

2000 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR THE HANCOCK 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. The Town of Hancock 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 Town of Hancock utilizes two wells to supply water to the distribution system. This water is chlorinated and fluoridated prior to entering the distribution system. The Town also has the ability to make pH adjustments to water entering the distribution system. The Town is currently installing a softener for the Hancock Water System.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Maryland Department of the Environment is currently working with the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a program for the development of a Source Water Assessment. We will continue to keep you updated on the development of the assessment in this section of the Water Quality Report.

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

How can I get involved?

The Town of Hancock's Mayor and Council have two regularly monthly meetings. For more information on these meetings, please contact Town Hall at (301) 678-5622

Results of voluntary monitoring

The Town of Hancock conducts routine testing that is not included in the Water Quality Data Table. A list of parameters and their results for 2000 are located in the Table of Results of Customer Interest below.

TABLE OF TEST RESULTS OF CUSTOMER INTEREST

PARAMETER	LEVEL/RANGE DETECTED	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT
pH	6.4 TO 7.4	Standard Units
Chlorine	0.3 TO 2.2	ppm
Alkalinity	0 TO 246	Ppm

Hardness	154 TO 308	Ppm
Iron	0 TO 0.1	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.

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

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: 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.

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

Contaminants (units)	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range Low	High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.9	0.1	1.9		No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.59	NA		12/08/2000	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppb)	MNR	MNR	2,490	NA		11/27/1997	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Unregulated Contaminants								
Sulfate (ppm)	MNR	MNR	24.8	NA		05/18/1998	No	
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	0.6	NA		11/27/2000	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Inorganic Contaminants								
Contaminants (units)	MCLG	AL	Your Water	# of Samples > AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	1.17	0	12/31/1999	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems	

Units Description:

NA: Not applicable

ND: Not detected

NR: Not reported

MNR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

For more information contact:

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