

Media Backgrounder

Waterworks Facts

- C There are more than 528 Saskatchewan Environment regulated municipal waterworks and an additional 83 rural regional pipelines in Saskatchewan.
- C Municipal waterworks or other communal works with 4,000 gals/day flow rate (or more) are regulated and inspected by Saskatchewan Environment. Saskatchewan Health regulates and inspects privately owned/operated communal/public waterworks flow rates of less than 4,000 gals/day.
- C About 85 per cent of Saskatchewan residents rely on municipal or communal waterworks for domestic uses.
- C About 27 per cent of these municipal or communal waterworks use surface water and serve about 57 per cent of Saskatchewan residents.
- C About 73 per cent of these municipal or communal waterworks use ground water and serve about 28 per cent of Saskatchewan residents.
- C To assist the owners of municipal waterworks to comply with the provincial requirements, owners can get samples analyzed free of charge at the Provincial Lab for bacteriological, general chemical and trihalomethanes. Sample bottles and sampling instruction are provided by the province; the owners pay for the shipping costs.
- C Actions are taken by the plant operators, Environment and Health immediately following the identification of positive bacteriological results.

Non-communal/Individual/Private Waterworks

- C About 15 per cent of Saskatchewan residents (such as farmers, cottage owners, etc.) rely on private or individual works; the sources for these systems are groundwater (wells) or surface water (small reservoirs, dugouts, lakes, etc.).
- C The majority of these use groundwater sources.
- C There are no regulatory requirements for monitoring, installation and operating these systems. However, individual system owners can contact the nearest Health District for advice if they have questions or concerns about treatment requirements or the safety of their drinking water.
- C Owners can get their water tested, at the Provincial Lab, for bacteriological quality and nitrate for \$15 + GST.
- C Owners can also get their entire waterworks assessed through Sask Water's Rural Water Advisory Program for a subsidized cost of \$100.