

# 2015 Water Quality Report for City of Ithaca

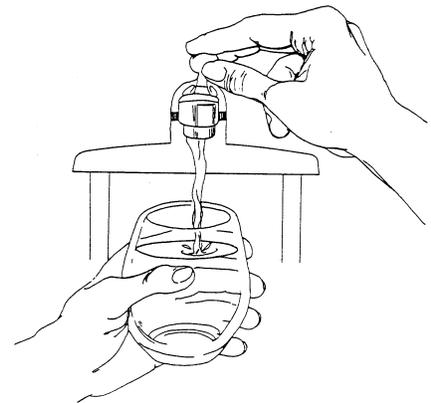
This report covers the drinking water quality for the City of Ithaca for the calendar year 2015. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2015. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

Your water comes from four groundwater wells located at McNabb Park, Woodland Park, and West Center Street. The wells are identified in the City of Ithaca's Wellhead Protection Program.

- **Contaminants and their presence in 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 **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.
- **Vulnerability of sub-populations:** 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 systems 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/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 (800-426-4791).
- **Sources of drinking water:** The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from 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:
  - T **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
  - T **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.
  - T **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
  - T **Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
  - T **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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, 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 provide the same protection for public health.



We at the City of Ithaca work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all of our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

# Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2015 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2015. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All of the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

**Terms and abbreviations used below:**

- **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 Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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.
- **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter. **pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity). **mg/L:** milligrams per Liter.
- **Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Regulated Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	0.003	0 - 3	7/23/2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.1	0.08-0.1	3/10/2010	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge of metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.74	0.61-0.77	7/14/2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Radioactive Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Gross Alpha pCi/L	5	0	3	3	6/10/2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Special Monitoring and Unregulated Contaminant *			Average Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contaminant	
Sodium (ppm)			27	21-47	7/14/2015	Erosion of natural deposits	
Contaminant Subject to AL	Action Level	MCLG	90% of Samples ≤ This Level		Sample Date	Number of Samples Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb) **	15	0	0		7/15/2015	None	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	Not Detected		7/15/2015	None	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

\* The month of February bacteriological samples had 1 positive sample. Repeat samples were taken with results showing no violations.

\*\* Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

Microbial Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Number Detected	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria*	1 positive monthly sample (5% of monthly samples positive)	0	1	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your homes plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and/or flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Monitoring and Reporting Requirements: The State and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We met all the monitoring and reporting requirements for 2015.

We will update this report annually and will keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen. Copies are available at the Ithaca City Hall and Thompson Home Public Library. We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. The Ithaca City Council meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact Robert Studt at 875-3200. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/).