

## Community Participation

Community members are welcome to attend Fort Collins Utilities' Water Board meetings, a citizen committee that advises City Council on matters of policy and budget. Please see the schedule and location at [fcgov.com/cityclerk/water.php](http://fcgov.com/cityclerk/water.php).

## Fluoridation

As directed by City Council and our customers, Utilities adds fluoride to the water, resulting in levels that range from 0.7 to 1.2 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](http://fcgov.com/water/fluoride.php).

## EPA Information

The EPA states drinking water—including bottled water—may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. You also may visit [epa.gov/safewater](http://epa.gov/safewater).

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# Drinking Water Quality Report.

Water Testing Performed in 2009



Utilities for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## Where Our Water Originates

Utilities distributes a mixture of water treated by the Utilities and Soldier Canyon Filter Plant. Both facilities use Horsetooth Reservoir and the Cache la Poudre River as water sources.

The water in Horsetooth Reservoir and the Poudre River originates as rain and snow high in the mountains. Horsetooth water is delivered from the western slope via the Colorado-Big Thompson Water

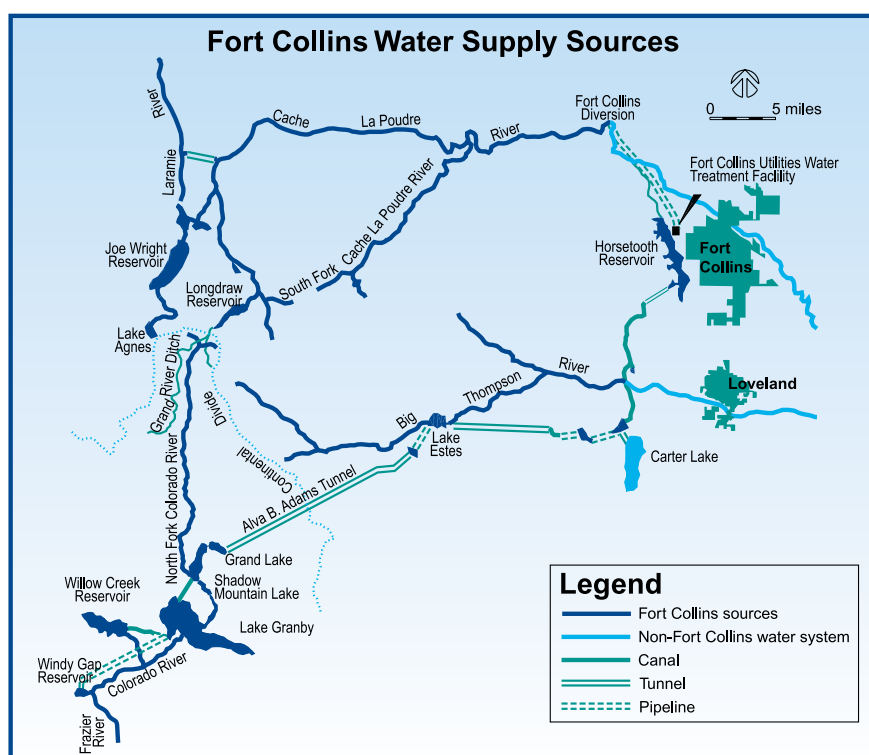
Project. Poudre River water originates on the eastern slope, northwest of Fort Collins.

As water travels over the land's surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from animal and human presence. Both facilities remove these substances through treatment processes.

## Protecting Our Watersheds

Fort Collins Utilities' drinking water comes from the Cache la Poudre River and Colorado-Big Thompson (C-BT) watersheds. Utilities collaborates with other drinking water providers to monitor water quality in the upper Cache la Poudre watershed. We also are a member of the Big Thompson Watershed Forum ([btwatershed.org](http://btwatershed.org)) and partner regionally to monitor and analyze water quality in the C-BT watershed. The data is used to determine if activities in the watershed are causing water quality to change over time.

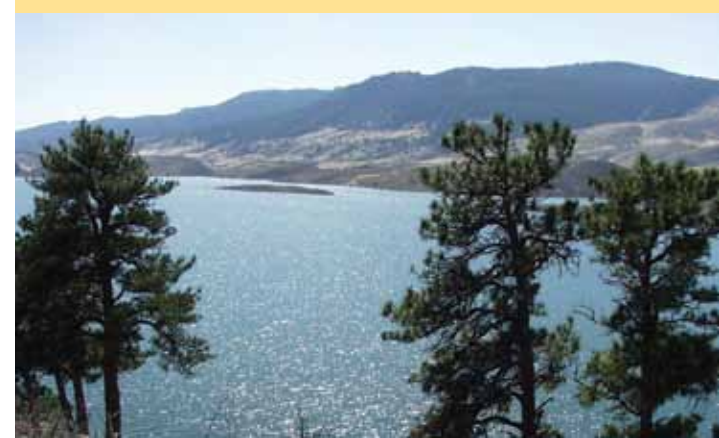
To help protect our watershed, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment prepared a screening-level assessment of potential contaminants. Ratings show our watersheds have moderately low and moderate susceptibility for contamination from several potential sources. The sources may include aboveground/underground leaking storage tanks, existing/abandoned mine sites, permitted wastewater discharge sites, hazardous waste generators, roads, agricultural lands, forested areas, residential areas, concentrated animal feeding operations, solid waste sites, septic systems, oil/gas wells and chemical storage sites.



## Treating Source Water

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment regulates the amount of certain contaminants in water from public water systems. Source water may contain:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- 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, 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. These contaminants also may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which may be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.





## Water Quality Test Results

The values below represent data for water treated by the Utilities Water Treatment Facility and Soldier Canyon Filter Plant. All data are from the most recent monitoring, completed in compliance with regulations. The lead and copper data are from 2008; all other data are from 2009.

## Continuing Our Commitment

Fort Collins Utilities is proud to present the annual Drinking Water Quality Report. We remain committed to delivering high-quality drinking water and meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation and community education.



## Cryptosporidium and Giardia

*Cryptosporidium* (*Crypto*) and *Giardia* come from animal and human waste in the watershed and are common in untreated surface water. When ingested, the organisms may cause fever, nausea and diarrhea. They are removed by a well-maintained water treatment process.

In 2009, Utilities tested untreated source water for both organisms. *Crypto* and *Giardia* were found in the Poudre River. Neither were found in Horsetooth Reservoir.

## Definitions

**AL:** Action level – concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**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.

**MCL:** Maximum contaminant level – 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.

**MRDL:** Maximum residual disinfectant level – highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. The addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG:** Maximum residual disinfectant level goal – level of a drinking water disinfectant, below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of disinfectants used to control microbial contaminants.

**N/A:** Not applicable.

**NTU:** Nephelometric turbidity unit – measure of particles in the water or clarity.

**ppb:** Parts of contaminant per billion parts of water, µg/L.

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

**TOC:** Total organic carbon.

**TT:** Treatment technique – required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## Unregulated Contaminants

The EPA required monitoring the finished water twice in 2009 for 25 contaminants not currently regulated (no MCL or MRDL). None of the contaminants were detected. EPA plans to use this information for writing future regulations.

Regulated at the Treatment Plant						
Contaminant	MCL/ MRDL	MCLG/ MRDLG	Average or Highest Single Value	Range of Measurements	Meet the Standard?	Typical Source
			Ideally, the values in these two columns are less than or equal to the values listed in the MCL/MRDL column.			
barium, ppm	2	2	0.014	0.013-0.014	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
chlorine dioxide, ppb	800	800	0 (average of daily values)	0-90	Yes	Byproduct of disinfection
fluoride, ppm	4	4	1.03	0.90-1.03	Yes	Water additive that prevents tooth decay
nitrate, ppm	10	10	0.07	0.04-0.07	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer; leaching from septic tanks
Contaminant	TT	Highest Single Value	% of Measurements ≤ 0.3	Meet the Standard?	Typical Source	
*turbidity, NTU	0.3 I	n/a 0.34	100% n/a	Yes Yes	Soil runoff	

\*Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of the water. It is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system. There are two standards for turbidity. To meet the standard in the first row, the reported turbidity must be less than, or equal to, 0.3 at least 95% of the time. To meet the standard in the second row, turbidity must never be greater than 1.

Total Organic Carbon				
Contaminant	Required Removal Ratio	Lowest Annual Removal Ratio	Meet the Standard?	Typical Source
TOC	≥1.0	1.39	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

Removal compliance is calculated using raw source water and treated finished water values.

Regulated at the Consumer's Tap - 52 Homes Were Tested					
Contaminant	MCL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	Number of Sampling Sites Exceeding the Action Level	Meet the Standard?	Typical Source
copper, ppm	AL=1.3	0.136	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
lead, ppb	AL=15	2.5	0	Yes	

Regulated in the Distribution System						
Contaminant	MCL/ MRDL	MCLG/ MRDLG	Highest Monthly Percentage of Positive Samples		Meet the Standard?	Typical Source
total coliform bacteria	5% positive per month	0	0.00%		Yes	Animal and human activity in the environment
			The lower the percentage, the better.			
			<b>Average</b>	<b>Range</b>		
			Ideally, the values in these two columns are less than or equal to the values listed in the MCL/MRDL column.			
chlorine residual, ppm	4	4	0.44 (highest quarterly)	0.00–0.85	Yes	Byproduct of disinfection
chlorite, ppm	1.0	0.8	0.25 (highest monthly)	<0.02–0.37	Yes	Byproduct of disinfection
haloacetic acids, ppb	60	n/a	17.8 (highest annual)	10.9–23	Yes	Byproduct of disinfection
total trihalomethanes, ppb	80	n/a	31.5 (highest annual)	16.9–46.5	Yes	Byproduct of disinfection

## Vulnerable Populations

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Particularly at risk are immunocompromised persons, such as those undergoing chemotherapy; those who have received organ transplants; people with HIV/AIDS or other immune-system disorders; and some elderly and infants. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers.

Guidelines to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA/ Center for Disease Control. Call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visit [epa.gov/safewater](http://epa.gov/safewater).



## Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

While Utilities is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned, you may wish to have your water tested.

For more information, testing methods and steps to minimize exposure, call Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visit [epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Environmental Leaders

Fort Collins Utilities participates in programs dedicated to making our treated water safer, as well as enhancing water efficiency and conservation. As a member of the Partnership for Safe Water since 1989, we strive to reduce the risk of microbial contaminants. Through the Colorado Environmental Leadership Program, we have been recognized as an organization that demonstrates superior environmental performance, and increased our award level from Bronze to Silver in 2009. Utilities also is a partner in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency WaterSense program designed to help customers save money and water.

Para más información de este informe de su calidad de agua potable en español, llame Fort Collins Utilities a (970) 221-6700, TDD (970) 224-6003 o mande preguntas en español a [utilities@fcgov.com](mailto:utilities@fcgov.com).