



# 2018 DRINKING WATER REPORT



This report contains important information about your drinking water. Please have someone translate it for you or speak with someone who understands this report.

## **Spanish**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## **Hmong**

Daim ntawv teev num no muaj cov ntaub ntawv tseem ceeb hais txog koj cov dej haus. Nrhaiv ib tug neeg pab txhais cov ntaub ntawv no rau koj, lossis tham nrog ib tug neeg uas paub cov lus no.

## **Somali**

Warbixintan waxay wadataa macluumaad muhiim ah ee la xiriira biyaha aad cabtid. Cid ha kuu tarjunto ama la hadl cid fahmaysa.

## **Vietnamese**

Tài liệu này có tin tức quan trọng về nước uống của quý vị. Hãy nhờ người dịch cho quý vị, hoặc hỏi người nào hiểu tài liệu này.

[FridleyMN.gov/620/Water-Quality-Reports](http://FridleyMN.gov/620/Water-Quality-Reports)

# KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Fridley drinking water continues to meet all State and Federal standards. The City of Fridley is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2018. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

## MAKING SAFE DRINKING WATER

Your drinking water comes from a groundwater source: 13 wells ranging from 199 to 870 feet deep, that draw water from the Prairie Du Chien-Jordan, Prairie Du Chien Group, Mt. Simon, Tunnel City-Mt.Simon, Quaternary Buried Artesian and Jordan aquifers. The City of Fridley also obtains treated water from the City of New Brighton under a beneficial re-use program. This water supply was re-established in late 2018 after the City of New Brighton's new augmented treatment system went online.

Fridley works hard to provide you with clean and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state requirements. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Minnesota Department of Health set safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap 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 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.

## QUESTIONS, CONCERNS OR WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Call 763-572-3554 if you have questions about the City of Fridley's drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of your drinking water.

# WORKING FOR YOU



The Fridley Water Division maintains the operation of its wells, 4 reservoirs and 3 filtration plants. In 2018, the City completed design of the highly anticipated Locke Park Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project. This plant has the capacity of 2.9 million gallons of treated drinking water annually. The project is for improving the reliability and treatment, as well as providing benefit to the environment. Improvements center on a new water reclaim system that will maximize water reuse. In addition to water conservation, the plant improvements will reduce annual power usage. Other improvements include filter rehabilitation with new media that will improve the water treatment

process, plant safety upgrades, and site work for new driveways to access the facilities. Construction begins May 2019 and completion is expected by early 2020.

The Rice Creek Watershed District awarded the City \$47,500 in funding through their 2018 Urban Stormwater Cost-Share Program. Funds will be applied to the 69th Avenue Road Diet and Infiltration Project, which is major water quality component of the half-mile resurfacing project. The road diet reduces the existing impervious surface of the roadway by 30%. Approximately 70% of the storm water from impervious surfaces will be routed to the infiltration swale for treatment. Infiltration helps reduce contaminants before reaching the groundwater table. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2019.

The City began an expanded hydrant flushing and testing program in 2018 that will provide additional assurance that privately-owned hydrants are functional and available for an emergency. The program also includes pressure and volume testing to verify underground water piping systems are functioning properly.

## 2018 BY THE NUMBERS

The City of Fridley's 2018 water by the numbers are as follows:

- Average of 3.0 million gallons of drinking water treated per day
- 1.105 billion gallons of clean drinking water sold
- Residential usage = 60 gallons per capita per day (conservation goal is <75 gpcd)
- Water losses due to leakage, hydrant use, etc. = 6.6% (conservation goal is <10%)
- 30 watermain breaks repaired and 39 service leaks repaired.
- Total Hardness: 205-290 mg/l or 12-17 grains/gal. About half the homes in Fridley use a water softener.



# THE VALUE OF WATER

Throughout history, civilizations have risen and fallen based on access to a plentiful, safe water supply. That's still the case today. Water is key to healthy people and communities. Water is also vital to our economy. Systems are in place to provide you with clean drinking water. The state of Minnesota and local water systems work to protect drinking water sources.

**If we detect a problem, we take protective action.  
We notify you if there are related health risks.**

## FRIDLEY MONITORING RESULTS

We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply or bottled water is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's web page Basics of Monitoring and Testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html>).

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year when levels are consistent from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below.

The City of Fridley performs additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of test results, contact the City of Fridley at 763-572-3554 or the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318.

## SUPPLEMENTAL CONTAINMENT MONITORING

The City of Fridley performs supplemental monitoring of regulated and unregulated contaminants to ensure that your drinking water is clean and safe. No contaminants were detected at levels that violated Federal drinking water standards or exceeded Minnesota Department of Health risk guidelines.

Supplemental monitoring performed in 2018 included regular testing for contaminants that have impacted the city's wells recently and historically. Monitoring for Trichloroethylene (TCE) indicated no detection in treated water, and detection in a single well below established health standards and health risk guidelines. The City of Fridley also continues to monitor the concentration of 1,4-Dioxane in multiple wells, and trace levels were found. These were nine times below the strictest health standard. Most recently, one city well was impacted by Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and was immediately taken out of service in late 2016. While levels were again substantially lower than the strictest health risk guidelines, the City has taken this added precautionary measure to protect public health.

The City of Fridley is continuing to work to identify and eliminate sources of these contaminants impacting specific well sources.

## UNREGULATED SUBSTANCE MONITORING



As noted above, in addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, Fridley monitors for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water.

Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The meaning of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

The unregulated contaminants detected last year are shown in the monitoring results table, as well as human-health based guidance values for comparison, where available. The comparison values are based only on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations or the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. They may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impossible for water systems to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant).

A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little or no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions - like a fetus, infants, children, elderly, and people with impaired immunity - may need to take extra precautions. Because these contaminants are unregulated, EPA and MDH require no particular action based on detection of an unregulated contaminant. We are notifying you of the unregulated contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

- More information is available on *MDH's A-Z List of Contaminants in Water* (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html>) and *Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4)* (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html>).

## DEFINITIONS

- **AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency
- **MCL (Maximum contaminant level):** 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 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.
- **MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **NA (Not applicable):** Does not apply.
- **pCi/l (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.
- **ppb (parts per billion):** One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ ).
- **ppm (parts per million):** One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg}/\text{l}$ ).

The table on the next page shows the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. It also shows the levels of those contaminants and the EPA limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the table.

### FOR GRAPHIC ON NEXT PAGE

\* Results are values used to determine compliance with federal standards. They sometimes are the highest value detected and sometimes are an average of all the detected values. If an average is used, results may include sampling from the previous year.

(a) Results from City of Fridley supplemental monitoring.

(b) The Minnesota Department of Health has set a Health Risk Limit of 0.4 ppb for TCE. See <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/risk/docs/guidance/gw/tceinfosheet.pdf> for further information.

(c) Note that one operational well sampled from 0 to 0.21 ppb (Well 9).

(d) The Minnesota Department of Health has set a Health Risk Limit of 1 ppb for 1,4-Dioxane. See <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/risk/docs/guidance/dwec/dioxaneinfo.pdf> for further information.

(e) The Minnesota Department of Health has set a Health Based Value of 0.035 ppb. See [www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/hazardous/docs/pfashealth.pdf](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/hazardous/docs/pfashealth.pdf) for further information.

(f) Note that the one well that sampled above 0 for PFAS has been removed from service due to the presence of PFAS.

(g) Note that home water softening can increase the level of sodium in your water.

DETECTED COMPOUNDS (DATE, IF SAMPLED IN PREVIOUS YEAR) CONTAMINANT NAME	UNITS	EPA LIMITS		FRIDLEY DRINKING WATER LEVELS		VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCES
		GOAL (MCLG)	MAXIMUM (MCL)	RESULT*	RANGE		
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	(ppm)	10	10.4	0.23	0 - 0.23	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha	(pCi/l)	0	15.4	6.4	0 - 6.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium (2017)	(pCi/l)	0	5.4	4.7	N/A	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes)	(ppb)	N/A	80	3.5	0 - 3.5	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	(ppb)	N/A	60	1.5	0 - 1.5	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Fluoride	(ppm)	4.0	4.0	0.69	0.54 - 0.70	No	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits.
TCE (Trichloroethylene) <sup>(a)</sup>	(ppb)	0	5 <sup>(b)</sup>	0	0 <sup>(c)</sup>	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
1,4-Dioxane <sup>(a)</sup>	(ppb)	No EPA Limit Established <sup>(d)</sup>		--	0 - 0.059	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
PFAS <sup>(a)</sup>	(ppb)	No EPA Limit Established <sup>(e)</sup>		0	0 <sup>(f)</sup>	No	Mannmade chemicals that have been used for decades to make products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease and water.
Chlorine	(ppm)	4	4	1.26	0.87 - 1.46	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
		<b>GOAL (MCLG)</b>	<b>MAXIMUM (MRDL)</b>	<b>HIGH AVG QUARTER</b>	<b>HIGH/LOW AVG MONTH</b>		
				<b>90% LEVEL</b>	<b>SITES OVER AL</b>		
Copper (9/27/16)	(ppm)	0	1.3	0.73	0 out of 30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead (9/27/16)	(ppb)	0	15	5.7	1 out of 30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
<b>UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES</b>		<b>COMPARISON VALUE</b>	<b>HIGH AVG / HIGH SINGLE RESULT</b>	<b>RANGE</b>			
Sodium <sup>(g)</sup>	(ppm)	20	13.1		8.14 - 13.10	No	
Sulfate	(ppm)	500	12.1		9.88 - 12.10	No	

# LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

The City of Fridley was last required to perform lead testing in 2016, and will again be performing testing in 2019. The City's drinking water has always been compliant with standards, but you should read the following to help and avoid and reduce your health risk.

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. Coming in contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. Babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Lead is rarely in a drinking water source, but it can get in your drinking water as it passes through lead service lines and your household plumbing system. Fridley provides high quality drinking water, but it cannot control the plumbing materials used in private buildings.

Continue reading to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

- 1. Let the water run** for 30-60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has not been turned on in over six hours. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.
  - You can find out if you have a lead service line by contacting your public water system, or you can check by following the steps at <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/06/24/npr-find-lead-pipes-in-your-home>.
  - The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.
- 2. Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.
- 3. Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.
  - Contact the City of Fridley at 763-572-3554 if you would like your water tested for lead and we will assist you, or
  - Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to get a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample: Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/mnelap/>). The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.
- 4. Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run.
  - Read about water treatment units: *Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction* (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html>).

## Learn more:

- Visit *Lead in Drinking Water* (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html>)
- Visit *Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water* (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>).
- Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 800 426 4791. To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit *Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources* (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html>).

## FLUORIDE IN DRINKING WATER

Fluoride is nature's cavity fighter, with small amounts present naturally in many drinking water sources. There is an overwhelming weight of credible, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence that fluoridation reduces tooth decay and cavities in children and adults, even when there is availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste and mouth rinses. Since studies show that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water benefit public health, Minnesota municipal community water systems are required to adjust the level of fluoride in the water to a concentration between 0.5 to 1.5 parts per million (ppm), with the City of Fridley using an optimal fluoridation goal between 0.5 and 0.9 ppm to protect your teeth. Fluoride levels below 2.0 ppm are not expected to increase the risk of a cosmetic condition known as enamel fluorosis.

## PERSONS VULNERABLE TO CONTAMINANTS IN DRINKING WATER

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. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These people or their caregivers should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (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 1-800-426 4791.

# HOME WATER TREATMENT

Most Minnesotans, whether they drink from a public water supply or a private well, have drinking water that does not need treatment for health protection. Water treatment units are best for improving the physical qualities of water—the taste, color, or odor.

No single treatment process can remove all substances in water. If you decide to install a home water treatment unit, choose a unit certified and labeled to reduce or remove the substance of concern. If there is more than one substance you want to remove from your water, you may need to combine several treatment processes into one system.

Even well-designed treatments systems can fail. You should continue to test your drinking water after you install a treatment unit. All home water treatment units need regular maintenance to work correctly. Regular maintenance may include changing filters, disinfecting the unit, or cleaning scale buildup. Always install, clean, and maintain a treatment unit according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Learn more at *Home Water Treatment*

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/hometreatment.html>)

## BEWARE OF WATER TREATMENT SCAMS

False claims, deceptive sales pitches, or scare tactics have been used by some water treatment companies. Every person has a right to decide what is best for themselves and their family, and you may choose to install additional water treatment to further lower the levels of contaminants of emerging concern, chlorine, and other chemicals in your water. However, you should be cautious about purchasing a water treatment system. If you are considering the purchase of a home water treatment system, please read the Minnesota Department of Health's recommendations online at *Warning: Beware of Water Treatment Scams* (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/beware.html>).

# THE PROS AND CONS OF HOME WATER SOFTENING

Water softeners are a water treatment device. The decision to soften your water is a personal choice that can affect your home and the environment. It is important to understand your home's water quality. This will help you decide if a home water softener is necessary and choose the best treatment device(s). They remove water hardness (dissolved calcium and magnesium). Water softeners must be installed and maintained properly to be safe and effective. Learn more at *Home Water Softening* (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/softening.html>).

## **The benefits of soft water include:**

- Increased efficiency for soaps and detergents.
- Reduction in mineral staining on fixtures and in pipes.
- A potential increase in the lifespan of water heaters.

## **The drawbacks of soft water include:**

- Operation and maintenance costs.
- Use of more water.
- More sodium in drinking water. People on low-sodium diets should consult a doctor if they plan to regularly consume softened water.
- The production of salt brine as a byproduct. This can have negative effects at wastewater treatment plants, surface water quality, and on ecosystems. Reducing the amount of salt brine used or installing a salt-free system can help reduce these negative effects.

# LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## DRINKING WATER SOURCES

Minnesota's primary drinking water sources are groundwater and surface water. Groundwater is the water found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water.

Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are five main types of contaminants in drinking water sources.

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** are chemicals used to reduce or kill unwanted plants and pests. Sources include agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and commercial and residential properties.
- **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How Fridley is protecting your drinking water source(s);
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources;
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at *Source Water Assessments* (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa>) or call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## REDUCE BACKFLOW AT CROSS CONNECTIONS

Bacteria and chemicals can enter the drinking water supply from polluted water sources in a process called backflow. Backflow occurs at connection points between drinking water and non-drinking water supplies (cross connections) due to water pressure differences.

For example, if a person sprays an herbicide with a garden hose, the herbicide could enter the home's plumbing and then enter the drinking water supply. This could happen if the water pressure in the hose is greater than the water pressure in the home's pipes.

Property owners can help prevent backflow. Pay attention to cross connections, such as garden hoses.

The Minnesota Department of Health and American Water Works Association recommend the following:

- Do not submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, or sinks.
- Keep the end of hoses clear of possible contaminants.
- Do not use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device. Attach these devices to threaded faucets. Such devices are inexpensive and available at hardware stores.
- Use a licensed plumber to install backflow prevention devices.
- Maintain air gaps between hose outlets and liquids. An air gap is a vertical space between the water outlet and the flood level of a fixture (e.g. the space between a wall-mounted faucet and the sink rim). It must be at least twice the diameter of the water supply outlet, and at least one inch.
- Commercial property owners should develop a plan for flushing or cleaning water systems to minimize the risk of drawing contaminants into uncontaminated areas.

# HELP PROTECT OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE - WATER

## CONSERVATION

Conservation is essential, even in the land of 10,000 lakes. For example, in parts of the metropolitan area, groundwater is being used faster than it can be replaced. Some agricultural regions in Minnesota are vulnerable to drought, which can affect crop yields and municipal water supplies.

We must use our water wisely. Below are some tips to help you and your family conserve – and save money in the process.



- Fix running toilets—they can waste hundreds of gallons of water.
- Turn off the tap while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- Shower instead of bathe. Bathing uses more water than showering, on average.
- Only run full loads of laundry and set the washing machine to the correct water level.
- Only run the dishwasher when it's full.
- Use water-efficient appliances (look for the WaterSense label).
- Use water-friendly landscaping, such as native plants.
- When you do water your yard, water slowly, deeply, and less frequently. Water early in the morning and close to the ground.

### Learn more:

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Conserving Water webpage (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/conserving-water>)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense webpage (<https://www.epa.gov/watersense>)

# YOU CAN PREVENT POLLUTION

Many of our daily activities contribute to the pollution of Minnesota's surface water and groundwater. Help protect these drinking water sources by taking the following actions:

- Lawn and property:
  - Limit use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers on your property.
  - Keep soil in place with plants, grass, or rocks.
  - Cover temporary piles of dirt with a tarp or burlap sack.
  - Keep leaves and grass off streets and sidewalks.
  - Maintain any septic systems, private wells, and storage tanks to prevent leaks. Seal any unused wells.
  - Adopt a local storm drain at [www.adopt-a-drain.org](http://www.adopt-a-drain.org).
- Out-of-date medications: Never flush unwanted or out-of-date medications down the toilet or sink. Always take them to a waste disposal or prescription medication drop-off site. The City of Fridley operates one at its Public Safety Department at 7071 University Ave NE. More information is available at *Managing unwanted medications* ([www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/managing-unwanted-medications](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/managing-unwanted-medications))
- Hazardous Materials: Safely store hazardous materials such as paint, batteries, herbicides, pesticides, and pool chemicals. Dispose of them at a proper waste disposal facility or drop-off event. Do not dump down storm drains, sinks or onto your land. Learn more at *Keep hazardous waste out of the garbage* (<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/keep-hazardous-waste-out-garbage>).
- Pick up after your pet and put waste in the trash.
- Seal trash bags and keep litter out of the street.
- Winter ice removal - chemicals used to break up the ice are called deicers or anti-icers. They can be harmful to the environment, corrosive to driveways and sidewalks and harmful to plants, pets and humans. Always shovel first, and then only apply deicers/anti-icers lightly if needed. Learn more at *10 smart salting tips to protect Minnesota waters* (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/10-smart-salting-tips-protect-minnesota-waters>).
- Keep an eye out for car and motor fluids. Seal or repair any fluid leaks that could run off onto streets and into storm drains. Take used motor oil or other fluids to a neighborhood drop-off site.
- Be a water advocate. Spread the word and get involved. There are many groups and individuals working to protect water across Minnesota.