

WESTERN WATER COMPANY WATER QUALITY REPORT

IS MY DRINKING WATER SAFE?

Water quality is the first priority at Western Water Company. Constant testing by the dedicated staff of certified operators and laboratory personnel ensure the highest standards for drinking water quality are being met at all times. The test results for 2009 show Western Water Company's water to be of the highest quality. If you have any questions about water quality, please contact Jim Swearingen at the Water Treatment Plant, weekdays at (513)899-3211 between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF MY WATER?

Western Water Company's water comes from an aquifer along the Little Miami River in Warren County. Western Water also purchases water from other water systems and then distributes the various supplies to their customers.

	Percent	Source
Western Water Company	56.3%	Little Miami River Aquifer Warren County
City of Wilmington	00.7%	Cowan Creek and Ceasars Creek Lake
Cincinnati Water Works	43.0%	Ohio River, and Great Miami Aquifer

WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800)426-4791.

WHAT ARE SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION TO DRINKING WATER?

The sources of drinking water both tap and bottled water includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surfaces of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases radioactive materials. The 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, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural 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 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, EPA 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.

SUSCEPTIBILITY ANALYSIS

The aquifer that supplies drinking water to Western Water Company has a high susceptibility to contamination, as indicated by the presence of nitrates in the treated water in 1994 and 1996. The high susceptibility is due to the sensitive nature of the aquifer in which the drinking water wells are located. These wells are near existing potential contaminant sources which have been identified. Further nitrate testing since 1996 has indicated very low levels of nitrates in the finished water. These results are listed in this report and previous Consumer Confidence Reports, you the customer have received over the past few years. Although the aquifer is susceptible to contamination, our testing indicates nitrates are at very low levels in the finished water.

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/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 at (800)426-4791.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OUR OPERATIONS?

The Ohio EPA requires us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. Western Water Company had no violations to report for the 2009 sampling.

TURBIDITY

Western Water Company purchases water from other water systems as explained in the source water section. Two of these are required to monitor for turbidity so we are required to show these results on our report. Turbidity does not present any risk to your health. They monitor turbidity, which is a measure of cloudiness of water, because it is a good indicator that filtration systems are functioning properly.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Our Water Officials will meet to answer questions each month at the Treatment Plant. Please feel free to participate. Call Jim Swearingen for dates and times at 1-513-899-3211.

LEAD CAN CAUSE SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS

“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. Western Water Company 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 thirty seconds to two 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. A list of laboratories certified in the State of Ohio to test for lead may be found at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw> or by calling 614-644-2752. 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 800-426-4719 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>".