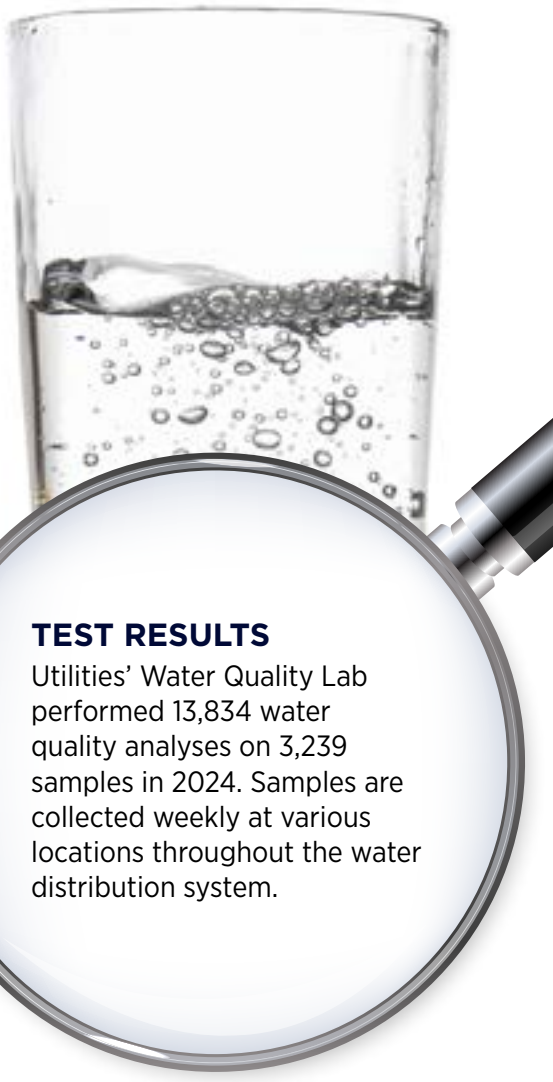
2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT

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 ***fcgov.com/cityclerk/boards/water***.

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, how it compares to drinking water standards and about community participation.



TEST RESULTS

Utilities' Water Quality Lab performed 13,834 water quality analyses on 3,239 samples in 2024. Samples are collected weekly at various locations throughout the water distribution system.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

970-212-2900 V/TDD: 711

fcgov.com/water-quality

utilities@fcgov.com

City of Fort Collins

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

25-27102

WATER QUALITY **TEST RESULTS**

DISINFECTANTS SAMPLED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

TT Requirement: At least 95% of samples per period (month or quarter) must be at least 0.2 ppm Typical Sources: Water additive used to control microbes.

Disinfectant Name	Time Period	Results	Number of Samples Below Level	Sample Size	TT Violation	MRDL
Chlorine	December, 2024	Lowest period percentage of samples meeting TT requirement: 100%	0	125	No	4.0 ppm

LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Lead and Copper Individual Sample Results

Contaminant Name	Time Period	Tap Sample Range Low – High	90th Percentile	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	90th Percentile AL	Sample Sites Above AL	90th Percentile AL Exceedance	Typical Sources
Copper	07/13/2024 to 09/18/2024	0.00618 to 0.249	0.1	55	ppm	1.3	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	07/13/2024 to 09/18/2024	ND - 6.14	2.8	55	ppb	15	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS SAMPLED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2024	24.68	12.3 to 42.1	32	ppb	60	N/A	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2024	27.32	15.8 to 38.3	32	ppb	80	N/A	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorite	2024	0.31	0.21 to 0.4	12	ppm	1.0	.8	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON (DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS PRECURSOR) REMOVAL RATIO OF RAW AND FINISHED WATER

Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	TT Minimum Ratio	TT Violation	Typical Sources
Total Organic Carbon Ratio	2024	1.33	1.12 to 1.47	12	Ratio	1.00	No	Naturally present in the environment
*If minimum ratio not met and no violation identified then the system achieved compliance using alternative criteria.								

SUMMARY OF TURBIDITY SAMPLED AT THE ENTRY POINT TO THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Contaminant Name	Sample Date	Level Found	TT Requirement	TT Violation	Typical Sources
Turbidity	Date/Month: May	Highest single measurement: 0.13 NTU	Maximum 1 NTU for any single measurement	No	Soil Runoff
Turbidity	Month: Dec	Lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting TT requirement for our technology: 100 %	In any month, at least 95% of samples must be less than 0.3 NTU	No	Soil Runoff

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS SAMPLED AT THE ENTRY POINT TO THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Barium	2024	0.02	0.01 to 0.02	4	ppm	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2024	0.6	0.54 to 0.71	23	ppm	4	4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	2024	0.09	ND to 0.18	13	ppm	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS

Secondary standards are non-enforceable guidelines for contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin, or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water

Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	Secondary Standard
Sodium	2024	3.48	2.76 to 4.12	13	ppm	N/A

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

ND: Non-detect. Analytical sample where the concentration is deemed lower than could be detected using the approved testing method

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

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

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

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

Sanitary Survey: Inspection performed by CDPHE every three years to ensure drinking water facilities are in compliance with all regulations and to evaluate the adequacy of the facilities for producing and distributing safe drinking water.

Watershed: The 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 amount of certain contaminants in water from public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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* originate from animal and human waste in the watershed and are commonly found in untreated surface water. When ingested, the organisms may cause fever, nausea and diarrhea. A well-maintained water treatment process effectively removes them, ensuring safe drinking water.

In 2024, Fort Collins Utilities updated its testing approach for detecting organisms like Giardia and Cryptosporidium. Rather than testing the Poudre and Horsetooth untreated water separately, they now analyze a combined blended sample from both sources. Testing in 2024 detected the presence of Giardia in these combined samples.

For more information about contaminants and potential health risks, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or visit ***epa.gov/safewater***.

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.

Utilities' Watershed Specialist, Diana Schmidt, collecting water quality samples from Joe Wright Creek.

Utilities manages a source water quality surveillance system in the upper Poudre watershed to detect and respond to water quality impacts from wildfires, chemical spills, and reservoir releases. This system, established after the High Park Wildfire in 2013 and expanded during the Cameron Peak Wildfire in 2020, provides near-real-time water quality data to municipal water providers, researchers, and other resource management agencies. By monitoring water quality conditions, Utilities can quickly address contamination risks before they affect drinking water supplies.

Utilities is also partnering with regional water providers and Colorado State University to build an advanced source water decision support system. This system will integrate real-time water quality, satellite imagery, and discrete monitoring data to track source water quality risks and help treatment plant operators optimize treatment processes. These efforts help ensure that Fort Collins' drinking water remains clean and safe. Learn more at ***fcgov.com/source-water-monitoring***).

Joe Wright Reservoir which stores water that is diverted from the upper Michigan River Watershed to the Poudre River Watershed via the Michigan Ditch.

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.

To address these threats, Utilities works closely with the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, Colorado State Forest Service, Larimer Conservation District, and other key watershed stakeholders to improve the health and resiliency of the Poudre River. In 2025, Utilities' Watershed Program will lead the development of a collaborative Source Water Protection Plan, which will include the cities of Fort Collins, Greeley and Thornton, Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Authority and Northern Water. This regional effort will improve cost-effectiveness, align source water protection strategies, and support current and future pollution mitigation projects, including the Poudre Water Supply Infrastructure Wildfire Ready Action Plan (WRAP).

The Colorado Water Conservation Board awarded Utilities a $210,000 grant to develop the Poudre Water Supply Infrastructure WRAP with the City of Greeley and Water Supply and Storage Company. This collaborative plan will focus on protecting water supplies and water supply infrastructure, including City-owned Michigan Ditch and Joe Wright Reservoir, from the threat of wildfire. The WRAP will outline specific projects and actions to safeguard these resources from post-fire impacts, both before and after a wildfire occurs. Project partners are providing matching funds for the grant. Plan development is set to begin in early 2025.

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. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water.

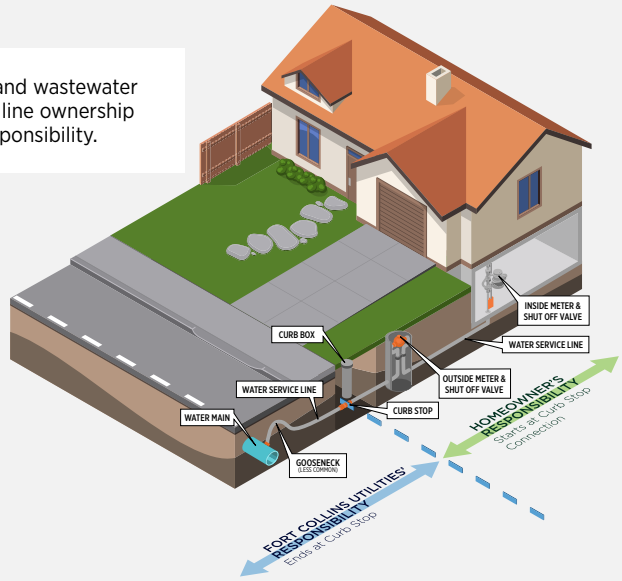
If you have concerns about your water quality or questions about water testing, contact the Water Quality Lab at 970-221-6863 or V/TDD 711. Any concerns about home plumbing should be directed to a licensed plumber.

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/lead***.

WHAT IS SWAP?

Through the ***Safe Water Action Program (SWAP)***, Fort Collins Utilities has replaced 125 water service lines to date and plans to replace another 50 in 2025. The program will continue for the next 2-3 years to work on replacing known galvanized lines, as well as investigating the remaining 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.

Water and wastewater service line ownership and responsibility.



SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

New state and federal laws require us to inventory all water service lines in our service area to classify the material. A service line is the underground pipe that carries water from the water main, likely in the street, into your home or building. If you would like to view a copy of our service line inventory or have questions about the material of your service line, contact Martin Shaffer at 970-416-2165.

WE WANT YOU TO KNOW

Fort Collins Utilities received a Tier 3 violation in August of 2024. This was a reporting error and does not directly impact human health. The Code of Colorado Regulations requires consumers be notified within 1 year of occurrence. This did not require customers to use an alternative source and does not compromise the quality of water we continue to supply.

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). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Monitoring of turbidity and chlorine happens multiple times daily, and the results are submitted to Colorado Dept of Public Health and Environment monthly. The report is due by the 10th of the following month. The July 2024 report was submitted on Aug 12, 2024, 2 days after the deadline. Internal processes were evaluated and improved to ensure this does not happen again. For questions, please reach out to Gregg Stonecipher 970-221-6692.