

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024



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, 2024. 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.

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

“Thousands have lived without love, not one without water.”

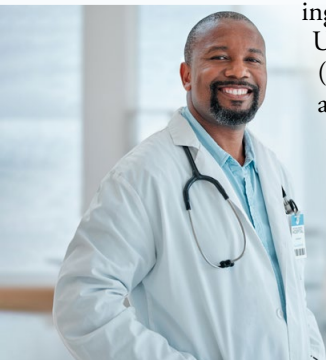
—W.H. Auden

Community Participation

Customers are encouraged to participate in discussions about Del-Co's drinking water by attending the annual meeting on Thursday, July 17, 2025, or by contacting the office. Del-Co's contact information is available at delcower.org/contact-us/.

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 can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. 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 (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater.



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 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 epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Lead Service Line Inventory

Per the Lead and Copper Rules, public water systems were required to develop and maintain a service line inventory. A service line is the underground pipe that supplies your home or building with water. To view the service line inventory, which lists the material types for your location, you can visit <https://del-co.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b13fd43c5eb24f498fafb1d59a96efaa>

MORE INFORMATION

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.

Substances That Could Be in Water

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 and, in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants 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, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally in the soil or groundwater 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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 contaminants does not necessarily mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visiting epa.gov/safewater.

What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit bit.ly/3Z5AMm8.



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.

Although *E. coli* was detected, the water system is not in violation of the *E. coli* maximum contaminant level (MCL).

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 is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)		YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE	
Atrazine (ppb)		2024	3	3	0.26	0.12–0.33	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops	
Barium (ppm)		2024	2	2	0.016	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	
Chlorine (ppm)		2024	[4]	[4]	1.42	1.30–1.52	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
Fluoride (ppm)		2024	4	4	1.09	0.82–1.19	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)		2024	60	NA	41.75	20.0–56.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Nitrate (ppm)		2024	10	10	1.16	0.22–1.16	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (removal ratio)		2024	TT ¹	NA	1.44	1.14–2.52	No	Naturally present in the environment	
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes] (ppb)		2024	80 ²	NA	73.0	26.1–91.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Turbidity ³ (NTU)		2024	TT	NA	0.21	NA	No	Soil runoff	
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)		2024	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)		2024	1.3	1.3	0.22	0.01–0.35	0/50	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)		2024	15	0	0.82	0.26–3.15	0/50	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits



UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES (UCMR5) ⁴

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Lithium (ppb)	2024	12.9	NA	NA
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (PFBS) (ppb)	2024	0.0041	0.0038–0.0043	NA
Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA) (ppb)	2024	0.0095	0.0082–0.0107	NA
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA) (ppb)	2024	0.0068	0.0062–0.0073	NA
Perfluoropentanoic Acid (PFPeA) (ppb)	2024	0.0059	0.0054–0.0063	NA

¹ The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio of 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.

² 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.

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

⁴ Unregulated contaminants are those for which U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist U.S. EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2024 Del-Co Water participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5). For a copy of the results, please call Jeff Kauffman 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 wellfield 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 wellfield. 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.



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 of 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.