



Drinking Water Quality Program

The EH&S Environmental Public Health Program, in collaboration with Energy and Facilities, assists building managers and others interested in assessing the suitability of drinking tap water within their buildings. This work is sometimes done to support the University's sustainability goals, with a goal of eliminating bottled water for drinking.

For building locations served by a regulated public water supply, the safety of the water is carefully monitored throughout the public distribution system. This is accomplished by routine sampling and analysis by the water authority. The sampling is done to ensure that the delivered water meets quality standards up to the point that it enters our buildings, and the condition of this water is a matter of public record. Analysis results are continuously updated by the municipality and are usually available on their website.

Local conditions within buildings may have some impact on drinking water characteristics, causing the water quality to differ from the publicly supplied water. Therefore, to have a complete picture of water quality it's necessary to look at the supplied water, the building distribution system, and how water is used within the building.

A series of internal assessment activities are carried out to gather information about a building's drinking water. These activities include:

- A determination of the separation of potable and non-potable water systems, and an evaluation of backflow prevention devices conducted by a Certified Cross Connection Surveyor.
- Backflow prevention device maintenance and inventory checks.
- Water sampling and laboratory testing from representative outlets within the building, if indicated.