

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023



Presented By





Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Water Conservation Tips

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

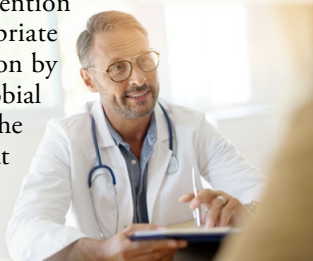
- Automatic dishwashers use four to six gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. 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.

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

—Benjamin Franklin

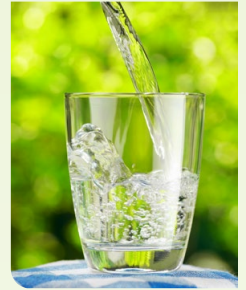
Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons 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. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 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 about 1,000 acres. The Alum Creek Reservoir is located about 10 miles southeast of Delaware and covers 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 13 million gallons of drinking water per day.

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 online, visit U.S. EPA's How's My Waterway at <https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/how-s-my-waterway>.

Community Participation

Customers are encouraged to participate in discussions about Del-Co's drinking water by attending the annual meeting located at 6658 Olentangy River Road Delaware, OH 43015 on Thursday, July 18, 2024, or contacting the office. Del-Co's contact information is available at <http://delcower.org/contact-us/>.

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.

Source Water Assessment

The surface water sources supply 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, the 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, Del-Co 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.

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;

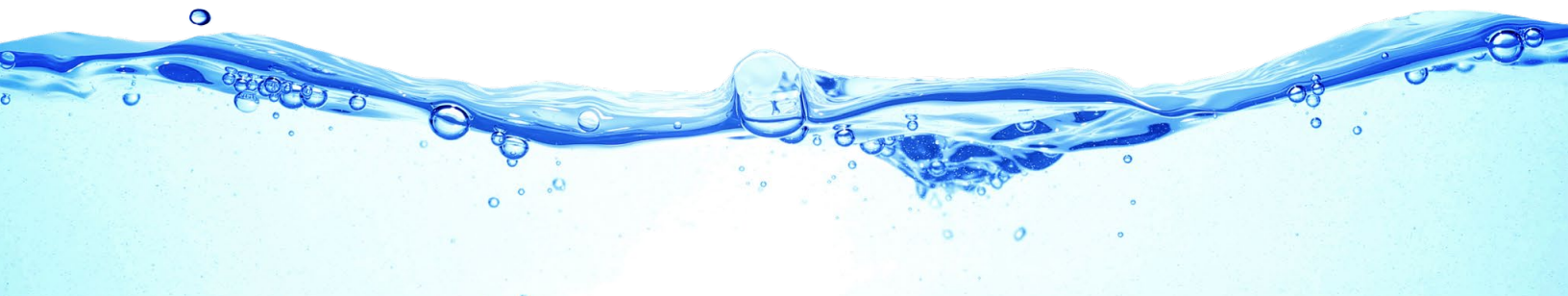
Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

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.

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.



Count on Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:



- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water.
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions.
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results.
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry.
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels.
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies.
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

Table Talk

Get the most out of the Testing Results data table with this simple suggestion. In less than a minute, you will know all there is to know about your water:

For each substance listed, compare the value in the Amount Detected column against the value in the MCL (or AL, SMCL) column. If the Amount Detected value is smaller, your water meets the health and safety standards set for the substance.

Other Table Information Worth Noting

Verify that there were no violations of the state and/or federal standards in the Violation column. If there was a violation, you will see a detailed description of the event in this report.

If there is an ND or a less-than symbol (<), that means that the substance was not detected (i.e., below the detectable limits of the testing equipment).

The Range column displays the lowest and highest sample readings. If there is an NA showing, that means only a single sample was taken to test for the substance (assuming there is a reported value in the Amount Detected column).

If there is sufficient evidence to indicate from where the substance originates, it will be listed under Typical Source.

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 which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which 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.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

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.

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

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show 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.

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

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less 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.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the

occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if the U.S. EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data are available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Atrazine (ppb)	2023	3	3	0.41	0.25–0.46	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Barium (ppm)	2023	2	2	0.013	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2023	[4]	[4]	1.50	1.36–1.47	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	4	4	1.08	0.80–1.26	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	60	NA	46.95	18.9–48.7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2023	10	10	1.14	0.37–1.14	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (removal ratio)	2023	TT ¹	NA	1.32	1.08–2.12	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	80 ²	NA	71.8	26.3–90.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity ³ (NTU)	2023	TT	NA	0.25	0.01–0.25	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2023	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

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

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

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES (UCMR5)

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Lithium (ppb)	2023	12.3	NA	NA
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS] (ppb)	2023	0.0033	0.0031–0.0033	NA
Perfluorobutanoic Acid [PFBA] (ppb)	2023	0.0090	0.0089–0.0090	NA
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppb)	2023	0.0075	0.0063–0.0075	NA
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppb)	2023	0.0042	NA	NA
Perfluoropentanoic Acid [PFPeA] (ppb)	2023	0.0056	0.0049–0.0063	NA

¹The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio between percentage of TOC actually removed and 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.

²Some 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.

³Turbidity 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. All samples should be <1 NTU; 95% of them <0.3 NTU.

⁴One sample result from Site 1 was above the AL at 59.3 ppb.