

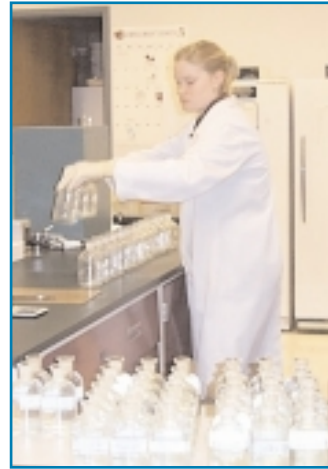
Testing Your Drinking Water: 2002 Results



Working for Safe Water Every Day

Your drinking water is closely scrutinized for safety and quality every day of the year. In fact, some drinking water parameters are monitored in a continuous, non-stop fashion. Trained personnel evaluate source water, water undergoing treatment, and finished water from homes throughout the City. These trained people work right in the Ames Water Plant using state-of-the-art instrumentation. Other tests are performed by the State Hygienic Lab in Iowa City and private testing laboratories.

The U.S. EPA and the Iowa DNR require us to report what is found in your water. If anything unsafe ever enters the water, you'll be notified immediately by



Preparing samples for analysis in the Ames Water Plant laboratory

us. The table below lists substances that were detected in Ames drinking water for the 2002 reporting year. The substances listed were the only ones detected from a monitoring list of over 80 regulated contaminants. As has been the case year after year, the Ames Water and Pollution Control Department received no violations during 2002, and no contaminants were detected at levels that exceeded Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or State of Iowa limits for safe drinking water.

The concentrations of some substances do not change much from year to year. Annual monitoring for these substances is not required. Therefore, some substances may not have been analyzed in 2002 but are reported for the last year tested.

Substance (units)	Test Date	No. of Samples Tested	Highest Allowed Level (MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Lowest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Typical Source of Substance
Detected Substances Regulated Prior to Distribution							
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2002	2	5.0	2.7	ND	0	Natural geological deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2002	1243	4.0	1.82	0.44	<4.0	Additive, natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2002	713	TT	0.38*	0	---	Soil runoff
Radon (pCi/L)	1999	4	300	50	28	---	Natural geological deposits
Trichloroethene (ppb)	2001	2	5.0	1.1	ND	0	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene (ppb)	2001	2	70	0.5	ND	<70	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	2001	2	5.0	0.6	ND	0	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Detected Substances Regulated in the Distribution System							
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	2002	672	Found in <5% of samples per month	Found in 2% of samples in one month	Found in no monthly samples	Found in no samples	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2002	4	80	1.0	ND	0	Disinfection by-products
Total Haloacetic Acids-HAA5 (ppb)	1999	4	60	3	2	0	Disinfection by-products
Unregulated Detected Substances							
Chlorate (ppm)	2002	3	—	0.09	ND	—	Disinfection by-product
Sodium (ppm)	2002	2	—	20	19	—	Natural geological deposits
Potassium (ppm)	2001	1	—	2.0	2.0	—	Natural geological deposits

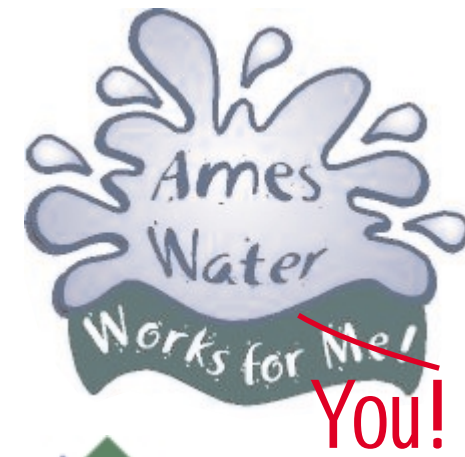
Substances Regulated at the Customers' Tap							
Substance (units)	Test Date	Number of Samples Tested	AL: 90% of Samples Must Be Below This Level	Number of Samples Over AL	90% of Samples Were Below This Level	Typical Source of Substance	
Lead (ppb)	2001	40	15	0	ND	Plumbing corrosion	
Copper (ppm)	2001	40	1.3	0	ND	Plumbing corrosion	

Key to table: MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest amount allowed in drinking water. Set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. AL: Action Level. The concentration which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement the system must follow. PPM: parts per million. PPB: parts per billion. ND: not detected. pCi/L: pico curies per liter, a measure of radioactivity. NTU: nephelometric turbidity units. TT: value determined by available treatment technology. *No samples exceeded the limit during 2002.

Drinking Water Regulations

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must

provide the same protection for public health. 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).



Water and Pollution Control Department

City of Ames 2003

Water Quality Report

The City of Ames Water and Pollution Control Department invites you to read further to learn how Ames water works for you!

The Ames City Council is the governing body that oversees the Ames water system. Bring your ideas to the public forums at the City Council meetings which are normally held at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month in the City Council Chambers at 515 Clark Avenue.

Informacion importante. Si no la entiende, haga que alguien se la traduzca ahora.

Talk To Us!

Ames Water Plant
300 East 5th Street
For quality or treatment questions: 515-239-5150
Public Works Operations
For water distribution questions: 515-239-5550
Customer Billing: 515-239-5120
Environmental Protection Agency
Drinking Water Hotline: 800-426-4791

By E-mail

ppropes@city.ames.ia.us

World Wide Web

www.city.ames.ia.us/waterweb
www.epa.gov/safewater
www.state.ia.us/government/dnr

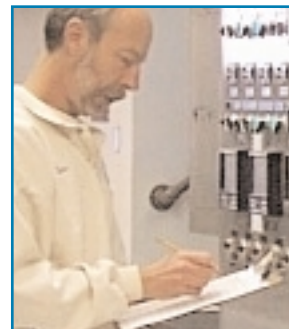


Quality Drinking Water: It's a Team Effort!

Most people take clean, safe, and affordable drinking water for granted—and why shouldn't they? People in the United States have the best public water supplies in the world. Behind the scenes, however, a team of trained professionals works 24 hours a day to deliver the best possible water to you.

Water Treatment

The process of delivering high-quality drinking water begins with our water source: 19 wells located throughout the City that all draw water from the Ames Aquifer. As the water trickles down through the ground, it is naturally filtered by the sand and gravel deposits. This removes suspended material and organic matter. After the water is pumped to the treatment plant, it undergoes several chemical and physical processes that further prepare it for drinking. The heart of the treatment process is lime softening, which removes many of the naturally-occurring minerals in the source water. The water is also filtered, disinfected, fluoridated, and stabilized to prevent corrosion. The lime softening process has remained basically the same since the City began lime softening in 1932; however, the equipment and testing methods used in water treatment have become much more sophisticated. State-certified plant operators are charged with the responsibility of making sure the finished water is of the highest quality. Laboratory analysts and technicians in our own lab and the state lab verify that the water leaving the plant and in the distribution system is free of harmful contamination.



Water Plant Operator checking treatment parameters

and machinery must be kept clean, safe, and working flawlessly. Our maintenance crew has many years' experience doing just that. They work hand in hand with plant operators to deliver an uninterrupted supply of water to Ames residents.



Checking a filter valve

Distribution

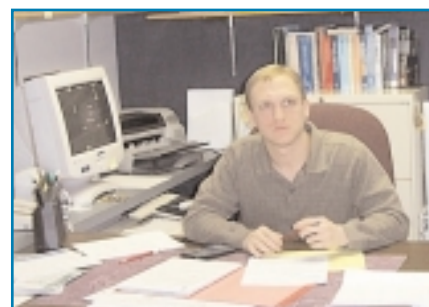
After the water leaves the plant, it can remain in underground and above-ground storage tanks or underground pipes for several hours or even a few days before it finally reaches your faucet. The Public Works Operations staff maintain the network of water pipes so the water retains the quality it had when it left the treatment plant. These people repair and maintain the city's water distribution infrastructure, often under harsh conditions, to keep the water safe and flowing 24 hours a day. Keeping the distribution system intact reduces costly and wasteful leaks and keeps contaminants out of the pipes.



Repairing water main beneath the street

Engineering and Administration

The City of Ames continues to grow, and the water system must respond to meet the needs of residents and businesses. City engineering staff plan expansions and upgrades so the system can continue to operate effectively and meet federal and state requirements.



Planning for the future

Recent additions to the water system include the new elevated storage tank at Highway 30 and County Line Road and an additional pump station to improve water pressure in the western part of the City.

Administrative staff handle regulatory requirements, staffing and personnel issues, budget and financial matters, and intergovernmental issues.



This device on the outside of your house communicates the reading from your water meter to the meter reader

Billing and Meter Services

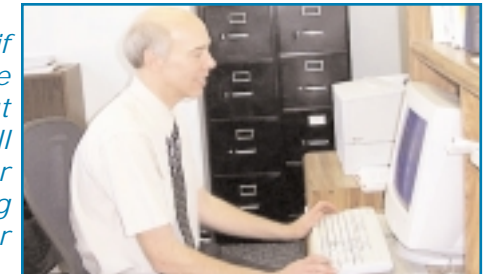
The Water and Pollution Control Department has thousands of customers who use its product and services every day. Customers expect accurate and timely bills. This begins with the meter installation. Water meters are installed inside the home, typically in the

basement. A wire runs from the meter to a remote reading device installed on the outside of the home. Our meter readers enter the reading into a hand-held computer, and these data are transferred to the computer system in the utility billing department. Your bill is then generated and delivered along with your sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and electric charges. Meters are maintained on a regular schedule to ensure accurate billing.

Customer Service

We know that quality water is only part of the equation; you also want quality service from your utility. We're ready to answer your questions regarding water quality and safety, billing, water conservation, and treatment plant tours. Don't hesitate to contact us at the numbers listed on the front of this report.

Let us know if you have questions about your water bill or any other issue regarding Ames water



Water Information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) can include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, and springs. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of people and animals. Substances that can be present in the source water include:

- Microbial contaminants**, such as bacteria, which may come from wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally 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. **Radioactive contaminants**, which occur naturally or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants found 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 people, 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 guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).