



# Water Quality Information

- **The Village of Skokie purchases water from the City of Evanston.**
- **The Skokie Water Distribution System sends an average of 8.5 million gallons a day of pure drinking water to residential and commercial customers.**
- **For specific information about Skokie's Water Division, the community's water quality and non-source pollutant information or other water or sewer-related questions, please call the Skokie Water Division at 847/933-8277.**
- **More information about contaminants and potential health effects is available from the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Water Drinking Hotline at 800/426-4791.**

## VILLAGE OF SKOKIE

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## **Water Quality**

The Skokie Health Department routinely tests Skokie's drinking water, which is purchased from the City of Evanston, for microbial contamination and levels of chlorine, trihalomethanes, copper and lead. Tests show that Skokie's water meets and/or exceeds all established water quality standards. To see the recent Village of Skokie Water Quality Report, please visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).

## **Presence of Pharmaceuticals in Water**

In May, 2008, the City of Evanston worked with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to analyze drinking water for the presence of 55 different compounds (including many pharmaceuticals). Samples were collected from tap water and from untreated Lake Michigan water. The results of these tests were reported in concentrations of parts-per-billion (ppb). As a reference, a part-per-billion is equal to one pinch of salt in 10 tons of potato chips or one cent in ten million dollars. Pharmaceutical levels in drinking water are not regulated.

Trace amounts of two substances were detected in the finished tap water: Continine, a derivative of nicotine, at a concentration of 0.003 ppb; and Gemfibrozil, a medication used to treat high cholesterol, at a concentration of 0.0010 ppb. To put the levels of the compounds detected into perspective, Gemfibrozil has a recommended dosage of 600 mg twice per day. Based on the level detected in Evanston's finished tap water, a person would have to drink 64 ounces of water per day for 16,000 years to achieve a single dosage.

For the complete report, please visit the City of Evanston's website at [www.cityofevanston.org](http://www.cityofevanston.org). Skokie will continue to work closely with EPA and other authorities should new testing standards and protocols be developed.

## **Help Prevent Groundwater Contamination**

In order to limit groundwater contamination with pharmaceuticals, the Village participates in the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County's expired and unused medication disposal program. Residents can bring medications to the Skokie Health Department from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday for appropriate disposal. The Skokie Health Department accepts approximately 3,000 bottles of expired medications each year as part of this program.

## **Learn More**

Learn more about Skokie's water quality by visiting [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org) or calling the Skokie Environmental Health Division at 847/933-8484.