

Presented By  
Clermont County Water

WATER TESTING PERFORMED IN 2016

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

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## We've Come a Long Way

Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering the period between January 1 and December 31, 2016. In a matter of only a few decades, drinking water has become exponentially safer and more reliable than at any other point in human history. Our exceptional staff continues to work hard every day—at any hour—to deliver the highest quality drinking water without interruption. Although the challenges ahead are many, we feel that by relentlessly investing in customer outreach and education, new treatment technologies, system upgrades, and training, the payoff will be reliable, high-quality tap water delivered to you and your family.

## Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains.

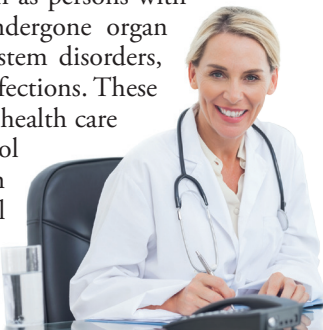
Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen, disinfectant levels, and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use, and avoid using hot water in order to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

**Microbial Contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

**Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic systems;

**Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA (<https://goo.gl/TFAMKc>) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)). Websites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has a website (<https://goo.gl/3Asdj6>) that provides complete and current information on water issues in Ohio, including valuable information about our watershed.



## QUESTIONS?

Questions about the water system, which has been in operation since 1955, may be directed to Mark Day at 513-732-7945.



## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of contaminants on a very strict sampling schedule. The information below represents only those substances that were detected; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels. The State recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Please note that we have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system.

## REGULATED SUBSTANCES

Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDL]	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Arsenic (ppb)	2016	10	0	3.6	3.6-3.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2016	2	2	29.9	29.9-29.9	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2016	[4]	[4]	1.0	0.2-2.8	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2016	4	4	0.99	0.69-1.30	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Halocetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2016	60	NA	46.0	ND-57.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2016	10	10	0.91	0.10-1.60	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2016	80	NA	76.5	13.2-107	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (removal ratio)	2016	TT	NA	1.25	0.96-1.53	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	2016	TT	NA	0.269	0.029-0.269	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2016	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

## Tap Water Samples Collected for Lead and Copper Analyses from Sample Sites throughout the Community

Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	AL MCLG (90th%TLE)	Amount Detected Range Low-High	Sites Above Al/Total Sites	Violation	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	2014	1.3	0.365	0 - 0.454	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2014	15	<5.0	0 - 14.6	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio between percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than one indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than one indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

## Source Water Description

The Clermont County Water System operates three water treatment plants that pump into a common distribution system of pipes serving our customers.

The MGS plant, located near Miamiville, draws from wells in the Little Miami River Aquifer. In 2004, the Ohio EPA performed a source water assessment for the MGS well field and designated it as highly susceptible to contamination. This is based in part on the geology of the aquifer, which is shallow and has little or no impermeable materials atop it. Another factor is the presence of potential sources of pollution in the area. The EPA also notes the presence of nitrates in the water, which suggests man-made influence in the aquifer. However, the water continues to meet drinking water standards. These well fields are monitored for contamination and cared for under an Ohio EPA-endorsed Wellhead Protection Plan. Persons who wish to learn more may call Rick Fueston at 513-553-4113.

The PUB plant is near New Palestine, where its wells draw from the Ohio River Valley Aquifer. A susceptibility analysis from the Ohio EPA has determined that this aquifer has a high susceptibility for contamination, based on a relatively thin layer of low-permeability material overlying the aquifer, and the relatively shallow depth of the aquifer. Potential pollution sources in the area and a possible hydraulic connection to the Ohio River also contribute to this assessment. However, the EPA agrees that there is no evidence of existing chemical contaminants. These well fields are monitored for contamination and cared for under an Ohio EPA-endorsed Wellhead Protection Plan. Persons who wish to learn more may call Rick Fueston at 513-553-4113.

The Bob McEwen Water Treatment Plant (BMW) is located near Batavia and draws surface water from Harsha Lake, which was created by constructing a dam across the East Fork Little Miami River. Surface water is more susceptible to contamination than ground water, so extensive testing of the raw water is conducted frequently. Chemical and bacteriological testing, as well as evaluation of the biological organisms living upstream of the lake, is used to determine raw water quality and identify areas of concern. The Ohio EPA completed a source water assessment for BMW in 2004. The protection area around Harsha Lake and the upstream portions of the East Fork Little Miami River includes a number of commercial and industrial facilities, but the greater concern is runoff from agricultural fields, the potential for spills at road and rail crossings, and residential septic systems in the watershed. Persons who wish to learn more may contact Tim Neyer at 513-732-5386. Additional information on the watershed collected by Clermont County is available from the Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) at 513-732-7894 or at the website: <http://www.oeq.net>. After treatment, which includes granular-activated carbon filtration, water from the lake meets all required drinking water standards.

## What Causes the Pink Stain on Bathroom Fixtures?

The reddish-pink color frequently noted in bathrooms on shower stalls, tubs, tile, toilets, sinks, toothbrush holders and on pets' water bowls is caused by the growth of the bacterium *Serratia marcescens*. Serratia is commonly isolated from soil, water, plants, insects, and vertebrates (including man). The bacteria can be introduced into the house through any of the above-mentioned sources. The bathroom provides a perfect environment (moist and warm) for bacteria to thrive. The best solution to this problem is to continually clean and dry the involved surfaces to keep them free from bacteria. Chlorine-based compounds work best, but keep in mind that abrasive cleaners may scratch fixtures, making them more susceptible to bacterial growth. Chlorine bleach can be used periodically to disinfect the toilet and help to eliminate the occurrence of the pink residue. Keeping bathtubs and sinks wiped down using a solution that contains chlorine will also help to minimize its occurrence.

Serratia will not survive in chlorinated drinking water.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are 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 [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

## Failure in Flint

The national news coverage of water conditions in Flint, Michigan, has created a great deal of confusion and consternation. The water there has been described as being corrosive; images of corroded batteries and warning labels on bottles of acids come to mind. But is corrosive water bad?

Corrosive water can be defined as a condition of water quality that will dissolve metals (iron, lead, copper, etc.) from metallic plumbing at an excessive rate. There are a few contributing factors but, generally speaking, corrosive water has a pH of less than 7; the lower the pH, the more acidic, or corrosive, the water becomes. (By this definition, many natural waterways throughout the country can be described as corrosive.) While all plumbing will be somewhat affected over time by the water it carries, corrosive water will damage plumbing much more rapidly than water with low corrosivity.

By itself, corrosive water is not a health concern; your morning glass of orange juice is considerably more corrosive than the typical lake or river. What is of concern is that exposure in drinking water to elevated levels of the dissolved metals increases adverse health risks. And there lies the problem. Public water systems are required to maintain their water at optimal conditions to prevent it from reaching corrosive levels. Rest assured that we routinely monitor our water to make sure that what happened in Flint never happens here. For more information on how corrosivity impacts water quality, download this informative pamphlet: <http://goo.gl/KpTmXv>.



## Definitions

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**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.

**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.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of 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.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**removal ratio:** A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

**TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.