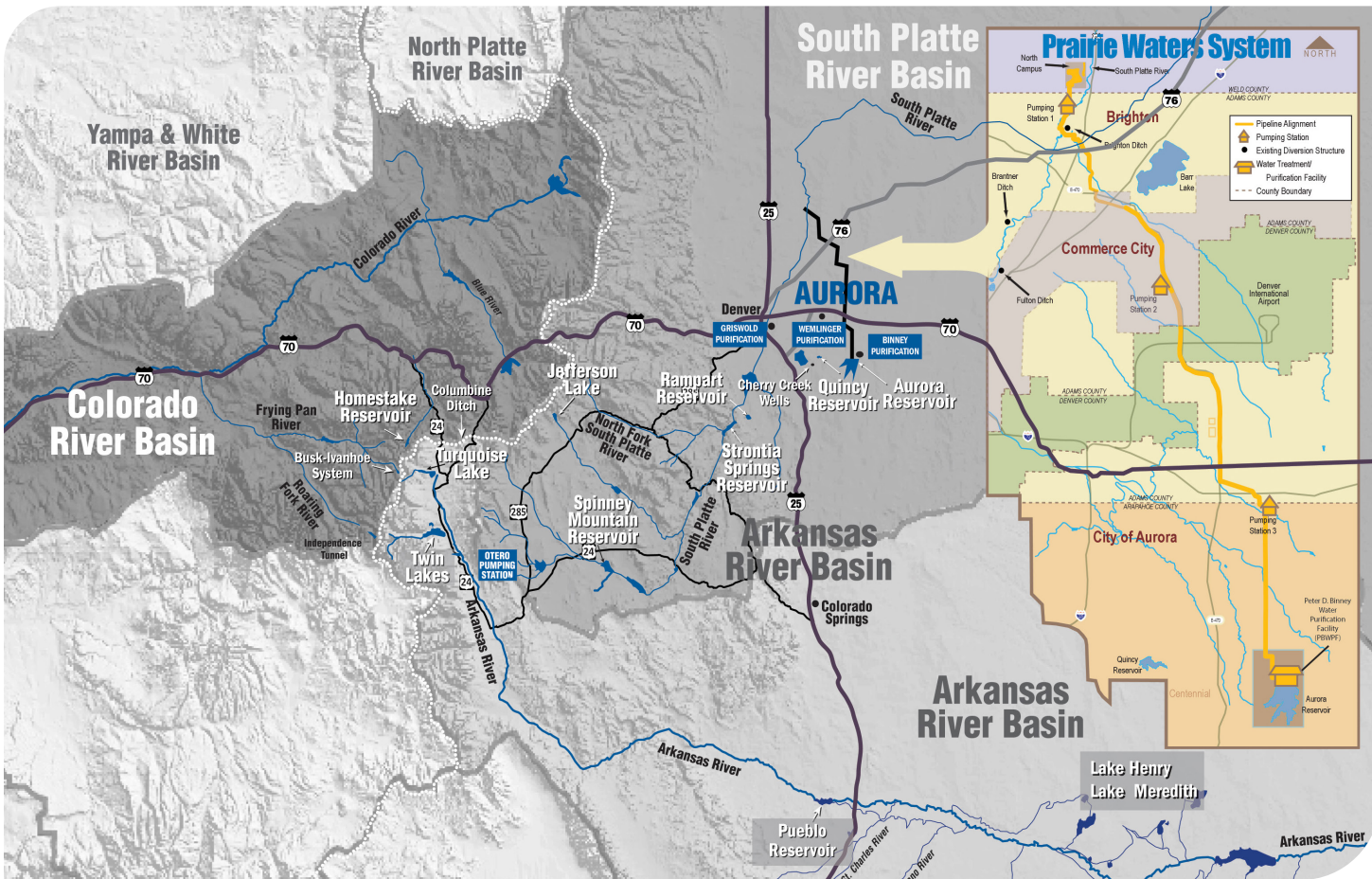




AURORA  
WATER

# AURORA WATER

## CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO | 2023



In Colorado, we rely heavily on snowmelt for our water supply, but from year to year, it can be difficult to predict how much will be available. That's why we've developed a diverse water portfolio that allows us to access water from a variety of sources, ensuring that we will have adequate supplies to meet demand.

Our water travels from 150 miles away and our system includes the use of reservoirs, the natural river system, pipes, tunnels and pumps, all of which help us pull the water we own from the Arkansas, Colorado and South Platte river basins. This water is stored in 12 reservoirs and lakes: Aurora, Henry/Meredith, Homestake, Jefferson, Pueblo, Quincy, Rampart, Spinney Mountain, Strontia Springs, Turquoise and Twin Lakes. Some water is pulled out of the South Platte River through our North Campus wells and out of Cherry Creek through our Cherry Creek wells.

### IT'S GREAT WATER. DRINK IT UP.

- **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline**  
800.426.4791
- **Aurora Water Customer Service**  
303.326.8645

Aurora is required to monitor its drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. Aurora's water meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards.

#### City of Aurora | All data from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, unless otherwise noted. Public Water System Identification CO0103005.

The table details the contaminants detected in Aurora's drinking water during 2022. All are well below allowed levels. To safeguard your health, Aurora tests for approximately 150 other contaminants that were not detected, and therefore are not included in the table of detected contaminants. Tests on our water are conducted in our Quality Control Laboratory, which is certified by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Independent laboratories conduct other tests as necessary. Each year, more than 85,000 tests are conducted. We also test for contaminants not yet regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The state permits monitoring less than once per year for some contaminants because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly. Some of the data, though representative, may be more than one year old. Colorado has a statewide waiver for dioxin monitoring. Aurora has monitoring waivers for cyanide and asbestos. The waivers were granted because CDPHE determined Aurora Water's system is not vulnerable to these contaminants.

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water, 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.

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** The concentration of a contaminant that is recommended, but not enforceable, in drinking water due to its effect on taste, color, odor or appearance.

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

**Waiver:** State permission not to test for a specific contaminant.

**N/A:** Not applicable

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units (a measure of water clarity)

**pCi/l:** Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

**ppm:** Parts per million

**ppb:** Parts per billion

#### Table Footnotes:

1. Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of water and has no health effects. Nevertheless, turbidity may interfere with disinfection and provides a medium for microbial growth.
2. Turbidity must be less than 0.3 NTU in 95 percent of monthly samples. The higher the percentage the better.

#### Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium (crypto) is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the United States. Past monitoring indicates the presence of this organism in our source water, but it has never been detected in our treated water. Ingestion of crypto may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks.

However, immunocompromised people are at greater risk of

developing a life-threatening illness. Immunocompromised individuals are encouraged to consult with their doctor about any appropriate precautions they should take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and may be spread through means other than drinking water.

#### Lead

Aurora's water supply does not contain lead, however, lead was one of several materials used prior to 1954 in service lines to connect buildings to the city's water mains. Infants, young children and expectant mothers are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. Aurora Water carefully monitors its water treatment processes to minimize the risk of service line corrosion. Please visit [AuroraGov.org/Lead](https://auroragov.org/Lead) for information on Aurora Water's Lead Replacement Program.

If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. In addition, you may consider flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using tap water. Additional information on lead in drinking water is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791. You can also visit [EPA.gov/Lead](https://epa.gov/Lead) for more details.

#### Source Water Assessment

The CDPHE has completed a source water assessment of the potential for contaminants reaching any of Aurora Water's terminal supplies, the last stop for the water before it is treated. The potential sources of contamination that may exist are: EPA areas of concern; permitted wastewater discharge sites; above ground, underground and leaking storage tank sites; solid waste sites; existing or abandoned mine sites; other facilities; commercial, industrial and transportation activities; residential, urban recreational grasses; quarries, strip mines and gravel pits; agriculture; forests; septic systems; oil and gas wells and roads. For more information on the report, contact the CDPHE by calling 303.692.2000 or visiting [Colorado.gov/cdphe/ccr](https://colorado.gov/cdphe/ccr). The report is located under "Guidance: Source Water Assessment Reports."

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As the 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 bacteria and viruses, which may come from wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, 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 that come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by 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.

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. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised people, people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly people and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA and the Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by crypto and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

#### Violation Notice

Our water system violated a drinking water requirement in October of 2022. Although this situation is not a public health risk, as our customers you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct the situation. We failed to timely report tampering of hydrants in the system. We notified CDPHE of the tampering, but we did not give the notification by 10 a.m. the next calendar day as required.

There is nothing you need to do at this time. It has been determined that the tampering of the hydrants did not endanger public health. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink you will be notified within 24 hours.

We resolved the problem on February 10, 2023. We have trained our staff to notify CDPHE of any future tampering of the water system by 10 a.m. the next calendar day. For more information, please contact Sherry Scaggiari at 303.739.7390, [WaterRegulatory@auroragov.org](mailto:WaterRegulatory@auroragov.org) or 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Aurora, CO 80012.

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.

## GET INVOLVED

We want you to be involved in the decisions that affect you, so we hope you will participate by attending public meetings of the Citizens' Water Advisory Committee, Water Policy Committee and City Council. You can find meeting times and agendas at [AuroraGov.org](https://auroragov.org).

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이 보고서에는 귀하의 식수에 대한 중요한 내용이 실려있습니다. 그러므로 이 보고서를 이해할 수 있는 사람한테 번역해 달라고 부탁하시기 바랍니다.

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.



# TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Turbidity	Violation	Units	TT Requirement	MCLG	Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contamination
Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	No	NTU	Maximum 1 NTU for any single measurement	N/A	Highest turbidity for 2022 was 0.097 NTU		August 2022	Soil runoff, river sediment provides a medium for microbiological growth
	No	%	In any month, at least 95% of samples must be less than 0.3 NTU <sup>2</sup>	N/A	100% of samples were less than 0.3 NTU	N/A		
Radionuclides	Violation	Units	MCL	MCLG	Average Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contamination
Combined Radium (-226 & -228)	No	pCi/L	5	0	0.19	0.19 to 0.19	2022	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Copper and Lead	Violation	Units	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile	Range	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contamination
Copper	No	ppm	1.3	N/A	0.06	0 of 217 sites sampled exceeded action level	June through September 2021	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	No	ppb	15	N/A	1.3	0 of 217 sites sampled exceeded action level	June through September 2021	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Inorganic Contaminants	Violation	Units	MCL	MCLG	Average Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contamination
Arsenic	No	ppb	10	0	0.07	<0.5 to 0.53	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	No	ppb	2000	2000	38.0	32.3 to 53.8	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	No	ppb	100	100	0.07	<0.5 to 0.58	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	No	ppm	4	4	0.68	0.5 to 0.85	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	No	ppm	10	10	0.29	<0.3 to 0.94	2022	Runoff from fertilizer use and erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite	No	ppm	1	1	0.01	<0.3 to 0.3	2022	Runoff from fertilizer; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	No	ppb	50	50	0.54	<0.5 to 1.21	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection	Violation	Units	TT Requirement	MRDLG	Average Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contamination
Chlorine Residual (Chloramines)	No	ppm	At least 95% of samples per month must be at least 0.2 ppm	4	1.74 100% of samples were >0.2 ppm	0.61 to 2.20	Daily	Water additive to control microbes
Chlorine Dioxide	No	ppb	N/A	800	17.3	0 to 120	Daily	Water additive to control microbes
Disinfection By-products Precursors	Violation	Units	TT Requirement		Average Removal Ratio	Range of Removal Ratios	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contamination
Total Organic Carbon	No	Ratio	Removal ratio >1	N/A	2.11	1.22 to 4.61	Monthly	Naturally present in environment
Disinfection By-products	Violation	Units	MCL	MCLG	Average Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contamination
Chlorite	No	ppm	1.0	0.8	0.48	0.32 to 0.62	Quarterly	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids	No	ppb	60	N/A	15.91	4.11 to 29.2	Quarterly	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Trihalomethanes	No	ppb	80	N/A	22.61	17 to 32.3	Quarterly	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Beer brewers and fish tank owners often need more information about our water than the EPA requires us to report – some of which is included below.

Secondary Contaminants/ Other Unregulated Monitoring	Violation	Units	MCL	SMCL	Average Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contamination
Alkalinity (as CaCO3)	N/A	ppm	N/A	N/A	82.9	46 to 131	Daily	Water quality parameter
Calcium	N/A	ppm	N/A	N/A	38.7	27 to 59	Weekly	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	N/A	ppm	N/A	250	47	16 to 102	Monthly	Erosion of natural deposits
Conductivity	N/A	µmhos/cm	N/A	N/A	559	264 to 746	Weekly	Water quality parameter
Hardness (as CaCO3)	N/A	ppm	N/A	N/A	122	88 to 193	Daily	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness-CA (as CaCO3)	N/A	ppm	N/A	N/A	97	68 to 149	Weekly	Erosion of natural deposits
pH	N/A	SU	N/A	N/A	8.1	7.8 to 8.4	Daily	Water quality parameter
Sodium	N/A	ppm	N/A	10,000	37.5	20.9 to 69.2	Yearly	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate	N/A	ppm	N/A	250	67	40 to 99	Monthly	Erosion of natural deposits

## AURORA WATER’S DRINKING WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

The Thomas J. Griswold and the Charles A. Wemlinger water purification facilities use direct filtration processes, which include coagulation, flocculation, filtration and disinfection. Both facilities have the capacity to treat up to 80 million gallons of water per day. The Peter D. Binney Water Purification Facility has two treatment trains. One train uses a conventional treatment process, which includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation and biological filtration and the other uses an advanced treatment process, which includes softening, advanced UV oxidation, biological filtration and granular activated carbon filtration. Both processes are then combined and undergo disinfection. The facility has the capacity to treat up to 50 million gallons of water per day.

All three facilities have achieved the Phase IV “Excellence in Treatment” designation, the highest level awarded by the Partnership for Safe Water (PSW). The PSW is an alliance of six prestigious drinking water organizations, including the American Water Works Association and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Aurora Water is the only water provider in the country to earn this designation at three facilities. To date, a total of 19 treatment plants in the United States have successfully achieved this designation. For more information on the PSW, visit [AWWA.org/Resources-Tools/Programs/Partnership-for-Safe-Water](https://www.awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Programs/Partnership-for-Safe-Water).

## AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING WATER TREATMENT

- **Phase IV Excellence in Treatment (Binney, Griswold, Wemlinger)**  
Partnership for Safe Water 2021
  - **Outstanding Water Laboratory: Aurora Water Quality Control Laboratory**  
Rocky Mountain Section of the American Water Works Association 2022
  - **Outstanding Water Treatment Plant**  
Rocky Mountain Section of the American Water Works Association 2018
- **Best Tasting Water**  
**Second Place 2019**  
**Tied for Third Place 2022**  
Rocky Mountain Section of the American Water Works Association 2019
  - **Phase IV President’s Award for Distribution System Operation**  
Partnership for Safe Water 2023