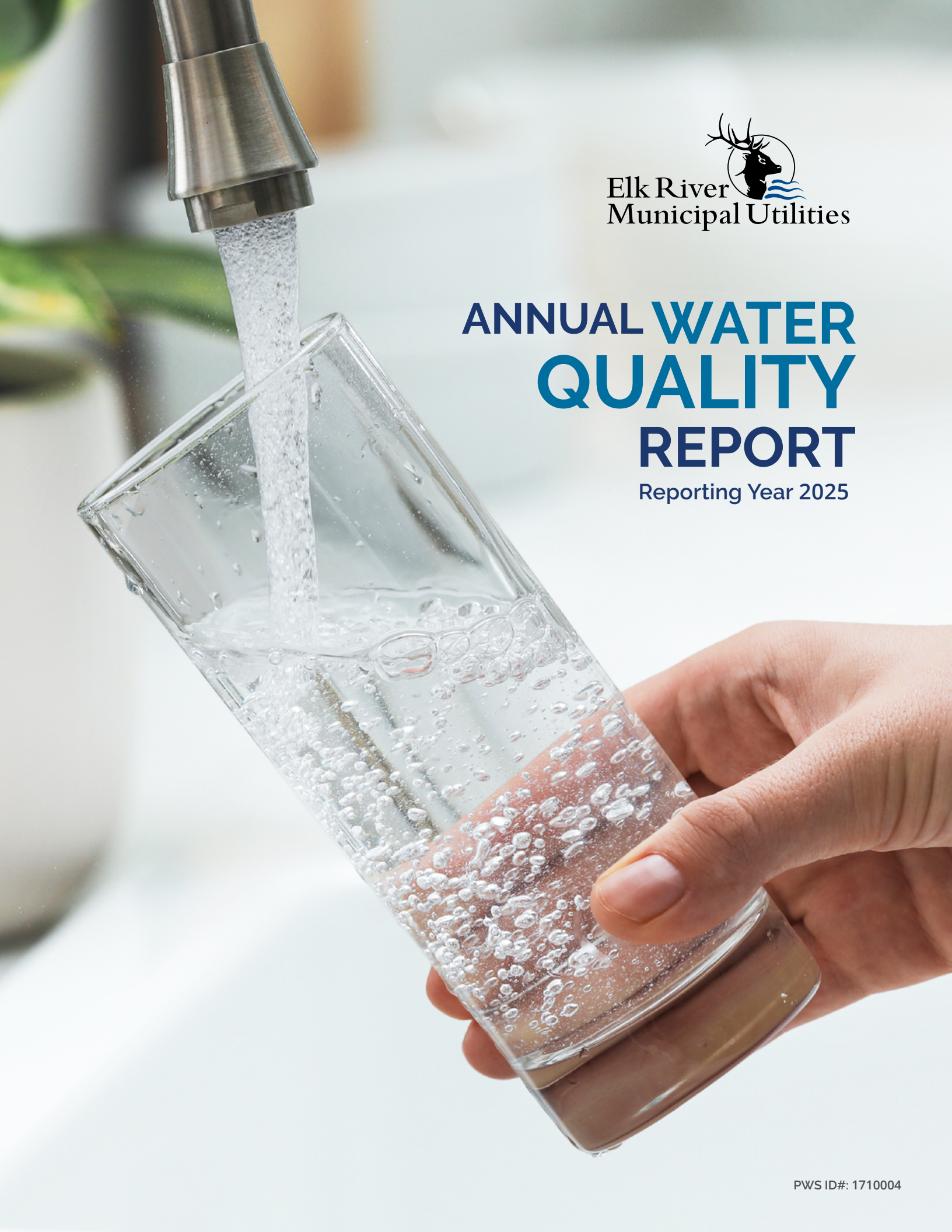

Elk River Municipal Utilities

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025

PWS ID#: 1710004

Learn More About Your Water

Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU) provides high-quality drinking water from a groundwater source, the Mount Simon-Hinckley Aquifer. Our system includes eight wells, 225–454 feet deep; six have treatment facilities to remove iron and manganese. We operate four water towers, nearly 125 miles of water main, more than 1,300 fire hydrants, and nearly 3,000 valves. In 2025, ERMU pumped over 867 million gallons of water and are proud to serve more than 5,800 customers.

Contact Dave Ninow, Water Superintendent, at **763.441.2020** or **dninow@ermumn.com** if you have any questions about ERMU's drinking water.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amounts of 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 visiting the website **epa.gov/safewater**.

Important Health Information

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 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 and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA website **epa.gov/safewater**

Drinking Water Sources

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 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 viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.

Pesticides and herbicides are chemicals used to reduce or kill unwanted plants and pests. Sources include agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and commercial and residential properties.

Organic chemical contaminants include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production. The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How Elk River is protecting your drinking water source(s).
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources.
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at Source Water Assessments **(www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa.html)** or call 651.201.4700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Source Water Assessment and Wellhead Protection Plans

People in Minnesota get their drinking water from groundwater, lakes, and rivers. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) works with communities to protect these water resources. Communities identify possible risks and take steps to prevent problems. Examples of risks include unused wells, urban pollutants, farm nutrients, storage tanks, lawn chemicals, hazardous waste, and uncontrolled land development.

To help protect local water, each community has a Source Water Assessment Plan.

> This plan shows the area around ERMU's water sources where pollution, if present, could travel and reach our drinking water.

It also lists possible sources of pollution in that area and explains how vulnerable our water supply is to those risks. To view ERMU's source water assessment visit: **www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa**

In addition, ERMU's Wellhead Protection Plan helps safeguard drinking water by managing potential sources of contamination. As part of this plan, ERMU follows best practices to keep our community's water safe, including investigating possible contamination and educating customers about their role in protection. One important step residents can take is properly sealing unused wells, since old or abandoned wells can provide a direct path for pollutants to reach groundwater.

To review the Wellhead Protection Plan or learn more about sealing unused wells, visit our website at **ermumn.com/news-education/water-education/wellhead-protection**

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead can cause serious health problems, babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk. You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. There is no safe level of lead.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for proving high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes from service lines but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk.

Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

1. **Run Your Tap:** Flush pipes for several minutes before using water for drinking or cooking, especially if unused for a while. Homes with lead service lines may need longer flushing. Showers, laundry, or dishes help move water but don't replace flushing before drinking. Test to confirm flushing reduces lead.
2. **Check Your Service Line:** Contact your water system or use the Minnesota Lead Inventory Tracking Tool to learn your service line material. Use EPA's Protect Your Tap Guide to check for lead pipes at home.
3. **Use Cold Water:** Always use cold water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula. Hot water can release more lead.
4. **Test Your Water:** If concerned, especially with young children or pregnant women at home, test your tap water. Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited lab for a sample kit and help with results.
5. **Treat Your Water if Needed:** If tests show high lead after flushing, use a filter certified to ANSI/NSF standards 53 and 42 for lead reduction.

More Information

- **EPA:** www.epa.gov/safewater/lead
- **MDH:** www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html
- **Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources** www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/fs/common.html
- **MDH Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care** www.web.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/schools/index.html

Note: Elk River Municipal Utilities samples and tests for lead and copper every three years to comply with the EPA's Lead & Copper Rule. The next round of sampling and testing will be in 2028.

Test Results: How to Read the Water Quality Tables

The water quality tables show the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below with the detection date.

We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651.201.4700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Definitions

90% Level: 90% of samples must be below the AL.

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

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

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.

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.

MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant 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.

N/A (Not applicable): Does not apply.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by labratory analysis.

pCi/l (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppt (parts per trillion): One part per trillion is like one drop in one trillion drops of water, or about one drop in an Olympic sized swimming pool. ppt is the same as nanograms per liter (ng/l).

ppb (parts per billion): One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

ppm (parts per million): One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

PWSID: Public water system indentification.

Range: Lowest to the highest a contaminant was detected in 2025.

Unregulated Contaminant Comparison Value: A non-enforceable, health-based benchmark used by the EPA and health agencies to interpret laboratory results from the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) program. These values represent concentrations at which a person drinking water is at little or no risk of harmful health effects.

Monitoring Results - Regulated Substances

LEAD AND COPPER | Tested at customer taps

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Action Level	90% of Results Were Less Than	Number of Homes with High Levels	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	2.44 ppb	0 out of 30	0 - 11.4 ppb	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0.15 ppm	0 out of 30	0.04 - 0.27 ppm	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.

INORGANIC & ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS | Tested in drinking water

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	1.2 ppm	0.00 - 1.20 ppm	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (11/05/24)	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.03 ppm	N/A	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposit.
Xylenes	10000 ug/L	10000 ug/L	0 ug/L	N/A	NO	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories.
Gross Alpha	0 pCi/l	15 pCi/l	5.1 pCi/l	0.0 - 5.1 pCi/l	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium	0 pCi/l	5 pCi/l	1.4 pCi/l	0.0 - 1.4 pCi/l	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.

CONTAMINANTS RELATED TO DISINFECTION | Tested in drinking water						
Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL or MRDL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	N/A	80 ppb	17.5 ppb	8.50 - 17.50 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA)*	N/A	60 ppb	6.8 ppb	3.10 - 6.80 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Chlorine	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.69 ppm	0.53 - 0.66 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.

**Total HAA refers to HAA5*

OTHER SUBSTANCES | Tested in drinking water						
Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.75 ppm	0.70 - 0.80 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.

UNREGULATED/EMERGING CONTAMINANTS | Tested in drinking water			
Contaminant	Comparison Value	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results
Sodium* (2024)	20 ppm	3.32 ppm	3.16 - 3.32 ppm
Sulfate (2024)	500 ppm	8.34 ppm	2.89 - 8.34 ppm
Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA)	7000 ppt	2.35 ppt	0.00 - 2.50 ppm

**Note that home water softening can increase levels of sodium in your water.*

Monitoring Results - Unregulated Substances/Emerging Contaminants

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water. MDH, EPA, and other health agencies may have developed comparison values for some of these compounds. Some of these comparison values are based solely on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations nor the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. These values may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impractical for a water system to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant). Sample data are listed along with comparison values in the table below; it is important to note that these comparison values are not enforceable.

Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The significance of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little to no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions-like a fetus, infants, children, elderly, and people with impaired immunity—may need to take extra precautions. We are notifying you of the unregulated/emerging contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the Agency should consider regulating those contaminants in the future.

- More information is available on MDH's A-Z List of Contaminants in Water **(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html)**
- Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4) **(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html)**
- Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule **(https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule)**
- EPA has developed a UCMR5 Program Overview Factsheet **(https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/ucmr5-factsheet.pdf)** describing UCMR 5 contaminants and standards.

In the past year, your drinking water may have tested for additional unregulated contaminants as part of the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule **(https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule)** and results are still being processed. The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR 5) Data finder allows people to easily search for, summarize, and download the available UCMR 5 analytical results **(https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder)**

Service Line Material Inventory

Elk River has completed and submitted its water service line materials inventory to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). To view the material of your service line, visit the Lead Inventory Tracking Tool (LITT): **https://maps.umn.edu/LSL**

In Elk River, property owners are responsible for their water service lines. More information about ownership can be found here: **https://www.ermumn.com/about-us/news-education/featured-news/utility-equipment-who-owns-what**

In 2025, MDH required all public water systems to notify customers whose service lines are made of lead, galvanized metal, or whose material is unknown. Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU) completed this notification process in December 2025.

If you have questions about your water service line, please contact ERMU at 763.441.2020 during regular business hours.

Lawn Watering Tips

In Elk River, overwatering is the leading cause of high water bills and accounts for the largest share of residential water use. To reduce waste, water your lawn for shorter periods more frequently. Run each irrigation zone for about 15 minutes. If your lawn needs additional water, repeat the cycle in the evening for another 5 to 15 minutes. This approach allows grass roots time to absorb moisture effectively and promotes a healthy, green lawn.

Watering too much at once can cause water to drain below the root zone or run off into streets and storm drains wasting both water and money.

The City of Elk River's Code of Ordinances also establishes the following permanent restrictions on public water use:

- No lawn sprinkling between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Lawn watering is limited to odd/even days based on your property address

These measures help ensure adequate water supply for fire protection, as well as overall community health and safety.

Backflow & Cross-Connection Prevention

Backflow can allow bacteria and chemicals from contaminated sources to enter the drinking water supply. This can happen at cross-connections—points where drinking water systems connect with non-drinking water sources—when there are changes in water pressure.

ERMU is committed to providing safe, reliable drinking water. Preventing backflow is an important part of that effort, and it's a shared responsibility. If you have a backflow prevention device, please notify ERMU so you can be included in our free inspection program.

To learn more about protecting your drinking water, scan the QR code or visit **https://www.ermumn.com/services/water/backflow-cross-connection-prevention.**

ERMU Programs & Rebates

Elk River Municipal Utilities offers a variety of rebates designed to help the environment by providing an incentive for customers to conserve natural resources.

When you are shopping, look for the Energy Star and WaterSense labels. These products are certified to use at least 20 percent less water, save energy, and perform as well as or better than regular models.

For full details on available rebates and access to print or online rebate applications visit **ermumn.com/programs-rebates** or **scan the QR code.**

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