

# **2012 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR THE SHARPSBURG WATER SYSTEM PWSID # 0210017**

## **Is my water safe?**

Last year your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The Washington County Department of Water Quality is committed to providing you with information on your water supply and taking the necessary actions to supply water in compliance with all drinking water health standards.

## **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, Ultra Violet disinfection and fluoridation of the water prior to entering the distribution system.

## **Source water assessment and its availability**

The Maryland Department of the Environment Water Supply Program (WSP) has conducted a Source Water Assessment for the Sharpsburg Water System in 2002, the results of which are contained in a 64 page report. For more information on this report contact Mr. Kim Bowers at Washington County Department of Water Quality 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).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## **How can I get involved?**

For more information on getting involved, please contact our main office at (240) 313-2600.

# 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>MRDLG</u>	<u>MRDL</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
THMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	74.05	28.07	126.95	2012	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	32.06	14.54	50.89	2012	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.36	ND	0.85	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.94	0.87	1.02	2012	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)		MPL	19.6	NA		2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	0.3	100%	NA		2012	No	Soil runoff
100% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.299. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.								
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.8	NA		2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides</b>								
Dalapon (ppb)	200	200	1.39	NA		2012	No	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	0	2011	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0	2011	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

### Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Washington County Department of Water Quality is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. All Lead and Copper test results for the Sharpsburg Water System in 2011 showed the levels to be well below the action level.

### Additional information for Sodium

The presence of sodium in your water is attributed to the composition of the aquifer. Sodium is a contaminant which is not subject to any proposed or promulgated national primary drinking water regulation by EPA or MDE, but is analyzed and reported for individuals who are on a sodium restricted diet. Sodium is an essential nutrient which FDA reports the average person receives all that is required by eating a regular diet with no salt added.

**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	7.3 to 8.3	Standard Unit
Chlorine	0.3 to 3.8	ppm
Hardness	86 to 239	ppm
Alkalinity	36 to 136	ppm

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 on the Sharpsburg Water System  
telephone Mr. Kim L. Bowers at 240-313-2600**