



Water Quality Report 2023

The City of Hagerstown is pleased to provide you with the 2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

The report is distributed to all our customers and provides them with information on source water, testing results, and public health guidance for environmental contaminants. The City of Hagerstown Utilities Department is committed to providing our customers with safe and reliable drinking water. Drinking water supplied to our customers has met all stringent EPA and MDE standards of quality for the year 2023.

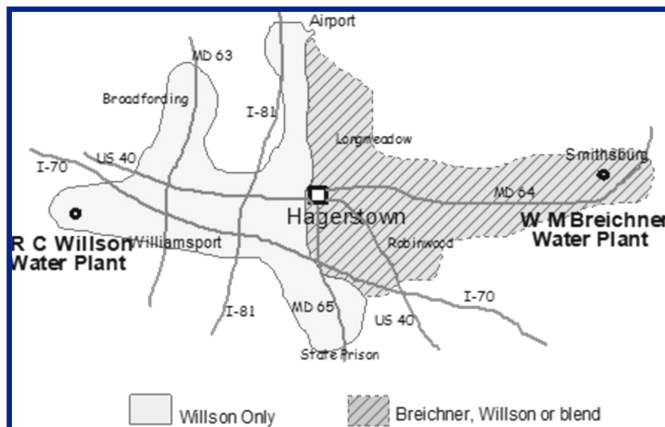
Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Sources of Drinking Water

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 contain at least small amounts of certain 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Hagerstown City water is surface water that comes from one of two City-owned treatment plants. The main facility is the R.C. Willson Water Treatment Plant which uses the Potomac River as the water source. The second facility is the W.M. Breichner Water Treatment Plant which uses the Edgemont Reservoir as its source. The Edgemont Reservoir and W.M. Breichner Plant are off-line while repairs and upgrades are made to the dam and treatment facility. Therefore, all water is currently being sourced from the R.C. Willson Water Treatment Plant.



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Additional Information & Resources

For more information on your water supply or the information contained in this report you may want to contact the following agencies:

City of Hagerstown Water Division

☎ (301) 739-8577 x680

City of Hagerstown Drinking Water Laboratory

☎ (301) 739-8577 x667

Maryland Department of the Environment

☎ 410) 537-3000 or (800) 633-6101

U.S. Environment Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline

☎ (800) 426-4791

You are always welcome to attend any of the meetings of the Mayor and Council Meetings held at Council Chambers in City Hall on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Tuesdays of every month at 4:00 pm and on the 4th Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Please check the City website for exact times.

Compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act

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

Hagerstown City Water meets all Federal (EPA) and State (MDE) regulatory requirements. The Hagerstown Utilities Department Water Division works hard to maintain the highest quality water possible and we will continue to strive for this goal. If you have questions about this report or any other topic related to your drinking water, please feel free to call us using the numbers on page 1.

Water Treatment Process

Our water supply source water from the Potomac River is disinfected by filtration followed by addition of chloramine prior to distribution to our customers. A corrosion inhibitor is added to minimize the dissolution of any lead or copper particles from private household plumbing. Fluoride is added to help prevent dental problems with children's teeth. Total chlorine residual is monitored daily throughout the distribution system to ensure drinking water quality.



The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was passed in 1974 as a law to protect human public health by regulating the public drinking water supply. SDWA establishes national health-based standards for drinking water to protect against both naturally-occurring and man-made contaminants.

Testing Requirements

Testing is periodically conducted for regulated and unregulated contaminants. The table found in this report summarizes the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. The regulatory agencies (MDE and the EPA) have waived the requirement to sample for some contaminants that would not normally be found in our environment.

Source Water Contaminant Information

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;
- pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;
- inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;
- 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems;
- radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

Vulnerable Populations

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 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).

Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment was performed for Hagerstown, and it may be found on the MDE website through the following link:

https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx

Information Statement from the EPA on Lead

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 City of Hagerstown 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 City of Hagerstown Water Division at (301) 739-8577 x680. 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 is PFAS?

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 firefighting 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 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://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx>

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in April 2024. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are each 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The MCLs for PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals) are each 10 ppt. Additionally, a mixture of two or more of the following chemicals (PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS) will be regulated with a Hazard Index of 1 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

The 5th Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) began testing for 29 PFAS compounds and lithium in 2023, and testing will run through 2025. The UCMR5 should test all community water systems with populations of at least 3300 people. Three randomly selected systems in Maryland with populations less than 3300 people will also be tested under the UCMR5. Detections greater than the minimum reporting levels for each constituent should be reported in the CCR.

Hagerstown is currently testing for PFAS during the 2024 UCMR5 testing cycle. Results will be included in the 2024 Water Quality Report which will be available June 2025.

Terms, Units & Abbreviations

The tables on the following page contain scientific terms and measures:

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

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

AVG: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

Level 1 Assessment: A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

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.

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.

MRDL: Maximum Disinfectant Residual 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.

MDRLG: Maximum Disinfectant Residual 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.

mrem: Millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body).

N/A: Not applicable

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units– A measure of water clarity.

ppm: Milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million; equal to one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

ppb: Micrograms per liter (µg/L) or parts per billion; equal to one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

ppt: Nanograms per liter (ng/L) or parts per trillion; equal to one ounce in 7,350,000, 000 gallons of water.

TT-Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Water Quality Data Table

DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS *Values for TTHM and HAA5 are the highest Locational Running Annual Averages (LRAAs) for 2023

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Typical Sources
Chlorine	2023	2.7 ppm	2.6 - 2.7 ppm	MRDLG = 4 ppm	MRDL = 4 ppm	NO	Water additive to control microbes
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2023	16 ppb	6.3 - 18.5 ppb	No goal for Total	60 ppb	NO	By-products of drinking water disinfection process
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2023	33 ppb	10.6 - 54.2 ppb	No goal for Total	80 ppb	NO	By-products of drinking water disinfection process
Total Coliform	2023 (90/month)	1.1% (month)	0%-1.1% (month)	0%	5%	NO	Naturally present in the environment

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Typical Sources
Barium	2023	0.028 ppm	0.028 - 0.028 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2023	0.7 ppm	0.721 - 0.721 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	2023	1.0 ppm	0.958 - 0.958 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (<i>Unregulated</i>)	2023	13.8 ppm	13.8-13.8 ppm	n/a	n/a	NO	Naturally present in the environment; increased levels in water sources can occur from road salt, industrial waste, fertilizer use

LEAD AND COPPER: tested at customer's taps. Testing is conducted every 3 years.

Regulated Contaminant	Date Sampled	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead	Jun-Sep 2022	0 ppb	10 ppb	0.944 ppb	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	Jun-Sep 2022	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0.0708 ppm	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems

TURBIDITY: measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration

	Limit (TT)	Level Detected	Violation	Typical Sources
Highest Single Measurement	1.0 NTU	0.03 NTU	NO	Soil runoff
Lowest Monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	100%	NO	Soil runoff

TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC requirements

PFAS INFORMATION

Contaminant	Date Sampled	MCL (proposed)	Level Detected	Violation	Typical Sources
PFOA + PFOS	2020	4 ppt	Non-Detect	NO	Human-made chemicals found in stain-and water-resistant fabrics, carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging, and fire-fighting foams

**All results on this data table are for the R.C. Willson Plant only, the W.M. Breichner Plant was offline for this period of monitoring*

