

# City of Aurora

## 2012 Consumer Confidence Report

**Drinking Water Quality in 2012** | The City of Aurora provides its residents with safe, clean and adequate drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal requirements. Water is the one commodity we cannot live without and the City of Aurora takes great pride in safeguarding this valuable resource. Please stay informed on the quality of your drinking water by reading this report.

**Important Health Information** | Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least trace amounts of some "contaminants". The presence of these do not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons 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 Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

**Water Sources and Treatment** | The City of Aurora draws its water from three wells. This water is chlorinated and stored in a water tank before entering the distribution system. Very low amounts of chlorine are used to keep water free of bacteria that may exist in the distribution system. Chlorine residuals are measured daily and are well below the maximum level established by the EPA. The City of Aurora retains their source water assessment at City Hall. Please contact City Hall to view this report.



**Information About Arsenic** | Very low levels of arsenic, which have not exceeded EPA standards, have been detected in the City of Aurora's drinking water supply. There is a slight chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic over many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory disease are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. EPA standards balance the current understanding of arsenic's health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water.

To address these concerns and keep arsenic levels at or below EPA standards, the City installed a new filtration system in 2010 and continues to blend water sources. Monitoring and adjusting the treatment processes to reduce arsenic in the drinking water is one of the City's top priorities.

**What Goes Into Your Water Rates?** | The City of Aurora performs numerous functions in order to maintain convenient access to clean, safe drinking water. From testing water samples for a variety of contaminants, to sustaining adequate pressure to all service connections, we strive to fulfill all requirements on a daily basis. In addition, we must contend with continually climbing expenses. These include yearly depreciation on the water distribution system and equipment, interest expenses, insurance costs and laboratory analysis. Other expenses include maintaining water personnel certifications, power, labor, contract work, transportation, office operation, professional fees, materials, chemicals and the upkeep and maintenance to all infrastructures, including reservoirs, treatment facilities and meters.

It is the considerable cost of these elements that determines your water rates. Clean, safe drinking water is a luxury that cannot be taken for granted. Remember, the City of Aurora does not sell water; it provides the service of keeping your water safe and conveniently accessible at your tap.

### The Effect of Lead in Drinking Water

If present, elevated levels of 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 City of Aurora is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot 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 two minutes before using 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 minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or on the web at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).