



<http://www.epa.gov/ebtpages/watedrinkingwater.html>

Last updated on Thursday, January 20, 2011

Water > Drinking Water

You are here: [EPA Home](#) » [Browse EPA Topics](#) » [Water](#) » [Drinking Water](#)

Water > Drinking Water

[Water subtopics](#)

[Alphabetical List of All Topics](#)

Most Americans get their drinking water from large scale municipal water systems that rely on surface water sources such as rivers, lakes and reservoirs. However, millions of Americans depend on private water sources such as wells and aquifers. In either case, the United States enjoys one of the cleanest drinking water supplies in the world. The EPA regulates the quality of the nation's drinking water by issuing and enforcing safe drinking water standards. EPA also protects the nation's drinking water by safeguarding our watersheds and regulating the release of pollutants into the environment. In partnership with local authorities and community groups, the Agency encourages water conservation. EPA also works with these partners to develop contingency plans for source contamination and other water emergencies.

Recommended EPA Web pages

- **[Ground Water and Drinking Water](#)**
This is the home page for the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water and provides information about the programs in place to protect public health by regulating ground and drinking water.
- **[Local Drinking Water Information](#)**
Provides local drinking water information for each state.
- **[Drinking Water and Health: What You Need To Know](#)**
This publications addresses locating information about your drinking water system.

Browse these EPA Drinking Water subtopics

[Aquatic Ecosystems](#)

[Coral Reefs](#), [Estuaries](#), [Freshwater Ecosystems](#), [Lakes](#), [Marine Ecosystems](#), [Oceans](#), [Rivers and Streams](#), [Watersheds](#), [Wetlands](#)

[✓ Drinking Water](#)

[Drinking Water System](#), [Protection](#)

[Ground Water](#)

[Discharge](#), [Hydrogeology](#), [Protection](#), [Runoff](#), [Wells](#)

[Storm Water](#)

[Combined Sewer Overflows \(CSOs\)](#), [Industrial Storm Water](#), [Permits](#), [Sanitary Sewer Overflows \(SSOs\)](#), [Wet Weather Programs](#)

[Water Pollutants](#)

[Arsenic](#), [Contaminated Sediment](#), [Disinfection Byproducts](#), [Dredged Material](#), [Lead](#), [Mercury](#), [Microbial Pathogens](#)

[Water Pollution](#)

[Community Involvement](#), [Cost Benefit Analysis](#), [Data](#), [Nonpoint Sources](#), [Point Sources](#), [Reporting](#), [Testing](#), [Transboundary Pollution](#)

[Water Pollution Control](#)

[Pretreatment](#), [Remediation](#), [Trading](#), [Wastewater Treatment](#)

[Water Pollution Effects](#)

[Economic Effects](#), [Environmental Effects](#), [Health Effects](#)

Surface Water

Dumping, Marine Debris

Wastewater

Animal Feeding Operations

(AFOs), Biosolids, Discharges, Effluent

Guidelines, Effluents, Industrial Wastewater, Municipal

Wastewater Treatment, National Pollutant Discharge

Elimination System (NPDES), Permits, Publicly

Owned Treatment Works

(POTWs), Standards, Treatment, Wastewater

Systems

Water Infrastructure

Water Pollution Legal Aspects

Compliance, Enforcement, Guidance,

Legislation, Permits, Public Comment, Regulations,

Standards, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

Water Quality Monitoring

Bioassessment, Criteria, Health

Advisories, Models, Standards