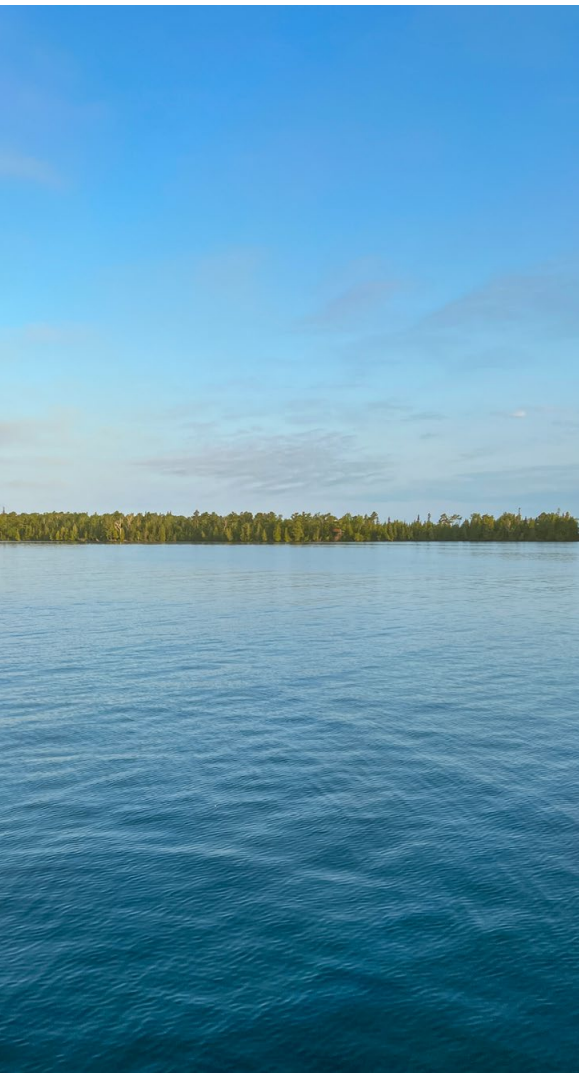
# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024



***Presented By***

**Town of Ocean City**

PWS ID#: MD0230003

## Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. 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 and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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) or epa.gov/safewater.

## PFAS Monitoring Program

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1950s in a range of products including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging, and firefighting foams. These uses 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. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) are two of the most prevalent PFAS. PFOA and PFOS concentrations from samples taken from our water system in 2022 were all below the laboratory detection limit. The U.S. EPA is expected to establish maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS later this year. This would require additional monitoring as well as certain actions for systems with levels above the MCL. Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website at mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx.

## Source Water Assessment

The Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) Water Supply Program has conducted a source water assessment for the Town of Ocean City. The major components of this report, as described in the Maryland Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) are delineation of an area that contributes water to the source and identification of potential sources of contamination. Recommendations for management of the assessment area conclude the report. The MDE Water Supply Program delineated the source water assessment using methods approved by the U.S. EPA. Potential sources of contamination within the assessment area were identified based on MDE site visits and a review of MDE databases. Well information and water quality data were also reviewed. A map showing the source water assessment areas and potential contaminant sources was included. The susceptibility analysis for the Ocean City water supply is based on a review of the water quality data, potential sources of contamination, aquifer characteristics, and well integrity. It was determined that the Ocean City water supply is not susceptible to contaminants originating at the surface due to the protected nature of the confined aquifers. The water supply is susceptible to naturally occurring iron in the aquifers, chlorides due to saltwater intrusion, and trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids, which are disinfection by-products.

## About Our Reporting Violation

From January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2024, we failed to report our test results. Testing was completed in June 2024 but not reported until February 2025. All results were below the detection limit.

Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining or pitting of the teeth and occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums.

**QUESTIONS?** For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Daniel Cole, Water Department Superintendent, at (410) 524-8388.

## Source Water Information

Ocean City's drinking water supply is from 21 groundwater wells located throughout the town.

| SOURCE WATER NAME | TYPE OF WATER | REPORT STATUS | LOCATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| **120th St. Well G WO942987** | GW | Y | 100 120th St. serves TP03 |
| **125th St. Well F WO880648** | GW | Y | 204 125th St. serves TP03 |
| **130th St. Well E WO812433** | GW | Y | 109 130th St. serves TP03 |
| **141st St. Well D WO730690** | GW | Y | 707 141st St. serves TP03 |
| **15th St. Well A WO027645** | GW | Y | 1403 Philadelphia Ave. serves TP01 |
| **15th St. Well B WO037861** | GW | Y | 1402 Philadelphia Ave. serves TP01 |
| **15th St. Well C WO670056** | GW | Y | 205 15th St. serves TP01 |
| **28th St. Well F WO940883** | GW | Y | 303 28th St. serves TP01 or TP02 |
| **33rd St. Well G WO881050** | GW | Y | 306 33rd St. serves TP01 or TP02 |
| **38th St. Well H WO951147** | GW | Y | 3801 Coastal Hwy. serves TP01 or TP02 |
| **3rd St. Well E WO940481** | GW | Y | 301 St. Louis Ave, serves TP01 |
| **42nd St. Well C WO690080** | GW | Y | 109 42nd St. serves TP02 |
| **44th St. Well A (TBA) WO050667** | GW | Y | 104 44th St. serves TP02 |
| **45th St. Well B (TBA) WO050668** | GW | Y | 16 45th St. serves TP02 |
| **Fountain Rd. Well C WO730689** | GW | Y | 13602 Fountain Rd. serves TP03 |
| **Gorman Ave. Well A WO720059** | GW | Y | 13605 Sinepuxent Ave. serves TP03 |
| **Gorman Ave. Well B WO720062** | GW | Y | 13600 Gorman Ave. serves TP03 |
| **N. Division St Well E WO941178** | GW | Y | 107 North Division St. serves TP01 |
| **South Well A WO018528** | GW | Y | 105 Worcester St. serves TP01 |
| **South Well C WO650057** | GW | Y | 101 Worcester St. serves TP01 |
| **South Well B WO018529** | GW | Y | 102 Worcester St. serves TP01 |

## Substances That Could Be in 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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

> **"Thousands have lived without love, not one without water."**
> *–W.H. Auden*

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally in the soil or groundwater or may 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.

Radioactive Contaminants, which can occur naturally or as the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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

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 mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or visiting epa.gov/safewater.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

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 Ocean City Water Department 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, or 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 and wish to have your water tested, contact the Ocean City Water Department at (410) 524-8388. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. An Initial Service Line Inventory was submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment on January 30, 2025. The report was late due to it taking longer than anticipated to build the database, however the requirement was ultimately fulfilled. The lead service inventory is available upon request. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

## Community Participation

Council meetings are normally held on the first and third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Council work sessions are usually held at noon on the Tuesday before the council meeting. Both are normally held in Council Chambers at City Hall, Third Street and Baltimore Avenue. Any members of the public who wish to attend are encouraged to call (410) 289-8221 to verify the meeting time and place.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for:
TOWN OF OCEAN CITY
June 15, 2025

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the monitoring period from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024 we did not fulfill Fluoride monitoring and/or reporting requirements. Therefore we cannot be sure of the quality of the drinking water during that time.

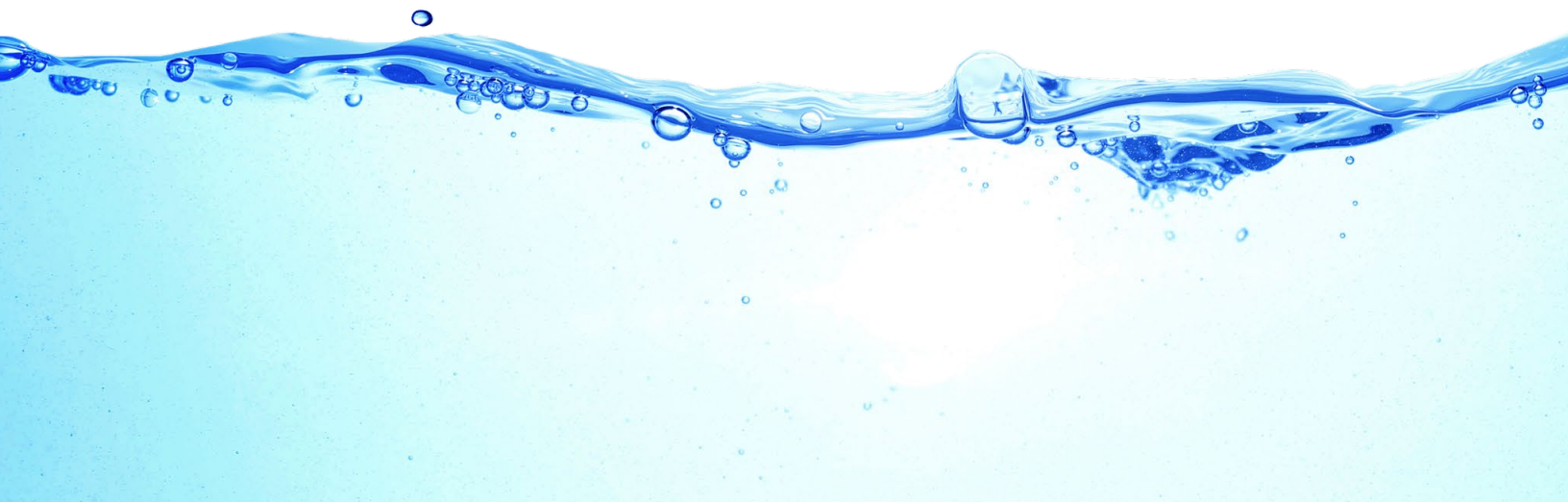
- ❑ We failed to monitor for fluoride during the January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024 period.
- ☑ We failed to report results prior to the reporting deadline.

**Explanation:** Samples were tested June 13, 2024, and not reported until February 6, 2025, which resulted in a reporting violation. Fluoride test results did not detect any Flouride.

- **What should I do?**
  There is nothing you need to do at this time.
- **What is being done?**
  Additional testing will be conducted during 2025.
- **We anticipate returning to compliance by:**
  February 6, 2025.
- **For more information, please contact:**
  Ocean City Water Department at (410) 524-8388

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

**Water System Number**: MD0230003
**Date Distributed**: June 15, 2025



## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

The fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) began testing for 29 PFAS and lithium in 2023, and testing will run through 2025. The UCMR5 tests all community water systems with populations of at least 3,300. Three randomly selected systems in Maryland with fewer than 3,300 people will also be tested under UCMR5. Detections greater than the minimum reporting levels for each constituent will be reported in this Consumer Confidence Report.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | MCL [MRDL] | MCLG [MRDLG] | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Barium** (ppm) | 2024 | 2 | 2 | 0.021 | 0.021–0.021 | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Beta/Photon Emitters** (pCi/L) | 2024 | 50[1] | 0 | 12.4 | ND–12.4 | No | Decay of natural and human-made deposits |
| **Chlorine** (ppm) | 2024 | [4] | [4] | 0.5 | 0.4–0.5 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| **Combined Radium** (pCi/L) | 2024 | 5 | 0 | 1.1 | 0.8–1.1 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Fluoride** (ppm) | 2024 | 4 | 4 | ND | NA | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| **Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]** (ppb) | 2024 | 60 | NA | 9 | 2.6–20.4 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| **TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]** (ppb) | 2024 | 80[2] | NA | 58 | 30.8–97.3 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |

**Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community**

| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | AL | MCLG | AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE) | RANGE LOW-HIGH | SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Copper** (ppm) | 2024 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.19 | 0.05–0.35 | 0/30 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Lead** (ppb) | 2024 | 15 | 0 | 2.8 | 1–4.7 | 0/30 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |

### UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | TYPICAL SOURCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Lithium** (ppb) | 2024 | 4.79 | ND–9.57 | NA |

[1] The MCL for beta particles is 4 millirems per year. The U.S. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

[2] Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

**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 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.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).