

# 2004 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR THE SHARPSBURG WATER SYSTEM

## Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Washington County Department of Water Quality vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

## Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (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).

## Where does my water come from?

The water supply for the Sharpsburg Water System comes from the Potomac River, a surface water source. This water is processed through the Sharpsburg Water Treatment Plant. The Water Treatment Plant provides filtration, chlorination, pH adjustment, and fluoridation of the water prior to entering the distribution system.

## Source water assessment and its availability

The Maryland Department of the Environment has developed and the EPA has approved its plan for the development of Source Water Assessments. MDE completed the final Assessment in July 2002. For more information on this report contact Mr. William Dean at (240) 313-2600.

## Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Results of voluntary monitoring

The Washington County Department of Water Quality conducts routine testing of your water system that is not included in the Water Quality Data Table. The MDE has also completed testing that is not included in the Water Quality Data Table. A list of these parameters and their results are located in the Table of Results of Customer Interest below.

**TABLE OF RESULTS OF CUSTOMER INTEREST**

<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>LEVEL/RANGE DETECTED</b>	<b>UNIT OF MEASUREMENT</b>
pH	7.0 to 8.4	Standard Unit
Chlorine	0.4 to 3.0	ppm
Hardness	86 to 188	ppm
Alkalinity	25 to 145	ppm
Total Organic Carbon	0.83 to 2.6	ppm
Calcium Carbonate	50 to 120	ppm

# Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL,</u>	<u>Your</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Sample</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
	<u>or</u>	<u>TT, or</u>		<u>Water</u>	<u>Low</u>			
	<u>MRDLG</u>	<u>MRDL</u>				<u>Date</u>		
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	34.05	10.8	34.05	2004	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.5		1.5	2004	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1.6	NA		2004	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)		MPL	19.3	NA		2004	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	2	NA		2002	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	1	NA		2002	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides</b>								
Dalapon (ppb)	200	200	0.25	NA		2004	No	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	70.65	20.7	70.65	2004	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your</u>	<u>Sample</u>	<u># Samples</u>	<u>Exceeds</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>	
			<u>Water</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Exceeding AL</u>	<u>AL</u>		
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.12	2002	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	7	2002	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

## Additional Monitoring

As part of an on-going evaluation program the EPA has required us to monitor some additional contaminants/chemicals. Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants/chemicals will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Reported Level</u>	<u>Range</u>	
		<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	1.6	1.6	1.6
Chloroform (ppb)	4.8	4.8	4.8

<b>Unit Descriptions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.
<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
MCLG	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.
MCL	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

## Violations

The Sharpsburg Water system had a monitoring violation for Total Organic Carbon testing during the period of January 1, 2004 to March 31, 2004. TOC testing is now being performed in accordance with regulations and all TOC results have been in compliance with the SDWA regulations.

For more information on the Washington County Department of Water Quality, please visit our website at [www.washco-md.net/water\\_sewer](http://www.washco-md.net/water_sewer).

**For more information**  
**Sharpsburg Water System**  
**Phone: 240-313-2600**  
**Attn: William H. Dean, Jr.**

