

Hauled Water for Drinking Water

INFORMATION FOR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

Hauled water can provide an approved, safe supply of drinking water when implemented properly. Hauled water may be considered when an adequate supply of groundwater is not available or local groundwater is contaminated, and connection to a municipal supply is not possible. Hauled water is usually only practical when daily water use demands are relatively low because of the associated cost and storage volume required.

Hauled Water Source

Hauled drinking water in Minnesota must be obtained from an approved source. The best source would be a community public water supply. Other options include a noncommunity public water supply or a licensed water bottler.

Finding a Water Hauler

Water haulers are not licensed in Minnesota, but a person engaged in the “bulk vehicular transportation of water” (water hauling) to locations other than the person’s household for domestic or drinking purposes must follow the requirements in Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4720, parts 4000 to 5000. In some areas of the state there are multiple providers of hauled water, while in other areas there are no commercial haulers. Some businesses decide to haul water for their own business, but this option can involve considerable investment in time and equipment. All rule requirements must be met whether providing water for one business or several.

Requirements for Water Haulers

It is the duty of the water hauler to ensure that the provisions of the rules are followed. The rules include tank, cleaning and disinfection, and testing and record keeping requirements.

Public Water System Responsibilities

A public water system considering hauled water must determine how much water is required at their facility, how often the water hauler can deliver water, and therefore how much storage capacity is needed on site. Tanks used for storing the hauled water must meet the requirements of ANSI/NSF Standard 61 for use with potable (drinking) water. Tanks should be protected from sunlight and must have proper venting and overflow provisions. **Plans must be submitted to and approved by MDH prior to tank installation.**

The water hauler must deliver water with a free chlorine residual of 1 milligram per liter (mg/L). The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommends the public water system maintain a minimum free chlorine residual of 0.2 mg/L in the onsite storage tanks at all times after delivery. The storage tanks must also be periodically cleaned and disinfected. The water system operator will need to collect a quarterly sample to send to a certified lab for coliform bacteria analysis.

For More Information

[Minnesota Rules Chapter 4720](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4720/)
(<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4720/>)

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02/2022

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