

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024



Presented By



Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The current primary water source for the Village of New Lenox is treated Lake Michigan water purchased from the Village of Tinley Park. Lake Michigan is a surface water supply. The City of Chicago uses Lake Michigan as its source water via two treatment plants. The Jardine Water Purification Plant serves the northern areas of the city and suburbs, while the Sawyer Water Purification Plant serves the southern areas of the city and suburbs, including New Lenox. Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that is entirely contained within the United States. It borders Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin and is the second-largest Great Lake by volume, with 1,180 cubic miles of water, and third-largest by area. The Village of New Lenox maintains its wells as a future emergency backup water source.

Why save water?

Although 80 percent of the Earth's surface is water, only 1 percent is suitable for drinking. The rest is either saltwater or permanently frozen, and we can't drink it, wash with it, or use it to water plants.

Important Health Information

While your drinking water meets the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. U.S. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. U.S. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

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 health-care providers. U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 or epa.gov/safewater.



Count on Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:



- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water.
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions.
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results.
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry.
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels.
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies.
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. The Village of New Lenox board meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall, located at One Veterans Parkway.



QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Chris Skinnotes, Water Department Superintendent, at (815) 215-4800.

BY THE NUMBERS

 **3.4 BILLION**

The daily volume in gallons of water recycled and reused in the U.S., reducing waste and conserving resources.

 **28%**

The percent reduction in per capita water use in the U.S. since 1980, thanks to efficiency improvements.

 **99.99%**

The percent effectiveness of modern water treatment plants in removing harmful bacteria and viruses from drinking water.

 **1.2 MILLION**

The length in miles of drinking water pipes in the U.S. delivering clean water to millions of homes and businesses daily.

 **1.7 MILLION**

The number of jobs supported by the U.S. water sector.

Substances That Could Be in Water

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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally in the soil or groundwater or may 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 can occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

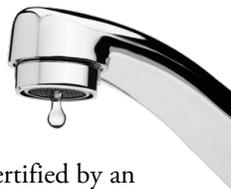
To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public 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 mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by contacting the U.S. EPA by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visiting epa.gov/safewater.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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 Village of New Lenox is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead and wish to have your water tested, contact the Village of New Lenox Water Department at (815) 215-4800. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service inventory may be found at newlenox.net/236/Water-Sewer. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.



Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels. We are pleased to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

The percentage of total organic carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month, and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by IEPA.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES											
				Village of New Lenox		New Lenox Emergency Backup Groundwater		City of Chicago			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2020	15	0	NA	NA	6.39	1.86–6.39	3.1	2.8–3.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	2024	10	0	NA	NA	8.27	0.502–8.27	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2024	2	2	NA	NA	0.0299	0.0107–0.0299	0.0203	0.0198–0.0203	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2024	[4]	[4]	0.9	0.7–1.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chromium (ppb)	2024	100	100	NA	NA	6.38	0.497–6.38	NA	NA	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2024	5	0	NA	NA	2.64	0.893–2.64	0.95 ¹	0.83–0.95 ¹	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Di(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate (ppb)	2023	6	0	NA	NA	1.47	1.47–1.47	NA	NA	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	4	4	0.33	0.32–0.33	NA	NA	0.76	0.67–0.76	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2024	60	NA	21	12.49–31	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Iron ⁴ (ppb)	2024	1,000	NA	NA	NA	2,180	339–2,180	NA	NA	No	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits
Manganese ⁵ (ppb)	2024	150	NA	NA	NA	23.1	12.3–23.1	NA	NA	No	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	2024	10	10	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.39	0.36–0.39	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

				Village of New Lenox		New Lenox Emergency Backup Groundwater		City of Chicago			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Sodium ⁶ (ppm)	2024	NS	NA	NA	NA	44	29.9–44	9.18	8.87–9.18	No	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Used in water softener regeneration
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	2024	TT	NA	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Nitrate + Nitrite (ppm)	2024	10	10	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.39	0.36–0.39	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2024	80	NA	46	24.3–66	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity ² (NTU)	2024	TT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.39	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2024	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	99.7	NA	No	Soil runoff
Zinc ⁷ (ppb)	2024	5,000	NA	23.6	7.06–23.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Naturally occurring; Discharge from metal factories

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community³

			Village of New Lenox (2023)			City of Chicago (2024)				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.104	0.0045-0.125	0/5	0.12	TBD–TBD	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	15	0	ND	ND-ND	0/35	7.7	TBD–TBD	1/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, Erosion of natural deposits.

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES⁸

		Village of New Lenox		City of Chicago		
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromide (ppm)	2020	NA	NA	35.3	28.2–35.3	NA
Gross Alpha Particle Activity [excluding radon and uranium] (pCi/L)	2024	7.35	2.76–7.35	3.1 ¹	2.8–3.1 ¹	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	2024	NA	NA	28.2	25.3–28.2	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2020	NA	NA	1.8	1.79–1.8	Naturally present in the environment

¹ Sampled in 2020.

² Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

³ This table summarizes our most recent lead and copper tap sampling data. If you would like to review the complete lead tap sampling data, please go to water.epa.state.il.us/dww/index.jsp and enter the Water System No. IL1970700 for New Lenox.

⁴ Iron is not currently regulated by the U.S. EPA; however, the state has set an MCL for supplies serving a population of 1,000 or more. In February of 2024, the Village of New Lenox performed testing of their emergency back up wells. The results did exceed the MCL of iron in two wells (Well #5 and Well #11). These wells are not connected to the water system and are only tested once a month as a potential emergency water source for the Village of New Lenox. Since then, the Village of New Lenox have abandoned and sealed Well #5 due to the age, results of testing, and the cost of maintenance. We are in the process of monitoring and testing Well #11.

⁵ Manganese is not currently regulated by the U.S. EPA; however, the state has set an MCL for supplies serving a population of 1,000 or more.

⁶ Sodium is not currently regulated by the U.S. EPA; however, the state has set an MCL for this contaminant for supplies serving a population of 1,000 or more.

⁷ Zinc is not currently regulated by the U.S. EPA; however, the state has set an MCL for supplies serving a population of 1,000 or more.

⁸ No MCL or mandatory health effects language for this contaminant has been established by either state or federal regulations. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist U.S. EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.



Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment has been completed for our system. The purpose of the assessment is to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source to potential contaminant sources. The report includes background information and a relative susceptibility rating of higher, moderate, or lower. It is important to understand that a higher susceptibility rating does not imply poor water quality, only the system's potential to become contaminated within the assessment area. The assessment findings are summarized in the table below:

SUSCEPTIBILITY OF SOURCES TO POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT SOURCES		
SOURCE NAME	SUSCEPTIBILITY RATING	SWAP REPORT DATE
Well 10	Low	July 2023
Well 11	Low	July 2023

Well 5 has been sealed since October 2024.

If you would like a copy of our assessment, please feel free to contact our office during regular business hours at the number provided in this report or visit newlenox.net/236/Water-Sewer.

City of Chicago

The Illinois EPA (IEPA) implemented a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) to assist with watershed protection of public drinking water supplies. The SWAP inventories potential sources of contamination and determined the susceptibility of the source water to contamination. The IEPA has completed the SWAP for the City of Chicago.

The IEPA considers all surface water sources of community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of water allows contaminants to migrate into the intake with no protection, only dilution. This is the reason for mandatory treatment of all surface water supplies in Illinois.

Chicago's offshore intakes are located at a distance where shoreline impacts are not usually considered a factor on water quality. At certain times of the year, however, the potential for contamination exists due to wet-weather flows and river reversals. In addition, the placement of crib structures may serve to attract waterfowl - gulls and terns that frequent the Great Lakes area - thereby concentrating fecal deposits at the intake and compromising the source water quality. Conversely, the shore intakes are highly susceptible to stormwater runoff, marinas, and shoreline point sources due to the influx of groundwater to the lake.

Further information on our community water supply's Source Water Assessment Program is available by calling the Department of Water Management at (312) 742-2406 or visiting dataservices.epa.illinois.gov/swap/factsheet.aspx.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other required actions by the water supply.

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.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NS: No standard.

Q&A

Why save water?

Although 80 percent of the Earth's surface is water, only 1 percent is suitable for drinking. The rest is either saltwater or permanently frozen, and we can't drink it, wash with it, or use it to water plants.

Which household activity wastes the most water?

Most people would say the majority of water use comes from showering or washing dishes; however, toilet flushing is by far the largest single use of water in a home (accounting for 40% of total water use). Toilets use about 4 to 6 gallons per flush, so consider an ultra-low-flow (ULF) toilet, which requires only 1.5 gallons.

Should I be concerned about what I'm pouring down my drain?

If your home is served by a sewage system, your drain is an entrance to your wastewater disposal system and eventually to a drinking water source. Consider purchasing environmentally friendly home products whenever possible, and never pour hazardous materials (e.g., car engine oil) down the drain. Check with your health department for more information on proper disposal methods.

How long can I store drinking water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water can be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

How long does it take a water supplier to produce one glass of treated drinking water?

It can take up to 45 minutes to produce a single glass of drinking water.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.