



# City of Robbinsdale

## 2009 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER REPORT

*Spanish:* Información importante. Si no la entiende, haga que alguien se la traduzca ahora.  
*Hmong:* Nov yog ntaub ntauv tseem ceeb. Yog koy tsi to taub, nrhiav neeg pab txhais rau koh kom sai sai.

The purpose of this report is to summarize the results of monitoring performed on our water from January 1, to December 31, 2008 and to inform our customers about drinking water and the water utility supplying it, and to heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources. Additional information from the Environmental Protection Agency is provided for your review. The United States Congress has directed the EPA to require water systems to report annually on the quality of drinking water provided. This report fulfills this requirement and will be issued annually.

### Robbinsdale Water Supply Sources

Our water supply originates deep within the ground: city water is drawn from five wells, ranging in depth from 376 to 478 feet. These wells are in the St. Peter/Prairie Du Chien aquifer and the Prairie Du Chien-Jordan aquifer, a huge, naturally occurring, underground reservoir.



### Monitoring Report Summary:

#### Is Our Water Safe?

Yes, we believe Robbinsdale's water is safe. For the calendar year of 2008, *no contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards.* The accompanying table lists the substances that were detected in trace amounts below legal limits. Some parameters are evaluated less than once per year. If any of these were detected the last time they were evaluated, they are included in the table along with the date of sampling. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. Your drinking water is monitored for two groups of substances: regulated and unregulated. There are about 80 regulated or primary standards. These are contaminants that have had Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) established by the Safe Drinking Water Act. There are also about 80 unregulated contaminants. These do not have Maximum Contaminant Levels established for them. They are assessed using state standards known as Health Risk Limits, or have recommended maximums set by the Safe Drinking Water Act. *The City of Robbinsdale will immediately notify its customers if state or federal standards for regulated or unregulated substances are ever exceeded in the water supply so that corrective action can be taken.* The City of Robbinsdale, the Minnesota Department of Health, and independent laboratories are routinely testing and monitoring the water supply to ensure the water is safe and aesthetically pleasing.

### Summary

Working with the Minnesota Department of Health, which monitors and regulates our water system, the staff at Robbinsdale's Water Utility strive to provide safe, high quality drinking water and excellent customer service to the community. In pursuit of that mission, we consistently meet and exceed federal and state standards for safe water. Our success is due in large part to the human and capital investments the community has made in the system. Your input on the water system and water quality will be heard and incorporated via the Robbinsdale City Council.

### Compliance With National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

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 materials and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Robbinsdale water is regularly monitored

for hundreds of substances so we all can be confident of its quality. These include:

- ◆ **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from agricultural livestock operations, sewage treatment plants, septic systems, and wildlife.
- ◆ **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- ◆ **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe, the 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. *Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants found 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 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hot-Line 1-800- 426-4791.*

*If you have any questions regarding your drinking water or water utility, contact Jay Morgan, Utility Supervisor at the Robbinsdale Public Works Department at 763- 531-1202.*

## SUBSTANCES DETECTED IN THE ROBBINSDALE WATER SUPPLY – REGULATED

Contaminant (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant ♣ This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.
			Range (2008)	Average/Result ♣	
Nitrate (as nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	nd-.28	.28	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	0	80	N/A	8.5	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.52-1.1	1.1	State of MN requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Total Coliform Bacteria	0 present	>1 present	N/A	1♥	Naturally present in the environment. ♥ Follow-up sampling showed no contamination present.
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	nd-.2	.2	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	nd-.0005	.001	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	0	60	N/A	1.9	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	#sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb) (07/16/2007)	N/A	15	2	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm) (07/16/2007)	N/A	1.3	.15	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

  

Contaminant (units)	MRDLG	MRDL	Highest and Lowest Monthly Average	Highest Quarterly Average	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	.5-.7	.61	Water additive used to control microbes.

### UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES DETECTED IN ROBBINSDALE WATER

Contaminant (units)	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
	Range (2008)	Average/Result	
Sulfate (ppm) (06/07/2007)	N/A	44.5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (ppm) (06/07/2007)	N/A	47	Erosion of natural deposits.

KEY: 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 – 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). AL – Action Level (the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow). ppb – Parts Per Billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (ug/l). ppm – Parts Per Million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l). nd – No Detection. 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Level – This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples). Note: In situations in which only 5 samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile level. pCi/l – PicoCuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity). N/A – Not Applicable (does not apply). MRDL—Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. MRDLG—Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.

If present, infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Robbinsdale is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but can not 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 the water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimized exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The water provided to customers may meet drinking water standards, but the Minnesota Department of Health has also made a determination as to how vulnerable the source of water may be to future contamination incidents. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call (651) 201-4700 or 1 (800) 818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours, you can also view it on line at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa>.