

# City of Ironwood 2025 Annual Drinking Water Report

## **Is my water safe?**

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

## **Do I need to take special precautions?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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/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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Where does my water come from?**

Our water source is two glacial aquifers, which serve the Big Springs and Spring Creek Well Fields. These six wells range from a depth of 54 feet to 140 feet. The City of Ironwood water supply recently completed a State of Michigan approved wellhead protection plan to protect the public area water supply.

## **Source water assessment and its availability.**

The City of Ironwood recently revised the wellhead protection plan in 2019 that is used to protect the water source. Included in this plan are educational materials for property owners to help protect the water supply such as private well abandonment, use of pesticides and fertilizers, maintaining a septic system, etc. This plan was approved by the State of Michigan.

## **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amounts of 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity:

microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring 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; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### **How can I get involved?**

#### **Information About This Report**

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water quality, please contact Devon DeRosso at (906)932-5050 or Bill Tregembo at (906) 932-3631. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are normally held on the second and fourth Monday each month at 5:30 pm in the commission chambers of the Memorial Building at 213 South Marquette Street in Ironwood, MI.

### **Description of Water Treatment Process**

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

### **Water Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving will save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.

- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

### **Source Water Protection Tips**

There are no significant sources of contamination in our water supply. Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. We are making efforts to protect our sources by updating the Wellhead Protection Plan and implementing management and educational activities. These activities include plugging abandoned wells, incorporating wellhead protection areas into zoning maps, considering wellhead protection areas in the permit process, educating local residents and businesses, incorporating site plan reviews and educating students how to protect the water supply.

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

### **Iron and Manganese Removal**

The City of Ironwood retained the services of SEH (Short, Elliot & Hendrickson), a St. Paul, Minnesota engineering firm with extensive iron and manganese removal experience and Dr. Bill Knocke, professor of civil and environmental engineering at Virginia Tech, for an engineering study of iron and manganese removal for the City's water supply. Their report included opinions and recommendations regarding iron and manganese removal. The City of Ironwood is working with HDR Inc. and Coleman Engineering to design and construct an iron and manganese

removal plant. Construction of phase 1 was completed in early 2025 and phase 2 is expected to be completed in mid-2026.

### **Additional Information for Lead**

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and home plumbing. The City of Ironwood is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formulas, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and lead service line. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the City of Ironwood at 906-932-5050 for available resources. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The city is obligated to replace any remaining lead service lines in the distribution system at a rate of 5% per year for the next 20 years. The City of Ironwood received a \$3M grant to financially assist the city with this project. City staff is conducting a water service line survey to plan and design this project. Recent inventory of the water service lines show inventory for 66 water service lines are lead material, 2932 are not lead and 46 are unknown. The City of Ironwood will continue to replace water lines that are made of galvanized steel and or connected to lead goosenecks. Majority of these lines will be replaced during the 2026 construction season.

## **Water Quality Data Table**

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor certain

contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants does not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	9.1	4.4	9.1	2025	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	64.8	60.8	64.8	2025	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Cyanide (ppb)	200	200	0.0035	0.0035	0.0035	2023	NO	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories, Discharge from steel metal factories
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.13	0.13	0.13	2023	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.12	0.12	0.12	2025	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)	NA		17	NA	NA	2023	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Range	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.4	0-0.7	2025	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	12	12	1	0-2	2025	0	NO	Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures;

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)							
Regulated Contaminant	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA) (ppt)	370	N/A	ND	N/A	2025	NO	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities utilizing the Gen X chemical process
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppt)	420	N/A	ND	N/A	2025	NO	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; Stain-resistant treatments
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) (ppt)	51	N/A	ND	N/A	2025	NO	Firefighting foam; Discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppt)	400,000	N/A	ND	N/A	2025	NO	Firefighting foam; Discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) (ppt)	6	N/A	ND	N/A	2025	NO	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; Breakdown of precursor compounds
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	16	N/A	ND	N/A	2025	NO	Firefighting foam; Discharge from electroplating facilities; Discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)	8	N/A	ND	N/A	2025	NO	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; Stain-resistant treatments

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Range	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
								Erosion of natural deposits

## Undetected Contaminants

The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water. The city of ironwood also tested for volatile organic compounds (VOC) in July and December of 2025. Results of both tests showed that VOC's were not detected in the samples taken.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Violation	Typical Source
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	ND	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Violation	Typical Source
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Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	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.
MCL	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

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