

For More Information

If you have questions about copper in drinking water, please call us at: 320-352-6538.

Visit our website at: www.saukcentremn.gov

Visit the Minnesota Department Health's [Copper in Drinking Water](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/copper.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/copper.html>).

This notice is being sent to you by:

SAUK CENTRE PUBLIC UTILITIES

PWSID 1730037

Date Distributed: 05-22-26

You can learn more about water treatment options at [Home Water Treatment](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/hometreatment.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/hometreatment.html>).

Important Information about Copper in Your Drinking Water



Sauk Centre Public Utilities Water Department

has found elevated levels of copper in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce copper in your drinking water.

QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT

JACKIE BECKER, MPH
(LEAD/COPPER COMPLIANCE OFFICER)
651-201-4595

HUNTER.BLOMMER@STATE.MN.US
(SYSTEMS OPERATIONS)

Elevated Levels of Copper in Your Drinking Water

We regularly sample copper in our drinking water to make sure it meets Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

The Safe Drinking Water Act allows up to 10% of samples to contain copper above an action level of 1,300 micrograms per liter (or 1,300 parts per billion, or ppb). In our most recent round of sampling in April of 2026 five (6) out of 40 (14%) samples were above the Safe Drinking Water Act action level. If your water was sampled and contained copper above the action level, Sauk Centre Public Utilities Commission (SCPUC) will notify you.

What Are We Doing about the Issue?

SCPUC has performed a corrosion control study to help reduce the amount of copper that gets into the water from copper plumbing systems. The study began in early 2024 and ended in 2025. The study showed that feeding more poly phosphate concentrations of 4.00 mg/l would help reduce copper levels in the drinking water system which comes from homeowners copper plumbing. When water is stagnant in copper lines for an extended period of time. SCPUC is currently working with MDH to improve drinking water quality in our system.

We are also adopting a copper education program to teach our water customers about copper in drinking water.

SCPUC is conducting monitoring for lead and copper in the water system on a six-month schedule.

What Are the Health Effects of Copper?

Our bodies need some copper to stay healthy, but too much can be harmful. The level of copper that causes symptoms varies from person to person. Consuming too much copper can cause vomiting, diarrhea, stomach cramps,

nausea, liver damage, and kidney disease. Nausea and diarrhea may occur when copper levels are approximately 3,000 ppb. Most people's bodies can maintain the right level of copper. People with Wilson's disease and some infants (babies under one year old) are sensitive to copper. Their bodies are not able to get rid of extra copper easily.

Sources of Copper

Copper is a reddish metal that occurs naturally in rock, soil, water, sediment, and air. Copper is used to make many products, including plumbing components.

Copper gets into drinking water as it passes through copper plumbing systems. Over time, plumbing usually builds up a natural coating that keeps the water from absorbing copper from the plumbing.

The concentration of copper in the water leaving the SCPUC Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is about 10 ppb, which is 0.8% of the Safe Water Drinking Act action level, meaning copper is absorbing into the water from plumbing systems after it has left the WTP.

Water may have more copper in it if:

- Your plumbing is less than three years old. It may not have had time to build up a protective coating.
- Water has been sitting in your pipes. The water has had more time to absorb copper from the plumbing.
- You use warm or hot tap water for cooking or drinking. Warmer water absorbs more copper from plumbing.
- You have a water softener. There may be less protective coating with softened water.

Reducing Exposure to Copper in Water

1. **Let water run** for 30-60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking after periods of not using water. Let the water run from individual faucets for a short time before using them for

drinking or cooking. You can run water without wasting it by:

- Doing tasks like showering or running the dishwasher first,
 - Collecting the water for cleaning or watering plants
 - Keeping a container of drinking water in the refrigerator to reduce how often you need to let the water run.
2. **Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more copper from pipes than cold water.
 3. **Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run after periods of not using water and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep copper levels low. If you are still concerned about copper, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water.
 - Testing your water is important if an infant or someone with Wilson's disease drinks your tap water.
 - [Search for Accredited Laboratories](https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam) (<https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam>) to purchase a sample container and get instructions on how to submit a sample.
 - If you would like to test your water, contact: MN accredited labs link.
 4. **Ensure home treatment systems are set correctly** if tests show you have levels of copper over 1,300 ppb in your tap water after you let the water run 30-60 seconds. Some treatments can increase copper levels in water.

If you use a water softener, ensure its settings are correct. The City's water hardness ranges from 19 to 24 grains/gallon.