Easton Meets All Water Quality Standards & Requirements

Since 1914, Easton Utilities has been dedicated to providing clean, clear, healthy water in plentiful supply. On a schedule established by the Maryland Department of the Environment, Easton Utilities carefully monitors your water quality with a comprehensive series of tests.

In 2023, Easton's water passed all of those tests and meets all standards and requirements. This summary report outlines your water quality and the ways in which it is tested.

The full detailed report is available on our website at www.eastonutilities.com/water-quality-report.

Life. Made better.™

2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT

What does the Water Quality Table tell me?

The table below includes the results of our water quality analysis. Every regulated contaminant detected in the water, even in the most minute traces, is listed. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), the amount detected, and the usual sources of contamination.

Este informe contiene información importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. El informe completo está disponible en español en línea en eastonutilities.com/informe-de-calidad-del-agua.

Regulated Contaminants Detected

Lead and Copper	Date(s) Sampled	MCLG (Goal)	Action Level	90th Percentile	# SitesMajor Over AL*	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	08/29/2023	1.3	1.3	0.27	0	ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	08/29/2023	0	15	2.1	0	ppb	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems

**30 sites sampled in Easton every 3 years*

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Date(s) Sampled	Highest Level Detected*	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG (Goal)	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2023	0.4	0.4 - 0.4	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids - HAA5	2023	1.9	0 - 3.93	No goal for the total	60	ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2023	7.3	0.86 - 10.2	No goal for the total	80	ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection

**The highest level detected is the highest Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) from the year.*

Inorganic Contaminants	Date(s) Sampled	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG (Goal)	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	8/16/2022	0.62	0.34 - 0.62	4	4	ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Radioactive Contaminants	Date(s) Sampled	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG (Goal)	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	8/6/2019	1.1	1.1 - 1.1	0	5	pCi/L	NO	Erosion of natural deposits

All water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to have to contain at least small amounts of certain contaminants. For any contaminant that is detectable at any level, the EPA requires water systems to report specific information. The chart above indicates the contaminants found in the Easton water system, the level detected, and the amount relative to EPA standards and goals. Of the contaminants detected, none are at levels that exceed EPA standards or goals.

What causes discolored water that sometimes comes from my tap?

Easton Utilities takes a series of proactive steps to make sure that your water is clean and clear. As water passes through the distribution system, iron-oxide (rust) is deposited on the walls of the pipes. Sudden changes in the velocity of the water can slough this material off the pipe causing discolored water. We operate the water system to keep flows as steady as possible. In addition, a systemwide water main flushing program is conducted regularly to remove some of the build-up on the pipe walls and to reduce the impact of flow disturbance on the quality of your water.

What are the health impacts of drinking water?

Water is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle and the water in Easton is among the cleanest and healthiest that you will find. However, drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. As long as they occur below EPA's standards, they don't pose a significant threat to health, although children with severely compromised immune systems may have special needs. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health risks is available by calling the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, (800) 426-4791. The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 radioactive materials and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock and wildlife.

(B) Inorganic compounds, 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.

(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff and residential uses.

(D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are the by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

(E) Radioactive contaminants, which may be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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

What about lead in the water?

If present, 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. Easton Utilities 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 Easton Utilities at 410-822-6110. 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.

What about the fluoride level?

Easton Utilities does not add fluoride to its water. Some of our wells have low levels of fluoride that occur naturally. The water from the wells with fluoride is blended with the water from wells that do not have fluoride, reducing the fluoride concentration in the distribution system.

What about sodium levels?

There is no known health impact from the ingestion of sodium. However, many people are given sodium-restricted diets. If you are on a sodium-restricted diet, please advise your physician that the water supply in Easton has a sodium content exceeding 20 parts per million.

What about PFAS in the water?

PFAS, or 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.

Beginning in 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) initiated a PFAS monitoring program. PFOA and PFOS are two of the most prevalent PFAS compounds. PFOA and PFOS concentrations were not detectted in our water system in 2021. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in March 2023. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are proposed to be 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The proposal for HFPO-DA (GenX), PFBS, PFNA and PFHxS is to use a Hazard Index of 1.0 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action. Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website: mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx.

As required by the 5th Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5), Easton Utilities tested for 29 PFAS compounds and lithium in 2023. PFAS compounds were not detected in our water system, however lithium levels above the detectable reporting limit were found. The range of lithium detected in the drinking water was 9.34 - 9.78 ug/L, with an average level of 9.56 ug/L. Additional information about lithium in drinking water can be found on the EPA website: Technical Fact Sheet: Lithium in Drinking Water (epa.gov)

What should immuno-compromised people know about water?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than others. Immuno-compromised people, such as those with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, those who have had organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants may be at risk from infections.

If you are immuno-compromised, seek advice about drinking water from your health care provider. EPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on how to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, (800) 426-4791.