2025 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

1800 E. 13th St.
Ames, IA 50010

CITY OF Ames WATER PLANT

WHAT MAKES WATER RESILIENT?

Water is something we all rely on every day and rarely even think about. Each morning, we just expect to brush our teeth, take a shower, and start that first pot of coffee. Meeting that expectation depends on a water system that is reliable, resilient, and ready for the unexpected.

In Ames, water infrastructure doesn't just support daily life. It supports our economy, public health, and community vitality. Without it, there would be no pasta manufacturing, no innovative veterinary research, no casual dining, and no way to safely support the tens of thousands of students who study, live, and work in Ames. Water is not just a utility. It is the foundation of our way of life.

At the Ames Water Plant, we are continually investing in projects that build resilience so our system is ready to respond to both natural and human-caused emergencies. Among our key efforts:

- **Modernizing infrastructure:** Replacing aging, undersized water mains with looped networks improves fire-fighting capabilities and helps preserve water quality.
- **Planning for growth and drought:** Constructing new wells ensures capacity for a growing community and strengthens our drought resilience.
- **Preparing for emergencies:** Installing emergency generators across our supply, treatment, and delivery systems helps us keep water flowing during power outages or extreme events.
- **Building redundancy:** System-wide upgrades are reducing our risk by ensuring that small equipment failures won't become major service disruptions.

These upgrades are often invisible to the public, but they are essential. By prioritizing strategic investments, we're able to offer water and sewer rates that are among the lowest in the state.

We're also proud of our commitment to quality. In the past eight years, Ames has received five statewide awards for the taste of our drinking water. Most importantly, we continue to fully meet or exceed all state and federal standards for health and safety.

Since 1891, we've been dedicated to serving the people of Ames. Today, that commitment continues with an ever-stronger focus on resilience, reliability, and excellence in every drop.

Thank you for trusting us with your water.

Este informe contiene informacion importante acerca de su agua potable. Le recomendamos que encuentre recursos que le pueden ayudar a traducir este información.

Substance (units)	Test Year	No. of Samples	Range	Average Value	Highest Allowed Level (MCL)	Ideal Level (MCLG)	Typical Source of Substance
SUBSTANCES TESTED FOR							
Total Coliform (P/A)	2024	734	Present in 0% of Monthly Samples	Present in 0% of Monthly Samples	Present in 5% of Monthly Samples	Present in 0% of Monthly Samples	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other waterborne pathogens may be present, or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water.
Total Chlorine (ppm)	2024	734	1.51 - 2.88	2.48	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.
Barium (ppm)	2021	1	0.08	0.08	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	1,127	0.19 - 0.72	0.34	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
Nitrate (ppm)	2024	42	ND	ND	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaking from septic tanks or sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrite (ppm)	2024	42	0.006 - 0.310	0.054	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaking from septic tanks or sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (ppm)	2024	1	32	32	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; Added to water during treatment process.
Chlorate (ppm)	2024	2	0.26 - 0.30	0.28	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Lithium (ppb)	2024	1	24	24	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Trihalomethanes - TTHM (ppb)	2024	2	ND-2.2	2.2	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Haloacetic Acids - HAA5 (ppb)	2024	2	ND	ND	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
HFPO-DA (ppt)	2024	5	ND	ND	10	10	Food packaging; Non-stick and stain-resistant consumer products; Aqueous fire-fighting foams; Cosmetics; Industrial processes.
PFBA (ppt)	2024	5	ND-2.3	2.20	N/A	N/A	
PFBS (ppt)	2024	5	ND	ND	N/A	N/A	
PFHxS (ppt)	2024	5	ND	ND	10	10	
PFNA (ppt)	2024	5	ND	ND	10	10	
PFOA (ppt)	2024	5	ND-2.3	2.30	4	0	
PFOS (ppt)	2024	5	ND-2.5	2.28	4	0	
Hazard Index	2024	5	0	0	1	1	
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2020	1	1.0	1.0	5.0	0	Erosion of natural deposits.

Substances (units)	Test Year	No. of Samples	90% of Samples Were Below	Action Level (AL)	No. of Samples Above AL	Ideal Level (MCLG)	Typical Source of Substance
SUBSTANCES REGULATED AT THE CONSUMER'S TAP							
Lead (ppb)	2022	60	3.5	15	1	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	2022	60	0.02	1.3	0	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

ABBREVIATIONS TO KNOW: **N/A:** not applicable **ND:** not detected by test method **ppm:** parts per million, same as milligrams per liter (mg/L) **ppb:** parts per billion, same as micrograms per liter (µg/L) **ppt:** parts per trillion **TT:** treatment technique, value determined by available treatment technology **pCi/L:** picocuries per liter **PFOA:** Perfluorooctanoic Acid **PFOS:** Perfluororooctanesulfonic Acid **PFHxS:** Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid **PFNA:** Perfluorononanoic Acid **HFPO-DA:** Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acids ("GenX" chemicals) **PFBS:** Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid **PFBA:** Perfluorobutanoic Acid

SEE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR TERMS TO KNOW

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 Ames Water Treatment Plant 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

PROTECTING AGAINST LEAD

The Ames Water Treatment Plant produces water that helps lower the risk of lead contamination. Lead is not present when the water leaves the treatment plant, but can enter the drinking water when private service lines, made of lead, corrode. The Ames Water Treatment Plant makes corrosion less likely by maintaining specific water chemistry. Some parameters are monitored continuously, and Water Treatment Plant operators perform additional tests daily to ensure that the water is unlikely to corrode lead pipes. For more detailed information about how we help limit lead exposure, visit www.CityOfAmes.org/Lead.

DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS

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

SOURCE WATER EVALUATION

Ames' award-winning water originates in groundwater aquifers. The water in Ames' aquifers flows through the remnants of ancient riverbeds of Ioway Creek and the South Skunk River as they existed before the most recent glaciers changed the terrain. The City of Ames uses 22 wells to access the water in the layers of sand and gravel in these ancient riverbeds. In 2014, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) completed a source water evaluation for Ames. The evaluation determined that Ames' groundwater has the potential to be contaminated by leaking underground storage tanks, landfills, or improper hazardous waste disposal. As water travels over the surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. Water can also pick up substances resulting from human and animal activity. The City of Ames works diligently to ensure that contamination does not impact the Ames water supply. Interested customers can request a copy of the IDNR source water evaluation at the City of Ames Water Treatment Plant.

SPECIAL HEALTH CONCERNS

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 people, and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

WATER TREATMENT PROCESS

The United States has some of the best public water supplies in the world. To make this happen, trained professionals work 24 hours a day to provide you with the best possible water.

FROM THE WELL - The Ames Water Treatment Plant provides treatment to ensure a safe, palatable supply of drinking water for its customers. Have you ever wondered how the underground water supply gets to you? It all begins when well water enters the treatment plant through an aerator. This vents dissolved gases to the atmosphere that would contribute undesirable taste and odor and interfere with subsequent treatment steps. Dissolved iron combines with oxygen in the air to form rust particles that are removed in a later treatment step.

LIME ADDED TO REMOVE HARDNESS – The water then flows into solids contact units where lime is added to raise the pH.

In the center column, or solids contact zone, the lime forms solid particles which remove calcium and magnesium, minerals that contribute to hardness.

HARDNESS SETTLES OUT – The water then travels to the clarification zone of the solids contact unit where the insoluble calcium and magnesium particles settle to the bottom. These residuals, commonly known as sludge, flow to a lagoon and are allowed to dry. The residuals are recycled to farm fields as a soil conditioner.

CLEAN, FILTERED WATER – Next, chlorine is added to disinfect the water as it enters recarbonation tanks where carbon dioxide gas is diffused into the water to stop the softening reaction. After recarbonation, polyphosphate is added to stabilize the water and reduce scale build-up on the filters. Water is then filtered through beds of anthracite coal and sand. These filters remove fine suspended particles.

TO YOUR HOME – Finally, in accordance with recommendations from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. EPA, fluoride is added to the water for dental protection just prior to distribution to the community.

CITY OF ames™ WATER PLANT

TERMS TO KNOW: Regulated substances have Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) set by the EPA. This is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Some contaminants have Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs). This is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for an additional margin of safety. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available water treatment process. Unregulated substances do not have established MCLs but are monitored regularly. If an unacceptable amount of any substance is ever found in our water, the City of Ames will notify residents immediately and take corrective action to eliminate the problem. The MCL for lead and copper is known as the Action Level (AL) which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements. If 90% of all samples tested are not below the action level concentration, then the water utility is required to implement treatment improvements to lower lead/copper levels. Other actions, such as public education and notices, may also be required. A Hazard Index is a way to determine the health concerns associated with a mixture of chemicals.

LOOKING BACK AT 2024

CITY OF Ames WATER PLANT

Find us on X and Instagram: @AmesWater

For questions regarding the information in this report, or any questions related to your water, please contact the Ames Water Treatment Plant at 515.239.5150.