

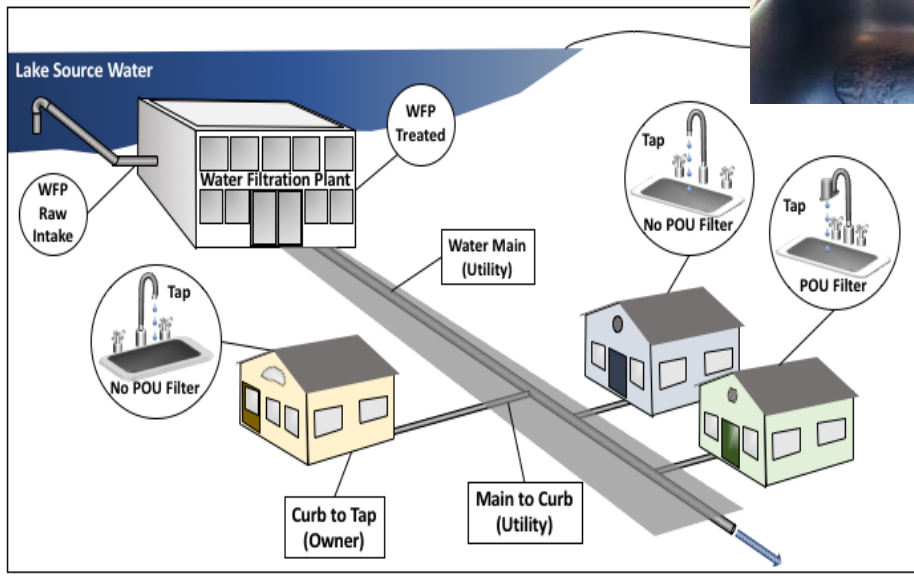


Environmental Health Mission Area:

What is the chemical and microbial content of our tap waters?

Safe Drinking Water Act compliance addresses the safety of public-supply water systems. The content of public-supply drinking water is tested at the treatment plant, with the exception of lead and copper which are tested at a subset of residential and other taps. The safety of private water wells is the responsibility of the owner. Testing of water in private wells is rare unless local health ordinances require minimal testing during property resale

Our specialized teams of hydrologists, chemists, microbiologists, and geologists are working together in labs and at field sites across the U.S. to help U.S. citizens, epidemiologists, the National Institute of Environmental Health Science, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NGOs, and the drinking water industry understand the chemical and microbial content of water at taps in our homes and offices.



Questions we're working on:

Can tap water expose us to contaminants that pose health hazards?

How does drinking water infrastructure, treatment, plumbing, and point-of-use filters remove or add contaminants?

Related Information:

Privately Owned Wells

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/private/wells/treatment.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/private/wells/index.html>

The Chemical Quality of Self Supplied Domestic Well Water in the United States

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1745-6592.2006.00089.x/abstract>

Potential Corrosivity of Untreated Groundwater in the United States

https://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/pubs/gw_corrosivity/index.html

Public Drinking Water

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>

<https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations>

<https://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/bib/pubs.php?cat=5>

Understanding Chemical and Microbial Contaminants in Drinking Water

https://toxics.usgs.gov/highlights/2017-04-03-contaminants_in_public_drinking_water.html

More Information:

Environmental Health Mission Area Homepage

<https://www.usgs.gov/science/mission-areas/environmental-health>

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