

# Water Conservation Tips

## Did You Know

**...that the average US household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.**

Take short showers - a 5 minutes shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.

Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.

Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and you can save up to 750 gallons a month.

Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

Water plants only when necessary.

Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.

Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill.

Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## Where does my water come from?

The City of Dixon provides customers with groundwater pumped from seven wells ranging in drilled depth from 1,600 to 1,800 feet at various locations throughout the city. Two wells are located on the north side and five wells are located on the south side.

Source Water Information				
Source Water Name	Gallons per Min.	Type of Water	Report Status	Location
Well 3	900 GPM	GW	Active	520 E. River Street
Well 5	1000 GPM	GW	Active	420 E. River Street
Well 6	1200 GPM	GW	Active	1129 N. Jefferson Street
Well 7	1400 GPM	GW	Active	1025 Nachusa Avenue
Well 8	1400 GPM	GW	Active	1100 Warp Road
Well 9	1300 GPM	GW	Active	1329 N. Galena
Well 10	1400 GPM	GW	Active	1552 Dutch Road

## Source Water Assessment and its Availability

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel free to attend our regularly scheduled City Council meetings. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please stop by City Hall or call our water operator at 815-288-4557. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessment, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility of Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at:

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>

Based on information obtained in a Well Site Survey published in 1990 by the Illinois EPA, several potential secondary sources are located within 1,000 feet of several of the wells. The Illinois EPA has determined that the Dixon Community Water Supply's source water is not susceptible to contamination. The determination is based on a number of criteria including: monitoring conducted at the well; monitoring conducted at the entry point to the distribution system; and available hydro geologic data on the wells.

Furthermore, in anticipation of the U.S. EPA's purposed Ground Water Rule, the Illinois EPA has determined that the Dixon Community Water Supply is not vulnerable to viral contamination. This determination is based upon the evaluation of the following criteria during the Vulnerability Waiver Process: the community's wells are properly constructed with sound integrity and proper siting conditions: a hydraulic barrier exists which should prevent pathogen movement: all potential routes and sanitary defects have been mitigated such that the source water is adequately protected: monitoring data did not indicate a history of disease outbreak: and the sanitary survey of the water supply do not indicate a viral contamination threat.

Because the community wells are constructed in a confined

aquifer, which should prevent the movement of pathogens into the wells, well hydraulics were not considered to be a significant factor in susceptibility determination. Hence, well hydraulics were not evaluated for this system's water supply.

## How can I get involved?

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. City Council meetings occur on the first and third Mondays of each month at 5:30p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall, located at 121 West Second Street. The public is welcome.

In addition to required testing we are required to perform, our water system voluntary tests for additional substances and microscopic organisms to make certain our water is safe and of high quality. If you are interested in a more detailed report, contact Water Manager Matt Huyett..

Contact Name: Matt Huyett

121 W. 2nd St.

Dixon, IL 61021

Phone: 815-284-3397 Fax: 815-288-5945

E-Mail: [matt.huyett@discoverdixon.org](mailto:matt.huyett@discoverdixon.org)

Website: [www.dixongov.com](http://www.dixongov.com)

## Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.

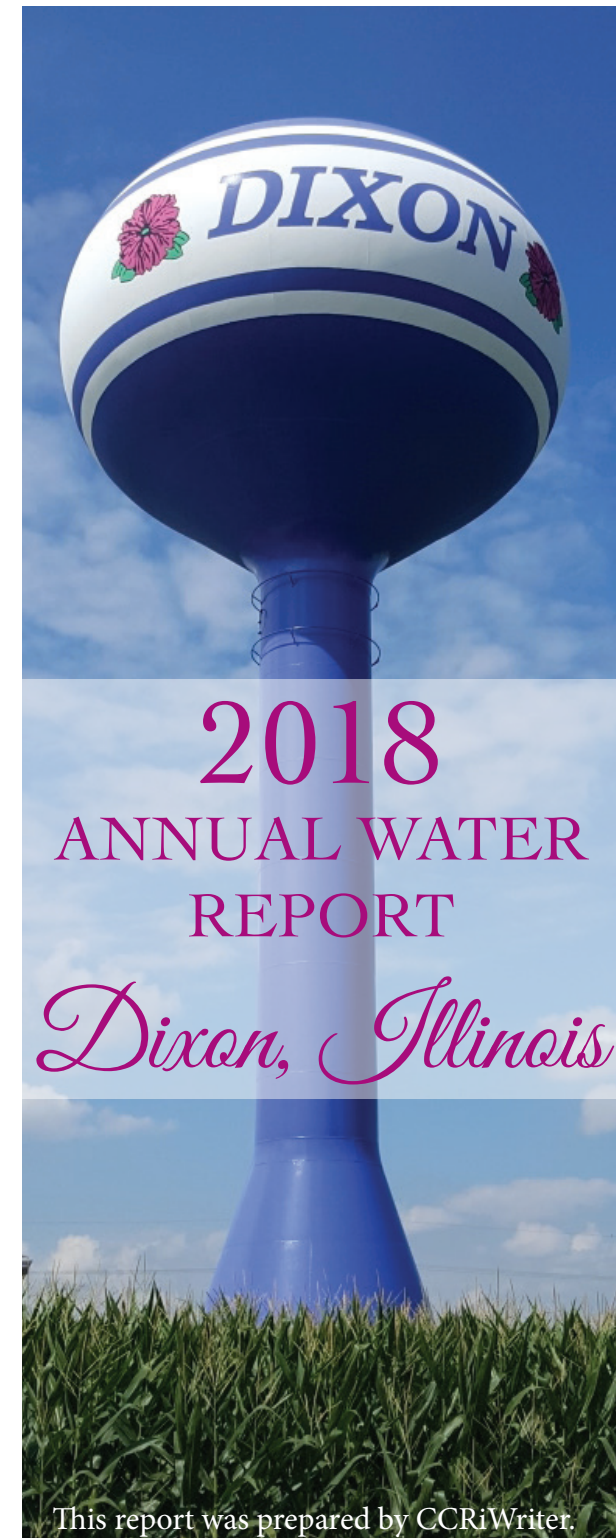
Pick up after your pets.

If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.

Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.

Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there is no active group, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.

Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.



**Is my water safe?** The City of Dixon is pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Dixon Public Works is committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.



**Do I need to take special precautions?**

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 people, 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 (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Description of Water Treatment Process**

Your water is treated by filtration and disinfection. Filtration removes particles and contaminants suspended in the source water. Particles typically include clays and silts, natural organic matter, iron, manganese, radium and microorganisms.

Your water is also treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

**Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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; and 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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

**Additional Information for Lead**

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 Dixon 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 2 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 at:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

**Cross Connection Control Survey**

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross-connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross contamination control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

**2018 Water Quality Table for the City of Dixon**

Lead & Copper	Date Tested	Unit	MCLG	Action Level-AL	90th Percentil	# Sites over AL	Major Source	Violatio n
Copper	2017	ppm	1.3	1.3	1	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion or nousenoia plumbing systems	NO
Lead	2017	ppb	0	15	3.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level*	Range	Major Source	Violatio n
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic	2018	ppb	10	0	1	0 - 3.4	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes	NO
Barium	2018	ppm	2	2	0.21	0.067-0.21	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Fluoride	2018	ppm	4	4	0.756	0.708-0.756	Erosion of Natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	NO
Iron	2018	ppm	1	N/A	0.47	0 - 0.47	This Contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Erosion of natural deposits.	NO
Manganese	2018	ppb	150	150	38	20 - 38	This Contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Erosion of natural deposits.	NO
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2018	ppm	10	10	0.04	0 - 0.04	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	NO
Sodium	2018	ppm	N/A	N/A	5.5	4.3 - 5.5	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits: Used in water softner regeneration.	NO
Radioactive Contaminants								
Uranium	2012	ug/l	30	0	0.2682	.13708 - .2682	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Gross Alpha Emitters excluding Radon and Uranium	2018	pCi/L	15	0	4	0 - 3.55	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Combined Radium	2018	pCi/L	5	0	5	1.321 - 5.18	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products								
Chlorine	2018	ppm	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	1.1	1 - 1.2	Water additive used to control microbes	NO
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	2018	ppb	60	N/A	15.5	4.1 - 15.5	By-product of drinking water disinfection	NO
TTHMs (Total)	2018	ppb	80	N/A	37.9	11.03-37.9	By-product of drinking water disinfection	NO
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides								
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phtalate	2014	ppb	6	0	2.6	0 - 2.6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories	NO

**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.

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. allow for a margin of safety. MCLGs

**Maximim Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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 treatment technology. MCLs are set

**Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG):** 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. MRDLGs do

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.

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

**Variations and Exemptions:** State or **MNR:** Monitored Not Regulated **MPL:** EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

Unit	N/A: Not Applicable	N/D: Not Detected	N/R: Monitoring Not Required, but recommended
<b>Description</b>	<b>pCi/L:</b> picocuries per liter (measure of radioactivity)	<b>ppb:</b> parts per billion (ug/l)	<b>ppm:</b> parts per million (mg/l)

This report is based on tests conducted from 2012 to 2018 by the City of Dixon Water Department. Terms used in the Water Quality Table and in the other parts on this report are defined here.