

City of Ontario

Drinking Water Consumer Confidence

Report For 2024

The City of Ontario has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, and how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

The City of Ontario receives its drinking water from 3 wells located at the water treatment plant at 395 North Lexington-Springmill Road. In the event of a power outage, we have an on-site emergency generator that will power the water plant at full capacity. To begin with, the water is drawn from the wells and passes through two filters. This removes and drops the levels of iron to .08 mg/l and manganese to .02 mg/l. This also removes gaseous hydrogen sulfide, methane, and carbon dioxide. The water was then softened to an annual average hardness of 138 mg/l, and has an annual average sodium concentration of 131 mg/l.

The City of Ontario has a Wellhead Protection Plan in place. This entails mandating local businesses to provide information on possible contaminate sources to the well fields so appropriate precautions can be taken. The Ohio EPA has conducted a Source Water Assessment plan as well, that shows the City of Ontario's well field has a low susceptibility to contamination due to the confining layer of glacial till over 200 feet thick between the ground surface and the aquifer. A copy of the source water assessment plan can be supplied by calling 419-529-3846. Additionally, the city has a Backflow Prevention Program in place to ensure that no contaminate can be drawn back into the drinking water supply through cross connections or low pipe pressure.

What are sources of contaminants to drinking water?

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agriculture livestock operations, and wildlife; (B) 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; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) 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; (E) 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, USEPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA 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 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 Federal Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Who needs 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 infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/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 (1-800-426-4791).

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The City of Ontario conducted sampling for bacteria, nitrate, synthetic organics, and disinfection byproducts during 2024. Samples were collected for a total of 20 different contaminants most of which were not detected in the City of Ontario water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2023 the City of Ontario participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). For a copy of the results please call the water plant at 419-529-3846.

In 2024 we had an unconditioned license to operate our water system.

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the City of Ontario drinking water.

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Disinfectant and Disinfectant By-Products							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.3	0.2-1.3	No	2024	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) (ppb)	N/A	60	2.6	N/A	No	2024	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	N/A	80	28.5	5.0-28.5	No	2024	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.16	.34-1.16	No	2024	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.026	NA	No	2022	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead and Copper							
Contaminants (units)	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	Individual Results over the AL	90% of test levels were less than	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical source of Contaminants
Lead (ppb)	15 ppb	15 ppb	NA	3.4	No	2022	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
	0 out of 20 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb.						
Copper (ppm)	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	NA	0.171	No	2022	Erosions of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosions of household plumbing systems
	0 out of 20 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the copper action level of 1.3 ppm.						

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. The City of Ontario 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 at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Per the Lead and Copper Rules, Public Water Systems were required to develop and maintain a Service Line Inventory. A service line is the underground pipe that supplies your home or building with water. To view the Service Line Inventory, which lists the material type(s) for your location, you can visit <https://ontarioohio.org/serviceline>.

Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of Ontario City Council which meets every first and third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. For more information on your drinking water contact the Water Department Supervisor at 419-529-3846.

Definitions of some terms contained within this report.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): 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.

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

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

Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.

Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (µg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.