

Message from the EPA

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons, such as persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, some elderly and some infants can be particularly at risk from infections.

These people should seek advice 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 \(1-800-426-4791\)](tel:1-800-426-4791).

Possible Contaminants In Source 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 land and into waterways, it dissolves natural minerals and picks up substances from animals or human activity.

To protect public health, [water treatment plants reduce contaminants](#) to safe levels established by regulations.

- 💧 **Organic compounds**, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, can also come from gas stations, runoff, and septic systems.
- 💧 **Inorganic compounds**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or the result of storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- 💧 **Microbes**, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from septic systems, livestock, pets and wildlife.
- 💧 **Radioactive compounds** can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- 💧 **Pesticides and herbicides** may come from agriculture, runoff, and residential uses.