drilling waste;Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium(ppb)	100	100	1	0-1	9/23/2002	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper(ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.106	0.106	12/17/2002	Corrosion of household plumbing Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride(ppm)	4	4	1.2(average)	1.1-1.2		Water additive; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0	11.2	11.2	12/19/2002	Corrosion of household plumbing Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate(N03-N)(ppm)	10	10	2.53(average)	nd-5.61		Fertilizer use; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium(ppm)	n/a	n/a	8.7	2.50-8.70	9/23/2002	n/a

**Radioactive Contaminants**

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2004)	Source of Contaminant
Alpha Emitters	15	0	10	1.3-10.0	9/23/2002	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium	5	0	4.1	2.5-4.1	9/23/2002	Erosion of natural deposits

**Unregulated Contaminants**

Contaminant (units) (ppb)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2004)	Source of Contaminant
Bromodichloromethan	n/a	n/a	1.2(average)	nd-.22		n/a
Bromoform	n/a	n/a	1.2(average)	nd-.96		n/a
Chloroform	n/a	n/a	1.2(average)	nd-.65		n/a
Dibromochloromethan	n/a	n/a	.18(average)	nd-.65		n/a
Sulfate	n/a	n/a	30.8	14.30-30.80		n/a

**Volatile Organic Contaminants**

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2004)	Source of Contaminant
Toluene(ppm)	1	1	.0000	nd-.0002		Discharge from petroleum factories
TTHM(ppb)	80	0	1(average)	nd-1.39		By-product of drinking water chlorination