

**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**  
**City of Rock Falls, IL**  
**Revised June 2025**

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water. The source of drinking water used by ROCK FALLS is Ground Water.

For more information regarding this report contact: Ted Padilla 815-622-1120.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### Source of Drinking Water

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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. We 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### Source Water Information

Source Water Name	Type of Water	Location
WELL 2 (11917)	1000 GPM GW	2109 9 <sup>th</sup> Ave Water Plant
WELL 5 (00716)	1000 GPM GW	2109 9 <sup>th</sup> Ave Water Plant
WELL 7 (02067)	1000 GPM GW	2109 9 <sup>th</sup> Ave Water Plant

### Source Water Assessment

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled 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 815-622-1120. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to 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>.

Source of Water: ROCK FALLS To determine Rock Falls susceptibility to groundwater contamination, the following documents were reviewed: a Well Site Survey, published in 1990 by the Illinois EPA; and a Source Water Protection Plan prepared by the City of Rock Falls, and published by the Illinois Rural Water Association in May of 1997. Based on the information obtained in these documents, there were no potential sources of groundwater contamination identified that could pose a hazard to groundwater utilized by the Rock Falls community water supply wells. However, information provided by the Leaking Underground Storage Tank and Remedial Project Management Sections of the Illinois EPA indicated several sites in the vicinity of Rock Falls with on-going remediation which may be of concern. Based upon this information, the Illinois EPA has determined that the Rock Falls Community Water Supply's source water is susceptible to VOC and SOC contamination. The basis for this determination includes the detections of VOC in well #4, and the land use within the recharge areas of the wells. This land use includes both residential and agricultural properties. However, as a result of monitoring conducted at the wells and entry point to the distribution system, the land use activities and source water protection initiatives by the city (refer to the following section of this report), the Rock Falls Community Water Supply's source water is not susceptible to IOC contamination.

## Lead and Copper

### Definitions:

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.

### Revised

Copper Range: 0.02 to 0.19 ppm

Lead Range: 0 to 6.1 ppb

Lead and Copper	Date Samples	MCLG	Action Level	90 <sup>th</sup>	#Sites over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	8/8/2023	1.3	1.3	0.14	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	8/8/2023	0	15	2.1	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

## Water Quality Test Results

### Definitions:

The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

### Avg:

Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples.

### Level 1 Assessment:

A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

### Level 2 Assessment:

A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

### Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 available treatment technology.

### Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:

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.

### Maximum residual disinfectant level or 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.

### Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or 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.

na:

not applicable.

mrem:

millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water

ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

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

**Regulated Contaminants**

	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Chlorine	2024	2	1 - 3	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2024	14	14 - 14.4	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2024	43	33 - 42.9	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Barium	2024	0.12	0.12 - 0.12	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2024	0.689	0.689 - 0.689	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2024	0.39	0.39 - 0.39	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	2024	42	42 - 42			ppb	N	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits. Used in water softener regeneration.
Zinc	2024	0.015	0.015 - 0.015	5	5	ppm	N	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Naturally occurring; discharge from metal.
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Combined Radium 226/228	2024	1.349	1.349 - 1.349	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits

Rock Falls Water department has completed Phase 3 of new watermain, hydrant, and water services from the watermain to the water service valve boxes near the property line at W 10<sup>th</sup> St from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Ave, 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. from W 10<sup>th</sup> to US 30. W 17<sup>th</sup> St from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Ave, W 18<sup>th</sup> St from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. The department was also involved with the Ave A project replacing water service lines on the west side of the roadway due to the size of the Storm Drainage Pipe to help remove rainwater off Ave A. and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.

2026 Phase 4 if approved for funding, the City will upgrade the 1991 Water Plant equipment such as the Aeration Blower that is used in the process of activating the iron bacteria that is found naturally in the ground. The Motor Control Center for the Booster Pumps that sends the water from the reservoir to the Pressure Filters up to the Green Water Tower, and improvements internally along with a new paint job on the Orange and White Tower located in the Industrial Park and Green Tower Located at the Water Plant. The Reservoir will also be sandblasted and painted.

The 2024 Consumer Confidence Report will be displayed on the Website at [www.rockfalls61071.net](http://www.rockfalls61071.net).

The Water Department is in the process of water sampling for Unregulated Contaminants in April and October of 2025. The City will be notifying all water users via mailer in the Utility bill in 2026 how to view and receive a copy of the results of the water sampling results. The City will also display them on the CCR and the City's website [www.rockfalls61071.net](http://www.rockfalls61071.net)

The Lead and Copper Excel Spreadsheet is displayed on the website [www.rockfalls61071.net](http://www.rockfalls61071.net), this form displays every address in the City that is connected and all services connected to residential, commercial, and industrial locations. Each address will have the City's pipe material and property owners' pipe material on record. The Water Department is in the process of verifying "Unknown pipe material" locations that we are unsure what the material is since there is no record of this in the files. The department will identify these locations and finish in 2025. The City did receive a \$40,000 grant through the IEPA to accomplish this work. The Lead/Copper Spreadsheet to identify the address and the type of material on the City and Property sides of service is displayed on the website under the Water Department page

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. City of Rock Falls Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking the tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water tested, contact the City of Rock Falls 815-622-1115. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.