

How is my water treated?

The City of Rockville's Water Treatment Plant was put into service in 1958 and, at that time, was capable of producing 4 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated water. The plant was upgraded in 1967 to increase production to 8 million gallons per day. In the mid-1990s, and in 2017, additional upgrades to the plant were made to meet EPA and MDE regulations. Since then, an average of 5 million gallons per day of raw (untreated) water is withdrawn from the Potomac River, treated at the plant and distributed to the city's water customers. Once at the plant, the water is put through a six-step treatment process to ensure it meets Safe Drinking Water Act standards. Once treated, the water is sent through a series of underground water lines and water storage tanks and to your faucet.

*The river water is treated to remove suspended sediments, algae, parasites, bacteria, metals and other contaminants through the following processes:*

Screen

Water from the Potomac River is pumped through a screen to remove large debris such as sticks, leaves and rocks. If algae blooms are present in the raw water withdrawn from the river, it is treated with potassium permanganate.

Coagulation

Water is treated with chemical compounds that make small suspended particles stick together and settle out of the water. This particle conglomerate is removed from the water prior to filtration.

Sedimentation

Water is passed through a settling basin or clarifier, allowing time for mud, sand, metals and other sediment to settle out.

Filtration

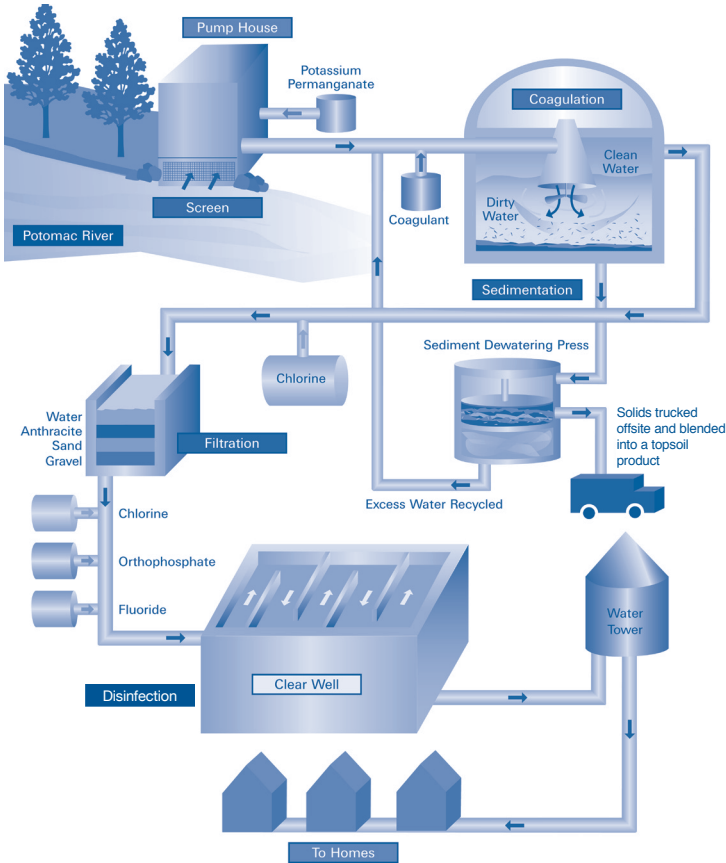
Water is passed through a dual media (sand and anthracite) filter, which removes many remaining contaminants.

Disinfection

Chlorine is added to the water to kill and/or inactivate any remaining pathogens. Fluoride is added to prevent tooth decay and a corrosion inhibitor is added to preserve the pipes that deliver the water to homes and businesses.

To Homes and Businesses

The treated water is stored in two storage tanks and is gravity-fed to houses and businesses when needed. The water is sampled at the plant, in the distribution system and at the tap in homes and businesses for lead, copper, other potentially harmful contaminants, bacteria and residual chlorine.



Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Publication date:  
July 1, 2018

www.rockvillemd.gov/annualwaterquality2018

PWS ID MD0150003

Dear Valued Customer,

The City of Rockville is proud to present this annual water quality report after another successful year during which Rockville's drinking water once again met or exceeded all federal water quality regulation limits. We invite you to review this report for details about the source, treatment, distribution, safety and quality of the city's drinking water. The city provides water and sewer service to 70 percent of the city, or approximately 13,000 accounts and 52,000 community members. The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission serves the rest of the city.

Within the past year, the city completed a \$3 million construction project to rehabilitate the 51-year-old Hunting Hill water storage tank near Lakewood Country Club and the 55-year-old Carr Avenue tank near Beall Elementary School. These tanks have a combined capacity of 11 million gallons. Construction included safety upgrades, repairs and/or replacement of the steel roof supports, interior and exterior work to remove old paint and repaint the tanks, the addition of a mixing system in the Carr Avenue tank to assist in meeting water quality regulations, and the addition of a wireless communications antennae-mounting structure to the Hunting Hill tank. The improvements will significantly extend the life of the tanks, resulting in long-term cost savings for city ratepayers.

The Mayor and Council, as part of their vote on the Fiscal Year 2019 budget, adopted water rates for the next three years that will help the city address its aging water system. The rate increase is needed so the city can continue to repair and replace aging water pipes and other infrastructure.

Our water treatment plant was first placed into service 60 years ago, and its original electrical equipment has been used many years beyond the normal life expectancy. The recently launched \$5 million Electrical Distribution Systems Upgrade project will replace the plant's electrical switchgear, motor control centers and system with modern, high-efficiency equipment, resulting in increased reliability to produce and deliver potable water. The project is currently in design. Construction is expected to begin in 2020.

We invite you to learn more about Rockville's drinking water at [www.rockvillemd.gov/water](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/water) and thank you for your continued support of our mission to maintain the reliability of the city's water system and provide safe, high-quality drinking water to our customers.

Craig L. Simoneau, Director of Public Works, City of Rockville

Is my water safe?

The City of Rockville's drinking water is safe, as set forth in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations and adopted and enforced by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). For the 2017 calendar year, the city's water met or exceeded all water quality requirements.

The Water Quality Data Table shown on page 2 of this report lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected. None of these contaminants exceeded the drinking water standards. This report will help to inform you about the quality of your water and includes details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by state and federal regulatory agencies.

Why are contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity, including:

- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

***“This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.”***

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

此報告包含有關您的飲用水的重要資訊。請人幫您翻譯出來，或請能看懂此報告的人將內容說給您聽。

이 보고서에는 귀하의 식수에 대한 중요한 내용이 실려있습니다. 그러므로 이 보고서를 이해할 수 있는 사람한테 번역해 달라고 부탁드립니다.

В этом сообщении содержится важная информация о воде, которую вы пьёте. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести для вас это сообщение или поговорите с человеком, который понимает его содержание.

CITY OF ROCKVILLE

111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850 • 240-314-8500 • [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov)



Department of Public Works

Water Quality Data Table

Water Treatment Plant Performance						
Detected Regulated Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT or MRDL	Highest Level Detected	Range Low	Range High	Is This a Violation?
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT=1.0	0.28	0.02	0.28	No
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	NA	TT=0.3	NA	100%	NA	No
Residual Chlorine (ppm)	4	TT>0.2	NA	Met all TT requirements.		No
Total Organic Carbon	NA	TT	Measured monthly	Met all TT requirements.		No

Inorganic Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected or Average	Range Low	Range High	Is This a Violation?
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.026	0.026	0.026	No
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.6	0.44	0.78	No
Nitrate (ppm), measured as nitrogen	10	10	1.3	1.3	1.3	No

Synthetic Organic Contaminants Including Pesticides and Herbicides						
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	0.22	0	0.22	No

Water Distribution System						
Total Coliform	MCLG	MCL	Highest No. of Positive Total Coliform	MCL fecal coliform or E.coli	Total No. of Positive fecal coliform or E.coli samples	Is This a Violation?
% positive samples per month*	0	5%	9	0	0	No
*Minimum sampling frequency is 50 samples per month. 636 total samples tested. Met TT requirements.						

Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproducts	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL	Average**	Range Low	Range High	Is This a Violation?
Residual Chlorine (ppm), measured as free chlorine	4.0	4.0	1.0	0.3	2.0	No
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	63	14.7	96.9	No
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	NA	60	33	10.6	40.0	No

\*\*Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of quarterly samples.

Metals at Consumer Taps	MCLG	Action Level	90th Percentile	No. of Sites over Action Level	Units	Is This a Violation?
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.069	0	ppm	No
Lead (ppb)0	0	15	ND	0	ppb	No

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable than the general population to contaminants in drinking water. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and some elderly and infants can be at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water. EPA and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issue guidelines on appropriate measures to reduce the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants. Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water hotline at 1-800-426-4791 for more information.

Additional information for lead

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. The City of Rockville is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but 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 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

Where does my water come from?

Our primary source of water is the Potomac River. When Rockville's water plant is not operating because of necessary improvements or maintenance activities, or in cases of regional drought, Rockville purchases water from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). In 2017, Rockville purchased about 35 million gallons of water (approximately 2.1 percent of our annual production) from WSSC, which also receives its water from the Potomac River.

Source water assessment and its availability

MDE performed a source water assessment of the Potomac River as it applies to the Rockville water plant. The 2002 report may be obtained online or by contacting the Water Supply Program at MDE, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21230. You can also call 410-537-3589. For more information on the Maryland Source Water Protection Program, go to [www.mde.state.md.us/programs/water/water\\_supply/source\\_water\\_assessment\\_program](http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/water/water_supply/source_water_assessment_program).

For more information, please contact:

Glenn Maggard, Water Plant Superintendent  
Phone: 240-314-8556 • Email: [gmaggard@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:gmaggard@rockvillemd.gov)  
This Drinking Water Quality Report is available on the city's website and posted online at [www.rockvillemd.gov/annualwaterquality2018](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/annualwaterquality2018). Paper copies are also available in City of Rockville facilities, including City Hall and recreation centers. If you would prefer a paper copy of the Drinking Water Quality Report mailed to your home, please call 240-314-8500. Please share this information with all other people who drink City of Rockville water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly, (e.g. in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by printing and posting this report in a public place and/or by distributing copies or the web address. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter) for upcoming meetings of the Mayor and Council. The city provides numerous opportunities for public participation. For more details, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil).  
*This report is required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Maryland Department of the Environment.*

The table to the left lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during calendar year 2017. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in calendar year 2017.		
Definitions Used in this Report		
<i>Unit Descriptions:</i>		
TERM	DEFINITION	
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit	
ppm	Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L). 1 ppm is similar to 1 ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.	MCLG
ppb	Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L). 1 ppb is similar to 1 ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.	MRDL
NA	Not Applicable	MRDLG
ND	Not Detected (by a test procedure)	
<i>Important Drinking Water Definitions:</i>		
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.	AL
		TT