Town of Chestertown
2025 Consumer Confidence Report

Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Chestertown vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level .

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

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, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/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).

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Where does my water come from?

The sources of our drinking water are the Aquia and Magothy aquifers which lie from 40 to 400 feet below the earth's surface. An aquifer is an underground reservoir of sand saturated with water that can provide significant quantities of water to a well

Source water assessment and its availability

A source water assessment has been performed by the Maryland Department of the Environment and is accessible on their website at: https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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, 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, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

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; 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; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, 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. (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 in a range of products , including stain- and water- resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in April 2024. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The MCLs for HFPO-DA (GenX), PFNA and PFHxS are 10 ppt. PFAS mixtures containing at least two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS use a Hazard Index of 1.0 (unitless) to determine if the combined and co-occurring levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action. Public water systems have three years (by 2029) to implement solutions that reduce these PFAS if monitoring shows that drinking water levels exceed these MCLs.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a PFAS monitoring program for Community Water Systems from 2020 to 2022. The results are available on MDE's website: ***https://marylanddepartmentoftheenvironment.shinyapps.io/MDE_PFAS_PublicWaterSystemStudyMap/***

How can I get involved?
We at Chestertown Utilities work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future". Public Utilities meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 6:00pm at Town Hall

Conservation Tips
Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost or no-cost ways to conserve
water. Water your lawn at the least sunny times of the
day.
Fix toilet and faucet leaks.
Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 10 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a

bath. Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth and shaving; 3-5 gallons go down the drain per minute. Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
Visit www.eps.gov/watersense for more information.

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

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. Chestertown 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 Chestertown at 410-778-0500. 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.

An initial Service Line Inventory was submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment on 2/6/2025. As a result, the Service Line Inventory requirement was fulfilled. “The report is available upon request”.

For more information on our service line inventory please call 410-778-0500.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4.0	4.0	0.7	0.1	0.7	2025	No	Water additive to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	0.0	0.0	0.0	2025	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	5	5.2	5.2	2025	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.13	0.13	0.13	2023	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	4.9	4.9	4.9	2023	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills, Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.58	0.58	0.58	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Dibromochloromethane (MG/L)	0.06	0.1	0.004	0.004	0.004	2024	No	
Nickel (MG/L)	0.1	0.1	0.0013	0.0013	0.0013	2023	No	Naturally in the environment
Nitrate-Nitrite	10	10	1.2	1.2	1.2	2021	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [measured as	10	10	1.5	1.5	1.5	2025	No	Runoff from fertilizer use;

Nitrogen] (ppm)								Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants								
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	10.9	10.9	10.9	2024	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Combined Radium 226/228 (pCi/L)	0	5	2.2	2.2	2.2	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium (pCi/L)	0	15	3	3	3	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-226 pCi/L	0	5	1	1	1	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-228 pCi/L	0	5	1.2	1.2	1.2	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definition**
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt	Ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.
Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	**Definition**
MCLG	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.
MCL	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	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

PFAS Rule: Initial Monitoring	Collection Date of HV	Highest Value (HV)	Range of Sampled Result(s)	Unit
PERFLUOROCTANE SULFONIC ACID (PFOS)	10/14/2025	2	2	ppt

Violation Period	Analyte	Violation Type	Violation Explanation
10/17/2024 - 2/6/2025	LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS	LSL INVENTORY-INITIAL	We failed to complete and/or submit our initial service line inventory that was due to MDE by October 16, 2024.
10/17/2024 - 2/6/2025	LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS	LSL REPORTING-INITIAL	We failed to complete and/or submit our initial service line inventory that was due to MDE by October 16, 2024.

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4107784378