

1998 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR THE SANDY HOOK 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 Sandy Hook Water System utilizes two wells as its source of water. This water is treated for iron removal, pH adjustment and chlorinated for disinfection prior to entering the distribution 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 development of Source Water Assessment. 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 more 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 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								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.16	NA		---	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sodium (ppb)	MNR	MNR	22900	NA		---	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	2	NA		10/31/95	No	Erosion of natural deposits Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	NA	NA	3.2	NA		10/31/95	No	
Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides								
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb)	0	6	1.4	NA		---	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Unregulated Contaminants								
Chloromethane (ppb)	MNR	MNR	4.1	NA		---	No	
Sulfate (ppm)	MNR	MNR	102	NA		---	No	
Contaminant(s) (units)								
Inorganic Contaminants								
Copper (ppm)	MCLG	AL	Your Water		# of Samples > AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
	1.3	1.3	0.174	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)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

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.

TABLE OF TEST RESULTS OF CUSTOMER INTEREST

PARAMETER	LEVEL / RANGE DETECTED	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT
pH	7.0 TO 7.8	Standard Unit
Chlorine	0.3 TO 2.1	ppm
Turbidity	0.0 TO 1.4	NTU
Hardness	137 TO 257	ppm
Alkalinity	96 TO 184	ppm
Iron	0.0 TO 0.2	ppm
Manganese	0.00 TO 0.03	ppm