Health Effects of 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.

The Northwest Ottawa Water Treatment Plant is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 at 800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

**Methyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether (MTBE):** This gasoline additive has contaminated some drinking water supplies across the country. Our drinking water does not contain MTBE.

**PFAS:** please visit this website for the latest results [https://www.grandhaven.org/news-water-plant-pfas-results/](https://www.grandhaven.org/news-water-plant-pfas-results/)

For more PFAS information go to: [http://michigan.gov/pfasresponse](http://michigan.gov/pfasresponse)

In a world where an estimated 3 million people die every year from preventable waterborne diseases, our water systems allow us to drink from virtually any public tap with a high assurance of safety. Each community water supply meets rigorous federal and state health-protective standards.

**FACT:**

The Northwestern Ottawa Water System Provided 2.1 Billion Gallons of Drinking Water in 2019

These models are available as tools that demonstrate sources of water pollution and prevention. The good news is that they are free of charge to borrow and use. Here are example organizations that have used these models:

- Schools (3rd thru 6th Graders)
- Church’s
- Environmental Groups
- Cub/Boy/Girl Scouts

All models have setup instructions and a teacher’s guide.

Water is collected through submerged intakes located several feet under the bottom of Lake Michigan and is pre-filtered as it enters the treatment facility. The natural sand above the intakes provide the pre-filter barrier which complements the plant’s direct filtration process.

We are pleased to report that your drinking water is safe and meets the Federal and State of Michigan drinking water health standards. The Northwest Ottawa Water System (NOWS) treatment plant and the City of Ferrysburg routinely monitor for a variety of dissolved mineral and organic substances in your drinking water pursuant to state and federal laws.

This report is designed to give you detailed information which will ensure you of the quality of your drinking water. The charts in this brochure show the results of this monitoring from January 1st through December 31st, 2019.

If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please contact the Water Facilities Manager Joe VanderStel at 847-3487 or jvanderstel@grandhaven.org.

Moreover, to provide you with an opportunity for public participation in decisions, some of which might affect drinking water quality, the public is invited (please attend) to quarterly NOWS Administrative Committee meetings held at the Grand Haven City Hall Council Chambers. You may call the City of Grand Haven for an up-to-date meeting schedule.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least a small amount of some contaminants. It’s important to remember that the presence of these substances does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at: 1-800-426-4791.

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 cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are also available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include lakes, rivers, streams, lakes, 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.
What are the benefits of using a rain barrel?

In addition to saving water in the yard and garden, rain barrels can save money, energy, protect the environment and provide plants with untreated “soft” water free of dissolved salts or sediment. Using a rain barrel will reduce the amount of storm water runoff into local community water systems which may reduce flooding and stress on the water system.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/rain_barrels_are_economical_and_educational