

2008 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT



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Dear Water Customers:

The City of St. Marys is pleased to present to you this 2008 Water Quality Report. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water that meets federal and state requirements and achieves the highest standards of customer satisfaction.

Please take the time to review this report. It is a summary of the quality drinking water and services we deliver every day. It is a record reflecting the hard work of our employees to provide safe, reliable drinking water services to the citizens of St. Marys at competitive rates. In 2008, the City of St. Marys distributed 449,220,000 gallons of drinking water to customers and met all Federal and State drinking water standards. All of this at a cost of about a penny for five gallons. Water system highlights in 2008 include:

- ◆ **Supply:** The City's wells continue to be a major asset to citizens.
- ◆ **Treatment:** At the treatment plant, extensive concrete repairs on the original 1948 settling basin walls were completed. This project also included replacement of the Water Department Office loading dock retaining wall. The building's hot-water heating system was replaced with electric heaters.
- ◆ **Laboratory:** We monitored for the presence of 53 regulated contaminants in 2008 as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. All results were well below regulatory limits.
- ◆ **Distribution system:** Improvements undertaken in 2008 included the installation of nearly 5,000 feet of new water mains.

Mayor Greg Freewalt

Special Information On Protecting Our Drinking Water Supply

Ohio EPA recently completed a study of the City of St. Marys' source of drinking water to determine its susceptibility to contamination. According to the study, the aquifers (water-rich zones below ground) that supply well water to the City of St. Marys have a "moderate" susceptibility to contamination. This does not mean that our well fields cannot become contaminated, only that the likelihood of contamination is moderate. Factors considered in the moderate susceptibility determination included:

- ◆ The depth of the aquifers (75-200 feet below ground level) and the presence of a thick layer of clay above the aquifer both serve to protect our well water.
- ◆ There has been no evidence to suggest that our well water has been impacted by any significant levels of chemical contaminants from human activities.
- ◆ The existence of numerous significant potential contamination sources located near our well fields.

The City of St. Marys is in the process of adopting a Wellhead Protection Program (WHP) that will develop appropriate protective measures to minimize the likelihood of aquifer contamination. Ohio EPA has endorsed the first two phases of the WHP. Phase one identified the shape and area of our wellfields and calculated one and five year time-of-travel boundaries. These boundaries are significant in that they show how long a contaminant, if discovered, would take to impact our drinking water source. Phase two included an inventory of potential pollution contamination sources in the wellhead protection area. Phase three will consist of developing management practices to help prevent contamination of our wellfields. More information about the source water assessment or what consumers can do to help protect our wells is available by calling 419-394-4114.

Water Supply and Treatment

St. Marys is fortunate to have a large supply of exceptional quality well water. Two of the City's wells are located in a gravel formation in the ancient Teays River Valley system, while the other two are in a limestone formation. Untreated well water pumped into the treatment plant goes through a complex, multi-stage process that takes about 12 hours, producing a consistent supply of high quality water. Seventy-three miles of underground piping distributes drinking water to the citizens and business in the greater St. Marys area.



To Learn More

The City of St. Marys is committed to providing you with information about your water supply, and encourages all citizens to learn more about water resources, water conservation, and water quality. We offer presentations and treatment plant tours to civic groups, school children, and other interested parties. Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of St. Marys City Council and Council's Water Committee meetings. Please call for more information:

- ◆ Water Department Office - 419-394-4114 (8 am - 5 pm)
- ◆ Water Treatment Plant - 419-394-5512 (8 am - 11 pm)
- ◆ Internet Web Page - www.cityofstmarys.net
- ◆ City Council & Water Committee meetings - 419-394-3303



Federal and state regulations include procedures and schedules for monitoring water at its source, in the treatment plant and distribution system, and at the customers tap. The City of St. Marys monitors for the presence of more than 130 contaminants in our drinking water, in accordance with EPA requirements. Listed below is information on the contaminants detected in the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations. None are violations. The contaminants we tested for but did not detect are not listed below. A complete listing of all the contaminants we monitor is available upon request.

Contaminant	Year Tested	Unit	MCL (Highest Allowed)	MCLG (Ideal Goal)	St. Marys Detected Level	St. Marys Detected Range	Violation	Possible Sources of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride ¹	2008	ppm	4	4	0.36	N/A	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Lead ²	2008	ppb	AL = 15	0	<2.0	N/A	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Zero out of thirty samples was found to have lead levels in excess of the Action Level of 15 ppb								
Copper ²	2008	ppm	AL = 1.3	1.3	0.019	N/A	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Zero out of thirty samples was found to have copper levels in excess of the Action Level of 1.3 ppm								
Radiological Contaminants								
Radium 228	2008	pCi/L	5	0	2	N/A	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Residual Disinfectants								
Total Chlorine	2008	ppm	MRDL = 4	MRDLG=4	1.92	1.4 - 2.4	No	Water additive used to control microbes

Definitions/Notes:

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water
MCLG (Max. Contaminant Level Goal) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk
ppm (Parts per Million) - Units of measure for concentration (one part per million is equal to one minute in two years)
ppb (Parts per Billion) - Units of measure for concentration (one part per billion is equal to one minute in 2,000 years)
pCi/L (Picocuries per Liter) - A common measure of radioactivity
AL (Action Level) - The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow
MRDL (Max. Residual Disinfectant Level) - The highest level of a disinfectant (addition is necessary to control microbial contaminants) allowed in drinking water
MRDLG (MRDL Goal) - The disinfectant level below which there is no known or expected health risk (the goal does not reflect microbial control benefits)
N/A - Does not apply

¹ - Fluoride naturally occurs in the well water used by the City of St. Marys

² - Lead and copper are measured at the customers tap, and in St. Marys their presence is due to household plumbing

How Can You Be Sure Your Drinking Water Is Safe?

- ◆ Certified City of St. Marys Water Treatment Plant operators check water quality at all stages of the treatment process to ensure that the water is treated properly and that the finished water is of consistent quality. We analyzed over 16,000 chemical and over 800 bacteria tests in 2008.
- ◆ In order to insure that tap water is safe, the 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.
- ◆ 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available at 1-800-426-4791 (Safe Drinking Water Hotline).

What Are The Sources Of Contamination In Water?

- ◆ Sources of both tap and bottled drinking water include rivers, lakes, reservoirs, 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. Water can also 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; (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as naturally-occurring minerals; (C) Pesticides and herbicides; (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, resulting mainly from industrial activity; and, (E) Radioactive contaminants, most of which are naturally occurring.
- ◆ All 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 the water poses a health risk.
- ◆ More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Lead Educational Information

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 services lines and home plumbing. The City of St. Marys is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When you 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 drinking 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.