

A dynamic, high-speed photograph of a water splash against a clear blue background. The water is captured in mid-air, with numerous droplets and a large, turbulent splash on the right side, creating a sense of movement and freshness. The lighting highlights the transparency and texture of the water.

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2021

*Presented By*





## We've Come a Long Way

Once again, we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering the period between January 1 and December 31, 2021. In a matter of only a few decades, drinking water has become exponentially safer and more reliable than at any other point in human history. Our exceptional staff continues to work hard every day—at all hours—to deliver the highest-quality drinking water without interruption. Although the challenges ahead are many, we feel that by relentlessly investing in customer outreach and education, new treatment technologies, system upgrades, and training, the payoff will be reliable, high-quality tap water delivered to you and your family.

### Source Water Assessment

The Del-Co Water Company's primary sources of water are the Olentangy River, the O'Shaughnessy Reservoir, and the Alum Creek Reservoir. These surface water sources supply water to three of the system's four water treatment plants: the Olentangy Plant, the Ralph E. Scott (Alum Creek) Plant, and the Timothy F. McNamara (Old State) Plant. Surface water is by its nature susceptible to contamination, and there are numerous potential contaminant sources, including agricultural runoff, oil/gas wells, inadequate septic systems, leaking underground storage tanks, and road and rail bridge crossings. As a result, the surface water supplied to these plants is considered to have a high susceptibility to contamination.

Del-Co also obtains groundwater from its well field in Knox County, which is treated by the Thomas E. Steward Plant. In October 2001, Ohio EPA approved Del-Co's Wellhead/Drinking Water Source Protection Plan for this well field. The source water here is also considered to have a relatively high susceptibility to contamination due to the lack of a significant confining layer above the sand and gravel aquifer and the presence of numerous potential contamination sources within the protection area. Historically, the Del-Co public water system has effectively treated its source waters to meet drinking water quality standards. By implementing measures to protect the Olentangy River, O'Shaughnessy Reservoir, Alum Creek Reservoir, and the local aquifer, the potential for water quality impacts can be further decreased.

More information on Del-Co Water Company's Drinking Water Source Assessment reports may be obtained by calling Damon Dye at (740) 548-4037.

### Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



### Where Does My Water Come From?

Del-Co's primary surface water supplies are the Olentangy River, the O'Shaughnessy Reservoir, and the Alum Creek Reservoir. The Olentangy River runs for 88 miles, originating in Galion and flowing through the Scioto River. The O'Shaughnessy Reservoir is located about nine miles northwest of Columbus in Delaware County and covers an average of 1,000 surface acres. The Alum Creek Reservoir is located about 10 miles southeast of Delaware and covers an average of 3,400 surface acres. Del-Co also has a groundwater supply from four wells rated at 1,300 gallons per minute each. Combined, our treatment facilities provide our customers with an average of nearly 12 million gallons of drinking water per day.

The watershed for our water supply is part of the Upper Scioto Watershed, which covers an area of roughly 450 square miles on the Olentangy River, 770 square miles on O'Shaughnessy, and 125 square miles on Alum Creek. An average of 38 inches of rainfall annually refills the watershed. Snowmelt also contributes to the water supply. To learn more about our watershed on the internet, go to the U.S. EPA's Surf Your Watershed website at [www.epa.gov/surf](http://www.epa.gov/surf).

### Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. A list of laboratories certified in the State of Ohio to test for lead may be found at <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw> or by calling (614) 644-2752. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

**QUESTIONS?** For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Damon Dye at (740) 548-4037 or Spencer Sheldon at (740) 548-7746.

## Think Before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit <https://bit.ly/3leRyXy>.

## Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

## Community Participation

Customers are encouraged to participate in discussions about Del-Co.'s drinking water by attending the annual meeting on the 3rd Thursday of July or by contacting the office. Del-Co.'s contact information is available at <https://delcower.org/contact-us/>.

## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.



The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Substances that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

“When the well is dry, we know the worth of water.”

—Benjamin Franklin

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. Also, the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we show only those substances that were detected in our water. (A complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request.) Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The State recommends monitoring for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Note that we have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

| SUBSTANCE<br>(UNIT OF MEASURE)                                    | YEAR<br>SAMPLED | MCL<br>[MRDL]                            | MCLG<br>[MRDLG] | AMOUNT<br>DETECTED | RANGE<br>LOW-HIGH | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE   |
|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|--|
| Atrazine (ppb)  | 2021            | 3  | 3               | 0.64               | 0.38–0.64         | No        | Runoff from herbicide used on row crops  |
| Barium (ppm)  | 2021            | 2  | 2               | 0.016              | NA                | No        | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits                               |
| Chlorine (ppm)  | 2021            | [4]                                      | [4]             | 1.63               | 0.24–2.24         | No        | Water additive used to control microbes  |
| Fluoride (ppm)  | 2021            | 4  | 4               | 1.05               | 0.80–1.19         | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–<br>Stage 2 (ppb)                         | 2021            | 60                                       | NA              | 41.7               | 17.3–51.3         | No        | By-product of drinking water disinfection  |
| Nitrate (ppm)   | 2021            | 10                                       | 10              | 1.52               | 0.29–1.52         | No        | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits                              |
| Simazine (ppb)  | 2021            | 4  | 4               | 0.07               | 0.05–0.61         | No        | Herbicide runoff   |
| TTHMs [Total<br>Trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 <sup>1</sup><br>(ppb)    | 2021            | 80                                       | NA              | 67.7               | 30.7–80.8         | No        | By-product of drinking water disinfection  |
| Total Organic Carbon<br>[TOC] <sup>2</sup> (removal ratio)        | 2021            | TT                                       | NA              | 1.22               | 1.00–1.96         | No        | Naturally present in the environment   |
| Turbidity <sup>3</sup> (NTU)                                      | 2021            | TT                                       | NA              | 0.19               | 0.02–0.19         | No        | Soil runoff  |
| Turbidity (Lowest monthly<br>percent of samples meeting<br>limit) | 2021            | TT = 95% of<br>samples meet<br>the limit | NA              | 100                | NA                | No        | Soil runoff  |

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**NA:** Not applicable

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**removal ratio:** A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

**SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level):** These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

**TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.



Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community.

| SUBSTANCE<br>(UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR<br>SAMPLED | AL  | MCLG | AMOUNT DETECTED<br>(90TH %ILE) | RANGE LOW-HIGH | SITES ABOVE AL/<br>TOTAL SITES | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----|------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>Copper</b> (ppm)            | 2021            | 1.3 | 1.3  | 0.23                           | 0.007–0.396    | 0/50                           | No        | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| <b>Lead</b> <sup>4</sup> (ppb) | 2021            | 15  | 0    | 2.2                            | 0.1–59.3       | 1/50                           | No        | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |

#### UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

| SUBSTANCE<br>(UNIT OF MEASURE)    | YEAR<br>SAMPLED | AMOUNT<br>DETECTED | RANGE<br>LOW-HIGH | TYPICAL SOURCE                            |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| <b>Bromodichloromethane</b> (ppb) | 2016            | 7.9                | NA                | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| <b>Chloroform</b> (ppb)           | 2016            | 12.2               | NA                | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| <b>Dibromochloromethane</b> (ppb) | 2016            | 2.8                | NA                | By-product of drinking water disinfection |

<sup>1</sup> Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

<sup>2</sup> The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio between the percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than 1 indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than 1 indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

<sup>3</sup> Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

<sup>4</sup> Results for 1 sample, from Site 1, were above the AL at 59.3 ppb.



## BY THE NUMBERS

The number of Americans who receive water from a public water system.

**300**  
MILLION

**1**  
MILLION

The number of miles of drinking water distribution mains in the U.S.

The number of gallons of water produced daily by public water systems in the U.S.

**34**  
BILLION

**135**  
BILLION

The amount of money spent annually on maintaining the public water infrastructure in the U.S.

The number of active public water systems in the U.S.

**151**  
THOUSAND

**199**  
THOUSAND

The number of highly trained and licensed water professionals serving in the U.S.

