

The thousands of pounds of chlorine that goes into La Crosse's water supply every year isn't to decontaminate what comes out of the ground. That stuff's safe, says city water utility manager Mark Johnson. Contamination can occur once water gets out of the ground. And does in cities and towns without disinfected water. Could be a bunch more of those as a bill in Madison would overturn the state's mandate for disinfected water supplies. Johnson says he'd rather not go back to that point. He says not disinfecting could save money but puts the public at risk. For him, a pretty easy decision to make.

The vast majority of Wisconsin municipalities currently disinfect their water supplies