

1998 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR THE MT. AETNA 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 Washington County Water and Sewer Department 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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The Mt. Aetna Water System utilizes two springs and one well as its water source. This water receives chlorination and pH adjustment prior to entering the distribution system.

Source water assessment and its availability

Maryland Department of the Environment is currently working with the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a program for the development and completion of Source Water Assessments. We will continue to update you 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 Washington County Water and Sewer Department has an Advisory Board which meets on a monthly basis. For information on attending a meeting, please contact our main office at (301)791-3083.

Lead and Copper Monitoring Violation

The Washington County Water and Sewer Department conducts routine testing on your water system 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.

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 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							
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	0.2	NA	---	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppb)	MNR	MNR	21200	NA	---	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Unregulated Contaminants							
Sulfate (ppm)	MNR	MNR	5.8	NA	---	No	
Contaminant(s) (units)	MCLG	AL	Your Water	# of Samples > AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.36	0		No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb)	0	15	6	0		No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

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)

TABLE OF TEST RESULTS OF CUSTOMER INTEREST

PARAMETER	LEVEL / RANGE DETECTED	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT
pH	5.9 TO 8.3	Standard Unit
Chlorine	0.1 TO 2.0	ppm
Turbidity	0.07 TO 1.4	NTU
Hardness	17 TO 68	ppm
Alkalinity	34 TO 171	ppm

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit - nephelometric unit is a measure of the clarity of water.

Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person