Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024
Town of Oxford
May 2025
PWSID # 0200005

We're pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report to you. This report details the water quality and services we provide daily with a constant goal of providing you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. The Town makes efforts continually to improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources and are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. The Town's 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 of water protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. This plan is also available either at the Talbot County Public Library or at the 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

The Town provides notice that some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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. If you have concerns about your vulnerability to contaminants in drinking water please 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).

- *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.*

- *Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to have at least some small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants do not necessarily show that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by c**alling EPA's 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.

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, 2024**.** 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 do not necessarily pose a health risk.

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 provided the following definitions:

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 Microgram per liter- 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 feasible 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	Violation Y/N	Level Detected/ Range	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants						
Chlorine (2024) Range	N	1.2 1.1-1.2	ppm	4	4	Water Additive used to control microbes
Arsenic (2024) (Highest level detected) (Running Average)	N	5 0-12.8	ppb	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production waste
Barium (2018)	N	0.00305	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (2024) Range	N	1.78 1.77-1.78	ppm	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (measured as nitrogen) (2023) Range	N	0.0056 0-0.0056	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Chemicals						
TTHM (Distribution) Average (2024) [Total trihalomethanes] Range	N	12 12.2-12.2	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids (Distribution) (2024)	N	3 2.52-2.52	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Beta/photon emmiters (2024)	N	5.4	pCi/L	0	50	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Radium-228 (5/14/2024)	N	0.2	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

Coliform Bacteria maximum containment level goal	Total Coliform maximum containment level	Highest no. of positive	Fecal coliform or e coli maximum cintainment level	Total no. Of positive e coli or fecal coliform samples	Violation	Likely source of contamination

0		1 positve monthly sample	1		0	N	Naturally present in the environment
Lead and Copper	Violation	90th percentile	Range of tap sampling	Units	MCLG or MRDLG	AL= Limits/ # Sites Over	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (distribution) (2024)	N	0.07	<0.02 – 0.2064	ppm	1.3	AL= 1.3 Zero (0)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (distribution) (2024)	N	ND (<5)	<0.005 - <0.005	ppb	0	AL= 15 Zero (0)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Note: Test results are for calendar year 2024 unless otherwise noted. All contaminants do not have to be tested for annually.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. 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 some small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily show that the water poses a health risk.

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

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

Oxford has examined all relevant sources of information to complete the inventory and will continue to identify and monitor service line materials as they are found during regular operations. If a Lead or Galvanized service line requires replacement (GRR) line is found within our system, we will prepare an updated inventory and submit to the Maryland Department of the Environment.

For more information on our service line inventory please call 410-226-5122.

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. Oxford ensures the provision of high-quality drinking water and the replacement of lead pipes, but it does not regulate the materials used in plumbing components within private properties. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by finding 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 Oxford at 410-226-5122 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.

Although your drinking water follows the EPA's standards for arsenic, it does have trace amounts of this element. 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 check arsenic on a quarterly basis.

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.

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

The Maryland Rural Water Association's State Circuit Rider aided with the completion of this report.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing you and your family with safe, quality water this year. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us.

Oxford Public Works Department –
Michael Bell - Public Works Superintendent
Town of Oxford

Note: Copies of previous year's reports are still available. To request a copy, call 410-226-5122.