

2000 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. 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 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

Maryland Department of the Environment is currently working with the Environment Protection Agency to establish a program for the development and completion of Source Water Assessments. We will continue to keep you updated on the development of this 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 that meets on a monthly basis. For information on attending one of these meetings, please contact our main office at (301) 791-3083.

Results of voluntary monitoring

The Washington County Water and Sewer Department conducts routine testing of your water system that is not included in the Water Quality Data Table. A list of these parameters and their results for 2000 are located in the Table of Test 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 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.

TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water.

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		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
ICR Disinfection By-Products								
Trihalomethanes (THM4) (µg/L)	MNR	MNR	38.9	NA		02/09/2000	No	
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.45	NA		04/06/2000	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1.31	NA		07/18/2000	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	0.003	NA		05/21/1997	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppb)	MNR	MNR	14900	NA		04/06/2000	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.2	0		12/31/1999	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb)	0	15	6	0		12/31/1999	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
Turbidity (Conventional or Direct Filtration) (NTU)	NA	TT<=0.5	0.49	0.08	0.49	----	No	Soil runoff
Unregulated Contaminants								
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	MNR	MNR	3.7	NA		04/06/2000	No	
Chloroform (ppb)	MNR	MNR	5.8	NA		04/06/2000	No	
Sulfate (ppm)	MNR	MNR	80	NA		05/12/1999	No	

Units Description:

NA: Not applicable

NR: Not reported

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

ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the

ND: Not detected

MNR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

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

effectiveness of our filtration system.

TABLE OF TEST RESULTS OF CUSTOMER INTEREST

PARAMETER	LEVEL/RANGE DETECTED	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT
pH	7.1 TO 8.5	Standard Unit
Chlorine	0.3 TO 2.6	ppm
Hardness	77 TO 154	ppm
Alkalinity	58 TO 111	ppm

For more information on the Washington County Water and Sewer Department, please visit our web site at www.wc-link.org/wcwsd.

For more information contact:

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