

Town of Chestertown

2024 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 or any other water quality standard.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

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

We have a source water protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination.

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.

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.

An initial inventory of service line pipe materials located within our service area required to be submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) by October 16, 2024. We submitted the service line inventory report by the deadline, and the "report is available upon request".

An initial Service Line Inventory was submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment on 2/6/2025. The report was late due to service line investigation. As a result, the Service Line Inventory requirement was fulfilled. "The report is available upon request".

has completed the service line inventory required by U.S. EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (initial inventory due October 16th, 2024)

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

Through completing a records review, it has been determined it has no Lead or Galvanized Replacement (GRR) service lines in its distribution system. This includes all system owned and customer portions of all service lines regardless of actual or intended use. Construction records, meter replacements, and distribution maps were used to help us determine the composition of our systems service lines.

has reviewed all applicable sources of information to complete the inventory and will continue to identify and track service line

materials as they are encountered during normal operations. If, in the future, a Lead or Galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) service line is found within our system, we will prepare an updated inventory and submit to the Maryland Department of the Environment and in addition, the inventory will be made publicly available for water customers to view, and customer will be notified of any change in the service line material, if applicable.
For more information on our service line inventory please call 410-778-0500.

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. Chestertown WTP 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 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range</u> <u>Low</u> <u>High</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)								
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4.0	4.0	0.7	0.5	0.7	2024	No	Water additive to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	3.3	3.3	3.3	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	17	17.2	17.2	2024	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	0.6	0.6	0.6	2023	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	1.29	1.29	1.29	2021	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1	1.2	1.2	2024	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; 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	2.4	2.4	2.4	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium (pCi/L)	0	15	3.2	3.2	3.2	2024	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

<i>Lead and Copper</i>	Violation Y/N	90 th Percentile	Range of Tap Sampling	Units	MCLG or MRDLG	(AL Limits) / # Sites Over	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (distribution) (2023)	N	0.16	ND - 0.20	ppm	1.3	AL= 1.3 Zero (0)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Lead (distribution) (2023)	N	1.2	ND – 0.0024	ppb	0	AL= 15 Zero (0)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
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For more information please contact:

4G, 2E LSL REPORTING-
INITIAL (4G) and LSL
INVENTORY-INITIAL (2E)
VIOLATION. We failed to
complete and submit our
initial service line inventory
that was due to MDE by
October 16, 2024. *The
inventory was completed
and submitted on 2-6-2025*

Marty Davidson
Address:
118 N. Cross St.
Chestertown, MD 21620
4107780500
4107784378