



2010 Water Report *For the year 2009*

**City Enforces Sprinkling
Policy And Daytime
Watering Ban**
See Page 3 for details

A clear glass filled with water, showing ripples and reflections. The glass is positioned on the left side of the page, with the water level about halfway up. The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of water droplets.

City Begins Plans for New Water Treatment Plant

Plans are being made for a new water treatment plant in Edina.

In the fall of 2009, the City of Edina began the process of creating its fifth water treatment plant to treat and filter water from wells at Utley, Sherwood and Highlands parks and on Hanson Road.

Although all City water is treated, not every well is filtered for the removal of iron and manganese, naturally occurring minerals in groundwater. Iron and manganese can result in discolored water that, while safe to drink, can result in taste or odor complaints. The City's long-term goal is to filter all of its wells, and the construction of Water Treatment Plant 5 is a positive step in that direction.

The new treatment plant will be located inside a City-owned building adjacent to the current Public Works site. The building is currently used for parking equipment and storage for the Public Works and Parks Maintenance departments. With crews set to move into the new Public Works Facility at 7450 Metro Blvd. later this month, the newly vacated building proved to be ideal for the new water treatment plant, without impacting green spaces and avoiding the costs of land acquisition. The design of the new plant should be completed by August 2010, and following City Council approval, will go to construction bid this fall.

While the interior equipment of Water Treatment Plant 5 will be similar to the City's other water treatment plants, it will be unique in a few ways. First, since it will be built within an existing structure, it poses some architectural challenges and design layout restrictions. Second, it will be the largest of the City's water treatment plants in terms of volume, treating, filtering and pumping 4,000 gallons per minute of clean, safe drinking water directly into the distribution system. Finally, there will be additional treatment trays in the event any contaminants show up in the ground water in the future.

For more information about the plans for the treatment plant, contact Utility Coordinator Dave Goergen, 952 826-0312.

Your Drinking Water Is Certified Safe

The City of Edina's goal is to provide you with high-quality, safe, reliable drinking water that surpasses state and federal requirements. Test results from monitoring done in 2009 show that the City is achieving that goal.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Minnesota Department of Health have identified many chemicals and other substances that might pose a risk to humans. When a contaminant is thought to pose a risk, these agencies set upper limits for safe human consumption.

This special report contains the City's annual water quality report, which includes complete information on the monitoring done on Edina drinking water last year. Residents in Edina's Morningside Neighborhood who receive their water from the City of Minneapolis will find information detailing the quality of Minneapolis water on Pages 10-12.

Please review the report. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact the Edina Public Works Department, 952-826-0312.

Follow City's Guidelines For Lawn-Watering

To ensure an adequate water supply, the City of Edina has an odd-even sprinkling policy. Homes with even-numbered addresses may water their lawns before 11 a.m. or after 5 p.m. on even-numbered dates of the week. Homes with odd-numbered addresses may water before 11 a.m. or after 5 p.m. on odd-numbered dates. So, the family living at 5305 Kingsbury Drive could water their lawn on odd-numbered dates – July 1, 3, 5 and so on.

To ensure adequate water supply and promote water conservation, the City has a daytime irrigation ban. Watering is banned from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, reducing water wasted through evaporation and allowing pumps to refill water storage facilities for evening peak use.

Permits are available to allow proper watering of new sod or seeded areas. Daily watering of new sod and seed is recommended for the first 14 days to establish root growth. After two weeks, normal watering should be sufficient for establishing a new lawn. The planting of new sod or seed during very dry times of the year is discouraged.

Surcharges for violating the irrigation ban are determined based on the number of water restriction violations issued to the property owner in a three-year period. A written warning will be issued for a first offense. Second offense is \$50; third offense, \$100; fourth, \$200; and each additional offense, \$300.

Water Smart!



Residents who live in Edina's Morningside Neighborhood and receive their water from the City of Minneapolis or those with private wells are not affected. Morningside Neighborhood residents must adhere to any restrictions issued by Minneapolis.

Utility Coordinator David Goergen reminds property owners that some automatic sprinkler systems must be reset at the end of months that have 31 days because there are two odd-numbered dates in a row.

Goergen points out that rain sensors can be purchased for automatic sprinkler systems. A rain sensor is a device that shuts off a sprinkler system if rain is detected. Quickly repairing or disabling broken water heads can also minimize utility bills.

Goergen also offers the following tips for effective watering:

- Do your lawn sprinkling early in the morning, between 4 and 6 a.m., when water demand is low. After about 10 a.m., both heat and evaporation go up, robbing the lawn of moisture.
- Water your lawn when it needs it, rather than on a set schedule. One sign that a lawn needs water is when it lacks enough moisture to spring back after you walk on it. If it stays flat, it is time to water.
- Adjust lawn watering to the weather. Following a heavy rain, skip your regular watering day until the grass needs it again.
- Check sprinkler heads periodically to make sure they haven't shifted direction to spray water on the side of a building, parking lot or sidewalk instead of the lawn.

Because the City is not using one of its seasonal wells this year, further water restrictions might be put into place if the weather becomes exceptionally dry for an extended period of time. Further restrictions could include an all-out watering ban.

For more information, contact Goergen, 952-826-0312.

Local Carwash Takes Advantage Of Recycled Water

By Kaylin Martin

We recycle bottles and cans, paper and plastics, electronics and batteries, but recycled water is rarely heard of, at least in the Midwest.

“Recycling water is becoming increasingly important,” said Dr. Lawrence Baker, Senior Fellow in the Minnesota Water Resources Center and owner of WaterThink, LLC. “In the western U.S., every bit of waste water is reused, because of the dry climate.”

Even though Minnesota is in a much wetter climate, Baker says recycling water is just as important in the Midwest.

Officials at Mister Car Wash agree, so they qualified for and joined WaterSavers, a new program designed by the International Carwash Association (ICA) to help its members – carwash owners and operators – promote their environmentally friendly business practices.

To qualify for the program, Mister Car Wash began to recycle its treated water for future wash cycles and made sure to discharge runoff to a sanitary sewer or leach field. Once each carwash location was able to verify they met these requirements, Mister Car Wash was accepted into the program. There are currently 16 carwashes in the state designated as WaterSavers. The Mister Car Wash in Edina is the only local WaterSaver carwash.

Jeff Hoppe, General Manager for Mister Car Wash in Edina, wants customers to know that a high-quality carwash is still of great importance, despite using reclaimed water.

“The water we reuse washes the underbody, rims and tires of the car,” he said. “Very little reclaimed water touches the body. Maybe once the technology to treat the reclaimed water gets a little better, we’ll be able to recycle even more water per wash.”

Of the 40 gallons of water typically used per car, 14 gallons are recycled at Mister Car Wash. According to the ICA, home washing can use up to three times more water than washing at a commercial carwash. Soaps and other detergents used can run into storm sewers, and eventually directly into streams, rivers, creeks and wetlands.

“We’re happy to offer Edina residents an option for a green car wash that doesn’t waste resources or harm the environment,” said Hoppe.

“I can’t see a down side to it. We need to start thinking about water use in the Twin Cities. We only recycle 1 percent of our waste water, so there is a lot of potential.”

The Minnesota climate may not be dangerously dry, but Baker points to a Met Council study showing there is some stress on the ground water we use. Twin Cities’ wells need to be deepened and because of that, the pressure to reuse water is growing.

“We can only hope that this will push water conservation and reuse,” said Baker. “The pressures to reuse water aren’t fully evident to the public yet. We haven’t been pressured due to drought and water scarcity to the extent that we are in the western U.S.”

“But, I think it’s a trend that’s beginning to catch on everywhere.”



Photo By Kaylin Martin

Recycled water at Mister Car Wash, 7711 Normandale Road, is used on the underbody, rims and tires of the car.



It's Our Watershed

Your watershed begins in your backyard and ends in the Gulf of Mexico, traveling to a local wetland to the Minnesota River and to the Mississippi River in between. Any pollutants we create or place in our back yard eventually arrive at the Gulf of Mexico.

Thinking on a scale this large may make you feel powerless in improving water quality. However, by thinking on a smaller scale, you can affect water quality within your local watershed.

To improve water quality in your watershed:

- Sweep, bag and/or compost lawn clippings to prevent them from running into wetlands and lakes. Yard waste is one of the largest contributors to degrading water quality.
- Maintain a buffer strip of native vegetation around the wetland or lake in your back yard.
- Do not use phosphorus fertilizers. Fertilizers you use should have a middle number of "0" in the Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium (NPK) rating.
- Clean up pet waste to prevent it from running into wetlands and lakes.
- Check your car fuel, oil and antifreeze for leaks and fix any leaks to prevent these chemicals from entering your local wetland.
- Wash your car on your lawn instead of your driveway to keep pollutants and detergents out of lakes and wetlands.

Trivia Contest

How much do you know about Edina's utility system and water quality? Read this Consumer Confidence Report thoroughly and send in your answers to the following questions. You could win a gift certificate to pay for part of your next utility bill or another great prize!

1. How many WaterSavers car washes are located in Edina?
A. 0
B. 1
C. 3
D. 5
2. When is the best time of day to water a lawn?
A. Between 4 and 6 a.m.
B. Between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
C. Between 10 a.m. and noon
D. Any time of the day is appropriate
3. What can you not add to your compost bin?
A. Leaves
B. Shredded paper
C. Egg shells
D. Dog waste
4. True or False: You can always hear a water leak.
A. True
B. False
5. True or False: There are 18 wells in Edina.
A. True
B. False

Name _____

Street Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Mail your completed form to Edina Public Works – Utility Department, 5146 Eden Ave., Edina, MN 55436. Entries must be received by July 30, 2010.

2009 **City of Edina** Drinking Water Report

The City of Edina is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2009.

The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

Source of Water

The City of Edina provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: 18 wells ranging from 381 to 1,080 feet deep, that draw water from the Mt. Simon, Jordan, and Prairie Du Chien-Jordan aquifers.

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. Also, you can view it online at **www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa**.

Call **952-826-0312** if you have questions about the City of Edina's drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in

decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

Results of Monitoring

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2009. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

Key to abbreviations:

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.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.

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

90th 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 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) Note: In situations in which only five samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

pCi/l: PicoCuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

ppb: Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$).

ppm: Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

nd: No Detection.

N/A: Not Applicable (does not apply).

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2009)	Average/Result*	
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)	0	15.4	4.6-8.4	11.65	Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (ppm) (09/28/1007)	2	2	N/A	.12	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	nd-.3	.08	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills.
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	0	5.4	1.5-3.5	4.45	Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.21-1.3	1.15	State of Minnesota 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.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	0	60	N/A	4.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	0	80	N/A	8.6	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	nd-.5	.3	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	nd-1.6	1.15	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories.
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	nd-9.9	6.85	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	100	nd-.5	.38	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.

*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.

Contaminant (units)	MRDLG	MRDL	****	*****	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	.4-1.9	1.07	Water additive used to control microbes.

****Highest and Lowest Monthly Average. *****Highest Quarterly Average.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm) (09/24/2007)	N/A	1.3	.62	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb) (09/24/2007)	N/A	15	4	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

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. City of Edina 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Some contaminants do not have Maximum Contaminant Levels established for them. These unregulated contaminants are assessed using state standards known as health risk limits to determine if they pose a threat to human health. If unacceptable levels of an unregulated contaminant are found, the response is the same as if an MCL has been exceeded; the water system must inform its customers and take other corrective actions. In the table that follows are the unregulated contaminants that were detected:

Contaminant (units)	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
	Range (2009)	Average/Result	
Sodium (ppm) (06/18/2008)	N/A	20	Erosion of natural deposits.
Sulfate (ppm) (06/18/2008)	N/A	42.7	Erosion of natural deposits.

Monitoring for unregulated contaminants as required by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rules (40 CFR 141.40) was conducted in 2008. Results of the

unregulated contaminant monitoring are available upon request from Cindy Swanson, Minnesota Department of Health, at **651-201-4656**.

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 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 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 to drink, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (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.

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**.

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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.**

Edina Water Chemistry

Hardness = 17 grains per gallon

Iron = less than 1 part per million

PH = 7.6

Fluoride = 0.9 to 1.1 parts per million

Chlorine = 1 to 1.2 parts per million

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Source of Water

The City of Minneapolis provides drinking water to its residents from a surface water source: surface water drawn from the Mississippi River.

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. Also, you can view it online at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

Call **612-661-4999** if you have questions about the City of Minneapolis drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

Monitoring for unregulated contaminants as required by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rules (40 CFR 141.40) was conducted in 2009. Results of the unregulated contaminant monitoring are available upon request from Cindy Swanson, Minnesota Department of Health, at 651-201-4656.

Results of Monitoring

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2009. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

Key to abbreviations:

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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.

TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure clarity in drinking water.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.

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

90th 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 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) Note: In situations in which only five samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

ppb: Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$).

ppm: Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

nd: No Detection.

N/A: Not Applicable (does not apply).

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2009)	Average/Result*	
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.98-1.1	1.02	State of Minnesota 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.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	0	60	10.2-35.2	25.66	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	0	80	14.9-50.1	33.18	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

*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.

Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	**	***	Typical Source of Contaminant
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	TT			Soil runoff.

**Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting the Turbidity Limits.

***Highest Single Measurement.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	****	*****	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	3-3.4	3.27	Water additive used to control microbes.

****Highest and Lowest Monthly Average.

*****Highest Quarterly Average.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	N/A	1.3	.07	0 out of 51	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb)	N/A	15	2	1 out of 51	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Contaminant (units)	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
	Range (2008)	Average/Result	
Sodium (ppm) (07/03/2008)	N/A	9.9	Erosion of natural deposits.
Sulfate (ppm) (07/03/2008)	N/A	25.5	Erosion of natural deposits.

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. City of Minneapolis 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Some contaminants do not have Maximum Contaminant Levels established for them. These unregulated contaminants are assessed using state standards known as health risk limits to determine if they pose a threat to human health. If unacceptable levels of an unregulated contaminant are found, the response is the same as if an MCL has been exceeded; the water system must inform its customers and take other corrective actions. The table on the previous page shows the unregulated contaminants that were detected:

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 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 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 to drink, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (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.

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**.

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* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I received a phone call from a company that told me there are some substances in my water that exceed the allowable limits for drinking water. They offered water filtration/softening service that they claim will make my water healthier. Is it true that I need their service in order to have healthy drinking water?

A: These are private businesses trying to solicit you with scare tactics. The City of Edina provides water that exceeds the EPA or MDH standards for drinking water. The City constantly tests the drinking water supply. If any substances get near or exceed the limits, the City will inform the public immediately.

Q: I have orange spots on my white laundry. Are the clothes ruined?

A: There can be iron particles in your water that pass through the City's filtration system and your water softener. If you get orange spots or if the laundry is slightly discolored, it can be fixed – as long as you don't dry the clothes first! There is a product that the City distributes at no charge called "Rover." Rover is a powder form of rust remover. You can pick it up at City Hall, 4801. W. 50th St., or the Public Works Facility.

Q: I want my water tested. Where can I take it?

A: The City tests its water quality and results are published annually in this report. If you desire further testing, please call a private testing laboratory. Private laboratories are located in the Yellow Pages under

"water analysis" or "laboratories – analytical." In order to test water, you need to know what you want to test it for. The City and Minnesota Department of Health conduct all the water testing required by the Safe Drinking Water Act to maintain safe drinking water in our City.

Q: I live in the Morningside area. Why does my water smell "fishy"?

A: The water source for the Morningside area of Edina is surface water provided by the Minneapolis Utility Department. Minneapolis gets its water from the Mississippi River. Low river levels can cause the fishy odor, which is a common occurrence with surface systems. The City of Minneapolis is working toward a solution for this issue.

Q: What causes the swampy odor that comes out of our hot water faucets? What can be done about it?

A: Because the odor is only in the hot water, the problem probably originates in the water heater. Most water heaters contain a magnesium sacrificial anode rod that prevents corrosion inside the tank, greatly extending its life. A reaction may take place between elements in the water and the rod, producing hydrogen sulfide. It smells bad, typically described as "swampy" or "like rotten eggs."

Cleaning the tank with chlorine bleach or changing to an aluminum rod will solve the problem. If your water supply is non-corrosive, the rod may be removed altogether. However, doing that could void the warranty on the water heater. Contact your plumber for advice.

For more information, visit www.CityofEdina.com/Engineering or call 952-826-0375.



Composting? Not a 'rotten' idea

By Marty Doll

From grass clippings, dried-out leaves and coffee grounds to nutrient-rich soil for flowers and gardens – that's the science of composting. With the right combination of "greens" and "browns," a little moisture and a few turns with a pitchfork, anyone can make his or her own backyard "black gold."

According to Edina's Recycling Coordinator Solvei Wilmot, compost is nothing more than rotted organic material. As microorganisms such as fungi or bacteria break down organics like leaves, grass, apple cores and banana peels, the material transforms into rich, black soil known as compost. Wilmot says it's an easy way to give your flower beds, lawns and gardens some much needed "food" to help them grow.

"Regular soil is primarily ground stone," said Wilmot. "Compost is less compact, which helps with water retention and providing space for roots. It also provides more nutrients to the plants."

To get started composting, all you really need is a place to do it, a pitchfork and some organic materials from your backyard – and your trash can.

Where can I compost? A number of commercially manufactured compost bins can be purchased at almost any

home and garden store or home improvement center. The Recycling Association of Minnesota typically offers a sale on bins throughout the year in different metro-area cities. Visit their website at www.recycleminnesota.org for more information.

You can also make your own bin. If you decide to build your own compost bin, it should be constructed of a durable material such as wire fencing, rot-resistant wood, concrete block or brick. The size and location of the container is also very important. To comply with City Code, please keep the following regulations in mind:

- The container cannot be larger than 30 square feet on lots of less than 9,000 square feet or larger than 50 square feet on lots of more than 9,000 square feet.
- The height of the container and the compostable material must be less than four feet.
- The container cannot be in the front yard or visible from the street.

Photo By Marty Doll



Nutrient-rich compost is great for flower beds, gardens and lawns.

- The container must be at least five feet away from property lines and 20 feet away from neighboring buildings.

What can I compost? Grass trimmings, leaves, plants, old potting soil, soft plant stems, fruit scraps, vegetable trimmings, tea bags, egg shells, coffee grounds with filters and shredded paper are all good and acceptable components for a compost pile.

"Yard waste and home waste make a good mix," said Wilmot. "They help break each other down."

You'll also want to be conscious of the ratio of "browns" to "greens" you use to make your compost. Greens (such as weeds, grass clippings and kitchen scraps) are organics high in nitrogen or protein. Browns (such as dead leaves,

straw, hay, wood shavings or chips) are high in carbon or carbohydrates. Too many greens will give your compost pile a “silage” smell. Too few will slow down the composting process. According to the University of Minnesota Extension Office, a good ratio is 25- or 30-to-1 browns to greens.

Wilmot says that adding household organic waste such as coffee grounds and fruit scraps will not only help your compost, but also the environment.

“You won’t have as much going into the garbage,” said Wilmot. “That means less space being taken up in landfills.”

The City prohibits some organic items from being composted. Do not include meat, bones, fatty food, cheese, milk, oil or pet and human excrement in your compost pile. These materials attract pests and can contain organisms that make people sick. Fats and oils prevent composting microorganisms from getting the air they need to do their work. Also, keep plastics and branches out, as they do not break down well.

How do I turn it into dirt? The best thing about compost is you don’t have

to do much more than let nature take its course. Organic materials break down naturally, and eventually, that pile of leaves and grass will turn into nutrient-rich soil. You can, however, speed the process along.

“A compost pile needs air and moisture,” said Wilmot “If you turn it with a pitchfork and shovel a couple of times a year, you can have pretty good compost within that year. If you turn it more, you can have pretty good compost in four months.”

Wilmot wants to make sure first-time composters don’t fret – it’s not as difficult as you might think. A quick internet search will reveal a number of websites with detailed information to have your compost bin up and rotting in no time.

For more information, contact Wilmot at 952-826-0463 or search “Compost” on any internet search engine.

While some municipalities have their own composting facilities, Edina does not. According to Edina Park Superintendent Vince Cockriel, the City does not have an open space in a secluded area large enough to collect organic materials and allow for large-scale composting. However, that doesn’t mean that compost is not available to residents.

Each year around April 1, compost is trucked in for use in City gardens and flower beds. Cockriel says that while it’s here, it is available free-of-charge to residents and can be picked up at Bredesen Park, just off of Vernon Avenue and Olinger Boulevard.

According to Cockriel, it is inexpensive for the City to truck in the compost, and it allows them to free up space to be used for other resources the remainder of the year. However, supplies are limited. Cockriel says that once the parks have finished their spring planting – typically around the first of June – they stop replenishing the supply until next year.

“It’s a free service to early gardeners,” said Cockriel.

Edina's Utility Coordinator, Team Leader Combine Big Picture, Day-to-Day

By Marty Doll

For Edina's Utility Coordinator Dave Goergen and Team Leader Gary Wells, the small office they share in the City's old Public Works building sometimes seems tighter than a grease-clogged sewer line. With only a few feet separating their workspaces, the two supervisors of Edina's Water & Sewer Utility Division have no choice but to literally "work together closely."

"We needle each other and give each other a hard time" said Goergen, the division's newcomer of just over a year, speaking of the camaraderie that came out of their close quarters. "We work well together, and it's nice to have that kind of interaction."

What could have been a source of frustration has instead helped both the "big picture" and "day-to-day" guy realize their shared vision for maintaining Edina's water and sewer infrastructure.

As Utility Coordinator, Goergen is tasked with overseeing the long-term progress and efficiency of the City's water and sewer system. Not as wet behind the ears as his short tenure in this community may suggest, Goergen worked in utilities for the City of Hopkins for 10 years before coming to Edina.

"I try to keep up to speed on new technology, requirements, procedures, equipment and products," said Goergen, whose knowledge base is drawn from a combination of hydrogeologists, chemists and engineers. "The more I can learn about different technology and product

applications, the more effective and efficient it can be when we get it in our operator's hands."

Most of Goergen's "big picture" conclusions are drawn from data he receives from the aptly named Wells, a 16-year water and sewer veteran, and his team of operators.

"I'm reactive and Dave's proactive," said Wells, who supervises the division's day-to-day operations.

Each morning, Wells holds what he calls his "morning muster," assigning duties to the City's 10 utility operators. While some of their work is preventative, such as locating utility lines, meter reading and replacement, and cleaning and maintaining sewer lines, lift stations and water treatment plants, the nature of their trade means much of their work can be dealt with only after a problem arises.

"Nearly everything we deal with is buried 7 to 10 feet underground," said Wells, speaking to the fact that the City's water and sewer lines can't be directly monitored on a daily basis.

While timely reaction is a big part of Wells' job, he also helps Goergen incorporate that proactive approach whenever possible. Replacing old lines when a street project calls for them to be exposed is one way to make improvements before a problem arises.

"Residents hate it when they get new blacktop and we show up and rip a hole right in the middle of it," said Wells of what can happen if an old line breaks under a new street.

Photo By Michael Braun



Edina Utility Coordinator Dave Goergen (right) and Team Leader Gary Wells (left) work in unison to make sure that both the "big picture" and "day-to-day" operations of the utility division receive the proper attention.

With 200 miles of water mains, 18 deep water wells and four water treatment plants delivering up to 22 million gallons of treated water per day and an additional 360 miles of sanitary and storm sewer mains and 34 lift stations in the City, both Goergen and Wells always have plenty to do. While the pair tends to be on the same page quite often, the thing they say they agree on most is the work of their utility operators.

"Their knowledge, ability and talents are unmatched," said Goergen.

"Once I assign a duty, I don't have to worry about it," said Wells. "I know it will be carried out competently and professionally."

After their move to Edina's new, larger Public Works Building this summer, Goergen and Wells will continue to work together closely to keep the City's water running and the toilets flushing. Now, however, they will have a little extra elbow room.

For more information, contact the Public Works Utilities Division at 952-826-0375.