

## Top Ten causes of contamination Outbreaks in Public Water Systems

By Ron Perrin

- Giardia
- Legionella
- Norovirus
- Shigella
- Campylobacter
- Copper
- Salmonella
- Hepatitis A
- Cryptosporidium
- E. coli, excess fluoride (tie)

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) the contaminants listed above are the top 10 causes of contamination outbreaks in public drinking water systems. All but copper and fluoride can use sediment that builds up on the floor of water storage tanks as a fertile habitat to grow in. Microbes can find shelter and food in even a little sediment build-up and can quickly become a public health concern. Keep your storage tanks inspected so you know what is going on and make sure all tanks are on a cleaning schedule.

One of the top ten contaminants is salmonella. CDC estimates salmonella bacteria cause about 1.35 million infections; 26,500 hospitalizations, and 420 deaths in the United States every year. Food is the source for most of these illnesses.

Most people who get ill from salmonella have diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps. Symptoms usually begin 6 hours to 6 days after infection and last 4 to 7 days. Most people recover without specific treatment and should not take antibiotics. Antibiotics are typically used only to treat people who have severe illness or who are at risk for it. Some people's illness may be so severe that they need to be hospitalized.

Keeping your tanks clean and free of sediment should be the standard operating procedure for all water systems. Unfortunately, our company sees potable water storage tanks every week that have gone 10, 20, 30 years or more without ever being cleaned. The fact is, some utility managers just don't think about it.

Keeping you tank clean will reduce your chlorine cost because you will use less chlorine to meet standards. It will also reduce your chance of a RTCR violation. Sign up for our newsletter and get monthly updates of water system contamination outbreaks and what causes them.

Don't wait until you have a problem, call today for a free inspection or cleaning proposal from Ron Perrin Water Technologies, Inc. at 817-377-4899 or contact Robert at [perrinsales@gmail.com](mailto:perrinsales@gmail.com)