2025 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR THE SHARPSBURG WATER SYSTEM
PWSID # 0210017

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 Department of Water Quality 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 on this system.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 proper means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The water supply for the Town of Sharpsburg Water System comes from the Potomac River, a surface water source. The water is processed through the Sharpsburg Water Treatment Plant. The water plant provides filtration, chlorination, pH adjustment and fluoridation of the water prior to entering the distribution system.

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Source water assessment and its availability

The Maryland Department of the Environment developed, and the EPA approved its plan for the development of Source Water Assessments. MDE completed the final assessment in July 2002. For more information on this report, contact the 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 some small amounts of 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and radioactive materials and pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Possible contaminants consist of:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, may be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming

Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems

Radioactive contaminants may be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

How can I get involved?

For more information on getting involved, please contact Washington County Department of Water Quality at (240) 313-2600.

Water Quality Data Table

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report.

Although many more contaminants were evaluated, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water have some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not supply increased protection of public health.

A few naturally occurring minerals may improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. 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 certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have supplied the definitions at the end of this document.

Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
Contaminant	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Units	Typical Source
Chlorine	4	4	3.1	0.8	3.1	2025	ppm	Water additive used to control microbes
Contaminant	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Highest LRAA	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Units	Typical Source
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	No goal for the total	80	42	15.7	65	2025	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No goal for the total	60	23	15.1	31.8	2025	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection
There is convincing evidence that the addition of disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. Not all sample results may have been used for calculation the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where comliance sampling should occur in the future.								

Contaminant	MCLG	TT	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Units	Typical Source
Total Organic Carbon	-	0	3	1	3	2025	ppm	Naturally present in the environment

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Sample Date	Units	Typical Source
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	10	10	0.6	2025	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate-Nitrite	10	10	0.8	4/21/2025	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	2	2	0.041	6/18/2025	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	4	4	0.7	4/21/2025	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Dishcarge fromferilizer and aluminum factories

Turbidity

	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Highest Level Detected	Sample Date	Units	Typical Source
	1 NTU	0.147	2025	NTU	Soil Runoff
	Required Limits	**% Meeting Limit**	**Sample Date**		**Typical Source**
	0.3 NTU	100	2025		Soil Runoff

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.

Lead and Copper

Contaminant	Sample Date	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# of Sites over AL	Units	Range Low	Range High	Typical Source
Copper	6/7/2023	1.3	0.066	0	ppm	<0.05	0.073	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	6/7/2023	15	<2	0	ppb	<2	3.1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Radiologic Contaminants

Regulated Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Sample Date	Units	Typical Source
Combined Radium (226 & 228)	0	5	0.4	6/4/2020	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Radiom 228	0	5	0.4	6/4/2020	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits

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 is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards

Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Washington County at 240-313-2600. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

An initial inventory of service line pipe materials located within our service area was required to be submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) by October 16, 2024. Our initial survey was submitted to MDE on 10/14/2024 and is available upon request. The inventory survey is still ongoing and will be updated annually. To assist in the survey or for help identifying your service line material please scan the QR code below or call 240-313-2600 for assistance.

PFAS Statement

PFAS – short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in April 2024. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are each 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The MCLs for PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals) are each 10 ppt. Additionally, a mixture of two or more of the following chemicals (PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS) use a Hazard Index of 1 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action. Public water systems have three years (by2029) to implement solutions that reduce these PFAS if monitoring shows that drinking water levels exceed these MCLs.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a PFAS monitoring program for Community Water Systems from 2020 to 2022. The results are available on MDE's website:
https://marylanddepartmentoftheenvironment.shinyapps.io/MDE_PFAS_PublicWaterSystemStudyMap/

Your analyses results for 2022 are in the table below:

Unregulated Contaminants - PFAS		
Analyte	**Your Water**	**Units**
PFOA	1.65	ppt
PFOS	2.92	ppt
PFBS	2.39	ppt
PFNA	<1.5	ppt
PFHxS	2.33	ppt
HFPO-DA	<1.0	ppt

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. MDE has also completed testing that is not included in the Water Quality Data Table. A list of these parameters and their results are in the Table of Results of Customer Interest below.

PARAMETER	LEVEL/RANGE DETECTED	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT
pH	7.1-7.9	Standard Unit

Important Terms

Unit / Term Descriptions	
Unit / Term	**Definition**
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
ppt	ppt; part per trillion or one ounce in 73,500,000 gallons of water
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average – The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters
NA	NA: Not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required but recommended
MCLG	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	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
AVG	pliance with some MCL's is based on running average of monthly samples
TT	chnique: A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminant.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

For more information on the Sharpsburg Water System contact

Washington County Department of Water Quality

at (240) 313-2600