

## Managing Water Quality

Water quality management is important in all facilities on campus and there are key practices that can be used in our buildings at the U of A to help minimize the risk of contamination. Facilities and Operations continues to [conduct water quality sampling](#) in U of A buildings to ensure the availability of safe drinking water. If any sample is determined to exceed the [Health Canada Water Quality Guidelines](#) the fountain or faucet will be taken out of order until the issue can be resolved.

Departments are encouraged to follow some best practices for drinking water on campus, especially in older buildings. Some of these best practices mirror the recommendations from [EPCOR](#) in regards to drinking water at your home.

### Key best practices

**Get your drinking water from a nearby bottle filling station, water fountain or kitchen taps.** Do not drink water from the bathrooms or laboratories as it is more likely to contain possible contaminants due to the nature of the space.

**Do not use hot water taps for drinking, making coffee/tea or cooking.** Use the cold water tap and heat it up as required.

**Let the water run for 30-60 seconds (ie. until cold) to flush the system prior to drinking water.** If you know the water has not been used for a longer period (ie. first thing in the morning) it is recommended to run the cold water tap for at least 3 minutes.

**Departments are encouraged to provide a portable water jug (e.g. Brita) with filtration for their kitchen area.** The filter should meet ANSI/NSF Standard 53 or Standard 58 and be maintained in accordance with the product instructions. If necessary, departments may also opt to provide bottled drinking water or a water cooler for their employees.

### For questions or concerns

If you have maintenance concerns about a specific faucet or fountain, please contact the maintenance desk at 780-492-4833.

If you have general questions about health concerns related to water quality at the U of A, please reach out to EHS at [ehs.info@ualberta.ca](mailto:ehs.info@ualberta.ca)