Community participation.
Community members are welcome to attend Fort Collins Utilities’ Water Board meetings, a citizen committee that advises City Council on matters of policy and budget. Please see the schedule and location at fcityclerk/f cogov.com/cityclerk/water.php.

Fluoridation.
As directed by City Council and our customers, Utilities adds fluoride to the water, resulting in levels that range from 0.7 to 1.2 milligrams of fluoride per liter of treated water.

If you or members of your household are sensitive to fluoride or fluoridation-related substances or if you provide our water to an infant younger than six months of age, please consult your physician or another health expert regarding precautions you may want to consider. Visit fcityclerk/f cogov.com/fluoride for more information.

EPA information.
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states drinking water—including bottled water—may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

More information about contaminants and potential health risks can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visiting epa.gov/safewater.

Treating source water.
To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the CDPH&E regulates the amount of certain contaminants in water from public water systems. Source water may contain:

- 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 may 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production; contaminants also may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems
- Radioactive contaminants, which may be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

Cryptosporidium and Giardia.
Cryptosporidium and Giardia come from animal and human waste in the watershed and are common in untreated surface water. When ingested, the organisms may cause fever, nausea and diarrhea. They are removed by a well-maintained water treatment process.

In 2011, Fort Collins Utilities tested untreated source water for both organisms. Giardia was found in the Poudre River and in Horsetooth Reservoir. Cryptosporidium was found in the Poudre River.

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Continuing our commitment.
Fort Collins Utilities is proud to present the annual Drinking Water Quality Report. We remain committed to delivering high-quality drinking water and meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation and community education.

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.

While Utilities is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, 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, you may wish to have your water tested.

For more information about testing methods and steps to minimize exposure, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visit epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Definitions.
AL: Action level – concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow
MCL: Maximum contaminant level goal – 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
MCL: Maximum contaminant level – 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
MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level – highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water; the addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants

Water quality test results.
The values below represent data for water treated by the Utilities Water Treatment Facility (Utilities) and the Soldier Canyon Filter Plant (SCFP). All data are from monitoring that was completed during 2011, in compliance with regulations.

MCL: Maximum contaminant level
MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level
MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfectant level goal
TOC: Total organic carbon
TTHM: Trihalomethanes
HAA5: Five-halogenated acetic acids

Vulnerable populations.
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Particularly at risk are immunocompromised persons, such as those undergoing chemotherapy; those who have received organ transplants; those with HIV/AIDS or other immune-system disorders; and some elderly and infants. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers.

Guidelines to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available via the EPA/Centers for Disease Control.

Call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visit epa.gov/safewater.

Colorado Environmental Leadership Program.
The Colorado Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) is a voluntary program that recognizes organizations for superior environmental performance and for consistently operating at a level that goes beyond regulatory compliance. The Water Treatment Facility is a Silver Partner of the ELP for the third consecutive year. To help Utilities move to the Gold Tier, work began on an Environmental Management System in 2010. This system will audit our environmental impacts and consequent controls.

Utilities’ Water Treatment Facility also is a member of the Partnership for Safe Water, earning the Director’s Award 13 years in a row—an achievement that goes beyond regulatory compliance. The Water Treatment Facility is a Silver Partner of the ELP for the third consecutive year. To help Utilities move to the Gold Tier, work began on an Environmental Management System in 2010. This system will audit our environmental impacts and consequent controls.

Where our raw water originates.
Fort Collins Utilities’ water comes from the Horsetooth Reservoir and Cache la Poudre River. Beginning as rain and snow in the mountains, Horsetooth water is delivered from the western slope via the Colorado-Big Thompson Water Project, while Poudre River water originates on the eastern slope, northwest of Fort Collins.

Utilities’ Water Treatment Facility produces nearly all the water it distributes; however, customers may occasionally receive a blend of water treated by Utilities and the Soldier Canyon Filter Plant. Both treatment facilities use Horsetooth Reservoir and the Cache la Poudre River as sources of water.

As water travels over the land’s surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals and humans. Both facilities remove these contaminants through treatment processes.