

Drinking Water Frequently Asked Questions



1. Is Eagle Lake's drinking water safe?

Yes. The City of Eagle Lake works hard to provide water customers with safe and reliable drinking water that meets all federal and state water quality requirements, including the Safe Drinking Water Act. Public water supplies are regulated by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), while the City manages and operates the system.

2. Why does my drinking water look or smell odd?

Hard water is common in Minnesota. Eagle Lake's water supply is classified as *hard* and contains iron and manganese. Hard water has high mineral content.

High iron can cause red/orange staining of laundry and fixtures, plugging of filters, buildup and reduced capacity of plumbing piping, less efficient softeners, and the plugging of irrigation nozzles and staining landscaping.

High manganese levels can cause black and brown staining, scum on water and coffee, odor, and taste issues. High levels of manganese can cause problems with memory, attention, and motor skills. It can also cause learning and behavior problems in infants and children. **Water can be harmful if the level of manganese is above 100 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) or 100 parts per billion (ppb).** A health risk advisory was received from the Minnesota Department of Health in 2022 for having a high level of manganese in our drinking water. The City has two wells and both tested above the MDH health guidelines of 100 parts per billion (ppb) for infants. Manganese concentration in the City of Eagle Lake's water averages 220 ppb. Certain household water treatment units may reduce manganese to safe levels.

3. How do you know which contaminants are present in Eagle Lake's drinking water?

The City of Eagle Lake routinely works with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. Eagle Lake's drinking water meets water quality standards for nitrate, arsenic, radium, etc. Iron and manganese levels are above recommended standards. Eagle Lake reports this information regularly in its Drinking Water Report. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants, so it is not unusual to detect contaminants in small/safe amounts.

4. Does Eagle Lake treat its drinking water?

Eagle Lake does not currently have a water treatment facility. Instead, public works staff isolate and remove minerals and disinfect the well water before it is distributed to the public. It is also treated with fluoride for dental health and a corrosion inhibitor to keep lead and copper levels low.

5. What is the City of Eagle Lake doing to address water quality issues?

A water system study was undertaken in the fall of 2020 to investigate water quality issues related to ongoing color and odor complaints received from residents and to identify solutions. Since that time, City officials have explored water quality improvement options.

Eagle Lake secured an option to purchase land needed to construct a new water treatment facility in 2022, knowing the current water system could not treat manganese. Since that time, requests for placement on the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRLF) Intended Use Plan have been submitted to the Minnesota Department of Health DWRLF Program and Minnesota Public Facilities Authority. Eagle Lake's project is currently ranked on the MDH 2024 Project Priority List (PPL).

State and federal funding requests will continue to be submitted until necessary funding is secured. The total project cost for the construction of a new water treatment facility is currently projected at \$14,135,000. An average current water user pays approximately \$40 per month for water. Without grant funding, the average user cost is projected to increase to approximately \$111 per month for water. With grant funding, the average user cost is projected to increase to approximately \$75 per month for water based on current anticipated project costs.

6. Where does Eagle Lake's drinking water come from?

Eagle Lake's drinking water comes from a ground water source: two 270-ft deep wells draw water from the Prairie Du Chien Group and Prairie Du Chien-Jordan aquifers.

7. How does drinking water get from the source to my home?

Eagle Lake's drinking water system is comprised of two active wells, one water tower for storage, and a distribution system (underground piping) that supplies drinking water to each user.

8. Where can I find more information?

More information about Eagle Lake's drinking water can be found by accessing the most recent Drinking Water Report. Each report contains monitoring results from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 and can be obtained online at eaglelakemn.com or by calling or stopping by City Hall to request a copy.

For additional information, please contact the following:

JENNIFER J. BROMELAND

City Administrator
P.O. Box 159
Eagle Lake, MN 56024
jbromeland@eaglelakemn.com
Phone: 507-257-3218

ANDREW HARTMAN

Public Works Director
P.O. Box 159
Eagle Lake, MN 56024
ahartman@eaglelakemn.com
Phone: 507-257-3218

