

## Consumer Confidence Report 2023 Water Quality City of Havre de Grace

The City of Havre de Grace is pleased to present the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Consumer Confidence Report on Water Quality.

**This report shows** the quality of the water as distributed directly to your home from *Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2023*.

**Explains** the likely sources of contaminants,  
**Offers** warnings for people in special risk groups; and,

**Recommends** measures all residents can take to help preserve the quality of water.

**A brief summary of the results of our testing:**  
Our water is tested by two different laboratories. The testing results indicate that the City's drinking water meets or exceeds the standards required by *MDE/EPA* - the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency.

### Sources of Drinking 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.

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage 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.

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

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 be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**WATER QUALITY  
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT**  
**HAVE QUESTIONS?** We are here for you.  
City Water Plant: **410-939-1070 (24 hrs a day)**  
Department of Public Works: **410-939-1800**  
Environmental Protection Agency: **800-426-4791**



City of Havre de Grace  
711 Pennington Avenue  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

### Water Treatment Plant Improvements

To keep water quality, technology and operations in top form and to meet the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements, equipment maintenance and replacement continues to be an ongoing process. The Solids Handling Facility is currently being upgraded with a new Fan Press and new Waste Lines to improve the disposal of solids that are created during the Water Treatment Process.

**Planned Upgrades for Distribution System Scheduled for 2023.** To address the needs of our aging infrastructure, the city has a number of projects identified this year. Over 1500 linear feet of water line is being replaced. Water Distribution will also replace old valves and fire hydrants throughout the city. The City is working with contractors to replace the Distribution Lines. The initial inventory will be completed before October 16th, 2024 per 40 CFR 141.90(e).

### Preserve Water Quality - Recommendations

- ◆ Flush your water heater once a year.
- ◆ Clean the screens on your spigots.
- ◆ When water has not been used for several hours, run the cold water at least 30 seconds to insure you are receiving fresh water from the main, instead of dormant water in your pipes.
- ◆ Make sure the water shut-off valve inside your home is operable in case you have a leak and need to shut-off the supply immediately.

Any changes in your water pressure, taste or color should be reported as soon as possible. Call the Water Plant at **410-939-1070**. Staff on site 24/7.



**Important to know: *The EPA has determined that your water is safe.***

The Susquehanna River is the source of your drinking water. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognizes that all drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some 22 known contaminants. Both Federal and State laws require the city to routinely monitor the levels of these possible contaminants in your drinking water.

**The Source of this Water Assessment is available on MDE's website at:**

[https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/water\\_supply/Source\\_Water\\_Assessment\\_Program/Pages/bycounty.aspx](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/bycounty.aspx)

### Precautions for Special Risk Groups

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. City of Havre de Grace is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact City of Havre de Grace at 410-939-1070. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, those having undergone organ transplants, some elderly and infants, can be particularly vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These special risk groups should seek advice from their healthcare providers.

## DEFINITIONS

**Action Level** – The concentration of a contaminant which can trigger improved treatment techniques or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Compliance Level**-The value used to determine compliance with EPA or State regulations.

**Intestinal Parasites:** Microorganisms like Cryptosporidium and Giardia lamblia can cause gastrointestinal illness such as cramps, diarrhea, vomiting.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** *Maximum Allowed* is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

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

**Ninetieth Percentile (90<sup>th</sup> %)** for lead & copper testing only. Ninety percent of the homes where the tap water was tested, are at or below this value. EPA only requires the voluntary testing of homes built between 1983 and 1986, where lead solder has been used in the plumbing.

**Parts per million (ppm), per billion (ppb), per trillion (ppt)**  
Measurement units for the level of contaminants in water. **One ppm** corresponds to a single penny in \$10,000; **One ppb** corresponds to one penny in \$10,000,000 and **One ppt** corresponds to one penny in \$10,000,000,000. **LRAA** = highest locational running annual average

**PFAS** – short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Turbidity** - The cloudy appearance of water caused by the presence of suspended matter. Turbidity has no health effects. However, it can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. **NTU** (Nephelometric Turbidity Units) is a unit of measure for the turbidity of water. A turbidity level of 5.0 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Unregulated Contaminants-** Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Likely source of contamination
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>						
Barium	N	.024	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries.
Copper	N	0.2 (From 2022) Next test 2025	ppm	AL= 1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	N	7 (2 Sites over AL from 2022) Next test 2025	ppb	AL=15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	1.61 mg/l	ppm	10.0	10.0	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>DISINFECTION BY PRODUCTS</b>						
Chlorine	N	0.8-1.4	ppm	4.0	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes	N	14.6-88.2 (LRAA 56 ppb)	ppb	80.0 LRAA	NA	By-product of drinking water chlorinating CL=Rolling yearly avg. by quarter
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids	N	16.17-58.7 (LRAA 42 ppb)	ppb	60.0 LLRA	NA	By-product of drinking water chlorinating CL=Rolling yearly avg. by quarter
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS</b>						
Total Organic Carbon	Y	1.35-2.39 range	TT	TT	NA	Naturally present in the environment CL based on % removal
Turbidity	N	0.25	NTU	TT	NA	Soil run-off
<b>NON-REGULATED CONTAMINANTS</b>						
Sodium	N	3.08-36.10	ppm	NA	NA	Naturally present in the environment
Chloride	N	22-42	ppm	NA	NA	Naturally present in the environment
Alkalinity	N	24-66	ppm	NA	NA	Naturally present in the environment
Hardness	N	22-52	ppm	NA	NA	Naturally present in the environment
pH	N	6.91-8.58	STD	NA	NA	Soil run-off
PFBS	N	2.01	ppt	NA	NA	Cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging
<b>Violations Table</b>						
<b>Total Organic Carbon</b>						
Total Organic Carbon has no health effects. However, total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include Trihalomethanes (THM's) and haloacetic acids (HAA's). Drinking Water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to increased risk of cancer.						
<b>Violation Type</b>		<b>Violation Begin</b>	<b>Violation End</b>	<b>Violation Explanation</b>		
Inadequate DBP Precursor Removal		10/01/2023	12/31/2023	Our treatment plant failed to adequately reduce the total organic carbon content of our source water which is need to properly minimize the amount of disinfection byproducts in our drinking water.		