Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023
Town of Oxford PWSID # 0200005

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is two deep wells which draw from a depth of 500 feet from the Aquia Aquifer.

We are pleased to report that our water meets currently enforceable federal and state requirements for safe drinking water.

We have a source water protection plan available from our office that supplies more information such as potential sources of contamination. This plan is also available either at the Talbot County Public Library or at Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). For more information call: 1-800-633-6101. Results of the assessment can be found on the MDE website: https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx

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/CDC guidelines on proper means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Michael Bell, Public Works Water Superintendent at (410-226-5740). We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town meetings. Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the Town Hall.

The Town of Oxford routinely checks for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

We at The Town of Oxford work around the clock to supply 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.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to have at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily show that the water poses a health risk.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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 Town of Oxford 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 The Town of Oxford @ 410-226-5122. 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 http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does have low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. We are continuing to monitor arsenic monthly.

PFAS – short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances- refers to a large group of more than 4000 human made chemicals that have been used since the 1940's in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging, and firefighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in the 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. Our water system was not tested for PFAS in 2022. In March 2023, EPA announced proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 4 ppt for PFOA and 4 ppt for PFOS, and a Group Hazard Index for four additional PFAS compounds. Future regulations would require additional monitoring as well as certain actions for systems above the MCLs. EPA will publish the final MCLs and requirements by the end of 2023 or beginning of 2024. Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website: mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. To maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

Please see page 2 of this report for our 2023 testing results.

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In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've supplied the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - *laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.*

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (ng/L) - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000,000.

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

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as possible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

TEST RESULTS								
Contaminant	Collection Date	Violation Y/N	Highest Level Detected	Range of levels Detected	Unit Meas.	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (Running Average)	2023	N	6	0-7.1	ppb	0	10 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production waste
Fluoride	2023	N	2.07	2.07-2.07	ppm	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2023	N	0.0056	0-0.0056	ppm	10	10	Runoff form fertilizer use; Leaching form septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfectants and disinfectant by-products								
Total Trihalomethanes TTHM (Distribution)	2023	N	8	7.5 – 7.5	ppb	No goal for the total	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	2023	N	1.1	0.8 – 1.1	ppm	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Lead and Copper			90th Percentile					
Copper (Distribution)	2022	N	.07		ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from natural deposits.
Lead (Distribution)	2022	N	ND		ppb	0	AL = 15 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.

Note: Test results are for the calendar year 2023 unless otherwise noted. All contaminants do not have to be tested annually.

Violation Table

Lead and Copper Rule			
The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
Follow-UP or Routine Tap M/R (LCR)	10/01/2022	04/19/2023	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.
Lead Consumer Notice (LCR)	01/01/2023	04/28/2023	We failed to provide the results of lead tap water monitoring to the consumers at the location water was tested. These were supposed to be provided no later than 30 days after learning the results
* The town tested for the contaminant, but the report was submitted late, having been provided on 4/28/2023. Please see the table above for the submitted test results.			

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us.

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Note: Copies of previous year's reports are available online. www.oxfordmd.net