

UNIT WELL #30

Drilled in 2003, Unit Well 30 has a pumping capacity of 2,400 gallons per minute; however, the pump typically delivers 1,350 gallons per minute through the use of a variable frequency drive. It operates year-round primarily serving Madison's South side particularly neighborhoods south of Wingra Creek and east of Park Street. The well also supplies the South Campus, Greenbush, State-Langdon, and Bay Creek neighborhoods. In 2023, Well 30 pumped 554 million gallons of water compared to its 5-year average of 636 million gallons. The well was out of service for maintenance in January and February.

Unless otherwise noted, data contained in this report, which is updated annually, are from 2023.

Bacteria

In 2023, six samples were collected from Well 30 and tested for coliform bacteria, an indicator group of bacteria used to determine drinking water safety. Each sample was collected and tested prior to any disinfection. None of the samples had coliform bacteria present. The Water Utility chlorinates tap water to protect against bacteria and viruses that can be present in groundwater and to provide protection as the water travels through water mains and premise plumbing.

Hardness and Other Minerals

Like all groundwater, water from Well 30 contains calcium and magnesium that contributes to its hardness (325 mg/L [ppm] or 19 grains per gallon). Other naturally occurring constituents that are present in water from Well 30 can be found in the [Inorganics Table](#).

Iron and Manganese

Water from Well 30 contains intermediate levels of iron and manganese. The EPA [secondary standards](#) for iron and manganese are 0.3 mg/L and 50 µg/L, respectively. Water containing iron or manganese above these levels may cause staining of laundry or plumbing fixtures. Long-term accumulation of iron and manganese in the water mains can lead to discolored water.

Instances of discolored water are random, infrequent, and temporary; the water usually clears up in 15-30 minutes without additional action. Running a lower-level cold water tap at full force for a few minutes usually flushes out the minerals that cause the discoloration. If the color persists, call the Water Utility at 266-4654. You should not use discolored water for drinking or cooking; rather run the water until it clears.

Lead

Madison's groundwater supply does not contain significant amounts of naturally occurring lead.

Chromium

Tests have not found hexavalent chromium at Well 30. Chromium is known to be present in the aquifer; however, it is believed that the chemical environment in the Mt. Simon aquifer inhibits the release of chromium into groundwater. More information is found on the [chromium](#) page.

Radionuclides

In 2023, water from Well 30 was tested for radium. Combined radium (226+228) measured 1.2 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). The maximum contaminant level (MCL) is 5 pCi/L.

Naturally occurring, radioactive elements are found in rock, soil, water, and air. They derive from the creation of our planet and enter our bodies when we drink water, breathe air, and eat foods that contain them. Everyone is exposed to some level of radiation in everyday life. For example, uranium and thorium are found in rock and soil. In time, they decay to other elements including radium, which later decays to radon gas. Radon is the largest contributor to our daily exposure of radiation from the natural world. More information is available from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ([ATSDR](#)).

See [ATSDR](#) for more information on radon.

Human-made Contaminants

Madison Water Utility annually tests all of its wells for human-made contaminants that may be present in groundwater. None of over fifty volatile organic compounds (VOC) tested were detected at Well 30 in 2023.

The [Volatile Organic Compounds](#) table lists the substances that were tested, the results, and how detected levels compare with the maximum contaminant levels (MCL) established by the EPA.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

All Madison wells were tested for [PFAS](#) in 2023; none were detected at Well 30. In 2022, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources adopted drinking water standards for PFOA & PFOS set at 70 ppt. In April 2024, the US Environmental Protection Agency published final federal MCLs that were set at 4 ppt. Our website, [madisonwater.org](#), has more detailed information about PFAS in drinking water.

Additional Information

Information on routine [water quality monitoring](#) activities, including current test results and links to additional resources, is available at [madisonwater.org](#). In addition, you can sign-up to receive periodic updates on Madison drinking water quality or the water main flushing program through the [City of Madison](#) website.

If you have questions about the information in this report or on our website, our staff would be happy to answer them. Please call the Water Quality line at 266-4654 weekdays from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to view water quality reports for other Madison municipal wells.