



# Water Utility Report

## Water Production Bureau



We are pleased to present you Evanston's 2025 annual water quality report, an information service for our water customers. Evanston maintained compliance with all State and Federal Drinking Water Regulations in 2025. The Evanston water utility is committed to providing you with the highest quality of drinking water.

### Your Water Source

Evanston's source of water, Lake Michigan, (surface water) is not just a major commerce artery and a recreational resource with miles of scenic shoreline; it's also a great source of drinking water! Almost half of the world's fresh water comes from Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes. According to the USEPA, the quality of Lake Michigan water has improved dramatically over the past 25 years. The regulations in place restrict industrial and sewage treatment plant effluents from entering Lake Michigan thereby lowering the risk of having these contaminants in the water. All 63 miles of shoreline within Illinois are now considered to be in good condition.

### Summary of Illinois EPA Source Water Assessment Report of Lake Michigan as a Drinking Water Source

The EPA report states that there is concern for Lake Michigan water quantity and also water quality (A 1967 U.S. Supreme Court decree limits the amount of Illinois diversions of water from Lake Michigan, and currently Illinois is reaching its limit on that allocation). The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intakes with no protection, only dilution. This is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Evanston recognized the need for treatment long before these requirements came into effect. In fact, Evanston has operated a water treatment facility for over 100 years! To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at [dataservices.epa.illinois.gov/swap/factsheet.aspx](https://dataservices.epa.illinois.gov/swap/factsheet.aspx).

All of Evanston's water intakes, which bring the lake water into the treatment plant, are located far enough offshore that shoreline impacts are not considered a factor on water quality. However, at certain times of the year the potential for contamination during wet-weather flow conditions exists due to the proximity of the North Shore Channel. In addition, the proximity to a major shipping lane adds to the susceptibility of these three intakes. Lake Michigan, as well as all the great lakes, has many different organizations and associations that are currently working to either maintain or improve water quality. The report further commends Evanston's involvement in such organizations such as the West Shore Water Producer's Association, which leads to critical coordination regarding water quality issues that takes place between the utilities on the west shore of Lake Michigan.

Today, the staff of the Public Works Agency's Water Production Bureau continues Evanston's tradition of excellence by working around the clock for your health and safety. We're proud of our water and pledge to continue to provide you with the highest quality water that is humanly and technologically possible.

### Where Do Contaminants Come From?

In general, people obtain drinking water (both tap and bottled water) from rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

### Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- microbial contaminants from a variety of sources, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife;
- inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic water discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming;
- pesticides and herbicides, which come from agricultural, storm water runoff and residential uses;
- organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban storm runoff and septic tanks;
- radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

The primary sources of pollution threatening Lake Michigan include air deposition (pollution from the air, rain and snow), runoff and industrial discharge.

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 USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **800-426-4791**. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA 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 in tap or bottled 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 for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. The USEPA/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** or visit [www.epa.gov/OW](http://www.epa.gov/OW).

For specific information about the Public Works Agency's Water Production Bureau, your water's quality or any other water related question, please contact Darrell A. King at the Evanston Water Production Bureau at **311** (847-448-4311 outside of Evanston). The public is welcome to attend City Council meetings where decisions which affect drinking water quality are made. Additional information on the date and time for these meetings can be obtained by visiting [www.cityofevanston.org/events](http://www.cityofevanston.org/events) or by calling **847-448-4311**.

### Lead Facts

Remember, there is no detectable lead in the water provided to the Evanston community. Lead enters the water from lead solder, lead pipes or plumbing fixtures in the home. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Evanston Water Utility is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing.

Visit [www.cityofevanston.org](http://www.cityofevanston.org) for more information on our water treatment process. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standard Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Details can be found at [www.cityofevanston.org/lead](http://www.cityofevanston.org/lead) > [Labs for Lead Analysis](#) or by calling 311 (847-448-4311). Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

The Evanston Water Utility is proud to have been in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule since November of 1992; details

are at [www.cityofevanston.org/lead](http://www.cityofevanston.org/lead) and [www.evanstonleadreplacement.org](http://www.evanstonleadreplacement.org).

The City has developed a service line material inventory. To access the service line inventory go [www.evanstonleadreplacement.org](http://www.evanstonleadreplacement.org) > [Water Service Information Map](#) or call 311 (847-448-4311).

Lead and Copper Result Ranges:

- Lead Range: <1.0 parts per billion (ppb) to 14 ppb
- Copper Range: <0.003 parts per million (ppm) to 0.360 ppm

To view the City's lead tap sampling data, visit [www.cityofevanston.org/lead](http://www.cityofevanston.org/lead) > [Historical Lead Testing Results](#) or to obtain a copy, call 311 (847-448-4311).

## Evanston 2025 Water Quality Data

Detected Substances							
Substance	Date Collected <sup>a</sup>	MCLG	Highest Allowed (MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Violation	Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU) (Cloudiness)	2025	NA	TT=Monitored by % exceeding 0.3 NTU and max allowed is 1 NTU	100% of samples meet 0.3 NTU; 0.15 NTU Highest single measurement	0.04 - 0.15	NO	Soil runoff
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	4	4	0.77	0.61- 0.77	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	4/24/2025	10	10	0.3	single sample	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	10/15/2025	NA <sup>e</sup>	NA <sup>e</sup>	9.1	single sample	NO	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits
Barium (ppm)	10/15/2025	2	2	0.021	single sample	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of Natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	10/15/2025	NOT REGULATED	USEPA National Secondary Standard of 250	27	single sample	NO	Naturally occurring, coagulant residual
Combined Radium 226/228 (pCi/L) <sup>b</sup>	1/28/2020	0	5	1.02	single sample	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha excluding Radon and Uranium (pCi/L) <sup>b</sup>	1/28/2020	0	15	0.72	single sample	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Source of Contamination	Date Collected <sup>a</sup>	IEPA Guidance Level	US EPA Guidance Level	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Violation	Source of Contamination
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)* (ppt)	2025	14.0	4.0	2.0	1.8 - 2.0	NO	Surfactant for fire-fighting foam, mist suppressant for metal-plating baths, grease and water resistance to materials such as textiles, carpets, and paper. Production ceased in 2002.
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)* (ppt)	2025	2.0	4.0	2.3	1.8 - 2.3	NO	Surfactant for fire-fighting foam, mist suppressant for metal-plating baths, grease and water resistance to materials such as textiles, carpets, and paper. Production ceased in 2015.
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)* (ppt)	2025	3500	none	1.3	1.2 - 1.3	NO	Found in textile coatings, paper products, food packaging, cosmetics and personal care products, nonstick cookware, firefighting foams.
Perfluorohexane- sulfonic acid (PFHxS)* (ppt)	2025	140	10	0.8	0.6 - 0.8	NO	Used in water- and stain-protective coatings for consumer products (carpets, textiles, paper, packaging, electronics), as a surfactant in industrial applications (cleaning and polishing products, fluoropolymers), and in aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) for fire suppression.
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)* (ppt)	2025	none	none	1.1	0.9 - 1.1	NO	Breakdown product of stain- and grease-proof coatings on food packaging, couches, carpets.
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-products	Date Collected <sup>a</sup>	MCLG	Highest Allowed (MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Violation	Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2025	NA <sup>f</sup>	80	32 <sup>e</sup>	14.9 - 44	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2025	NA <sup>f</sup>	60	22 <sup>e</sup>	7.76 - 28.2	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	4 MRLDG	4 MRDL	1 <sup>d</sup>	0.5 - 1	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Lead & Copper	Date Collected	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# of sites over AL	Violation	Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	2025	0	15	8	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2025	1.3	1.3	0.14	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Additional Information About Your Water			
Measured Parameter	Evanston Average	Evanston Minimum	Evanston Maximum
pH (0-14 pH units)	7.7	7.4	7.9
Hardness (as mg CaCO <sub>3</sub> /L)	134	128	143
Hardness (gpg)	7.8	7.5	8.4
Alkalinity (ppm)	103	92	112
Raw Water Temperature °F	54	35	77

Measured Parameter	Evanston Result
Calcium (ppm)	34
Chloride (ppm)	15
Dissolved Solids (ppm)	140
Magnesium (ppm)	12
Potassium (ppm)	1.5
Aluminum (ppb)	110

## Definitions:

**Action Level**—The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Action Level Goal (ALG)**—The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Disinfection By-Products**—Total Trihalomethanes and Total Haloacetic Acids are used to regulate the amount of allowable by-products of chlorination.

**Fluoride**—The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends an optimal target of 0.7 ppm.

**gpg**—grains per gallon.

**Lead and Copper**—There is no detectable lead in the water provided to the Evanston community. Lead enters the water from lead solder, lead pipes or plumbing fixtures in the home. To minimize contamination resulting from corrosion, the EPA established a lead action level of 15 parts per billion in 1992. The 90th percentile result of samples analyzed for lead and copper content in homes with lead pipes must be less than the action level of 15 ppb and 1.3 ppm respectively. In 2025, Evanston sampled water from sixty homes from January to June 30 and again from July to December 31. The homes have full lead service lines and were analyzed for lead and copper content. The 90th percentile level for Lead was 6 ppb and 8 ppb respectively. The 90th percentile level for copper was 0.14 ppm and 0.057 ppm respectively.

**MCL**—Maximum Contaminant Level, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. A MCL is set as close to a MCLG 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.

**mg CaCO<sub>3</sub>/L**—milligrams of calcium carbonate per liter.

**mrem/yr**—Millirems Per Year—Measure of radiation absorbed by the body; a dose (body burden).

**MRDL**—Maximum Residual Disinfection Level—The highest level of a drinking water disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG**—Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal—The level of 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.

**NA**—Not applicable.

**NTU**—Nephelometric Turbidity Units, measures water clarity.

**pCi/L**—picocuries per liter- Measure of radioactivity.

**ppm**—parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L).

**ppb**—parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L).

**ppt**—parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L).

**TT**—Treatment Technique, a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Turbidity**—a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. This is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality as well as verifying the effectiveness of the filtration and disinfection processes.

- The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old. Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for during the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) calendar year. If any of these contaminants were detected in the last sampling period, the results are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.
- Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Radiation is everywhere; from the sun, from the earth and even in our bodies. The amounts detected in Evanston's water are well below the maximum contaminant level; so low in fact, that Evanston is on a reduced monitoring schedule and is only required to sample every 6 years.
- Highest Running Annual Average (quarterly) (RAA). RAA quarterly is calculated by adding the most recent quarter plus the three previous quarters and dividing by four. The highest RAA during the year is reported.
- Running Annual Average (monthly) (RAA). RAA monthly is based on the monthly averages of all samples.
- There is no state or federal MCL for Sodium. Sodium levels below 20 mg/l (ppm) are not considered to be a health issue.
- Although there is no collective MCLG for this contaminant group, there are individual contaminant MCL's: Trihalomethanes: bromodichloromethane(0); bromoform(0); dibromochloromethane(0.06 mg/L) Haloacetic acids: dichloroacetic acid(0); trichloroacetic acid (0.3 mg/L).

**TOC**—The Evanston Water Supply monitored the percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal quarterly and met all TOC removal requirements set by the IEPA.

\*PFOS - In 2021, our PWS was sampled as part of the State of Illinois PFAS Statewide Investigation. Results from this sampling indicated PFAS were detected in our drinking water. PFOA was detected above the health advisory level and PFOS was detected below the health advisory level established by the Illinois EPA. Follow up monitoring is being conducted. Results can be found at [cityofevanston.org/departments/public\\_works/water\\_sewer\\_service/historical\\_pfas\\_results.php](https://cityofevanston.org/departments/public_works/water_sewer_service/historical_pfas_results.php)

For more information about PFAS health advisories please visit the following link: [epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/pfas/pfas-healthadvisory.html](https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/pfas/pfas-healthadvisory.html)