

Town of Mount Airy Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



2025

MD0060007

Is my water safe?

The Town of Mount Airy is pleased to provide this annual water quality report for calendar year 2024. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. The Town of Mount Airy routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water and we vigilantly safeguard our water supplies. Last year, we were in violation for failing to complete fluoride testing during our required monitoring period. We have since returned to compliance status. More information can be found in the violations section of this report.

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from and what are the potential sources of contamination?

Your drinking water is supplied by 11 ground water wells. The source of Mount Airy's water supply is an unconfined fractured rock aquifer. The susceptibility analysis for Mount Airy's water supply is based on a review of the water quality data, potential sources of contamination, aquifer characteristics, and well integrity. For more information on the source of your water, the significant potential sources of contamination, and susceptibility analysis, contact the Maryland Source Water Assessment Program at the Maryland Department of the Environment at 410-537-3714 or visit on the web at:

https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx

Why may there be contaminants in my drinking 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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 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:

1. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
2. 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.

3. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
4. 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.
5. 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risks for safety. MCLG allows for margin of safety.

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.

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

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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 microbe contaminants.

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 microbe contaminants.

ALG: Action Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

LCR: Lead and Copper Rule. A United States federal regulation which limits the concentration of **lead and copper** allowed in public drinking water at the consumer's tap, as well as limiting the permissible amount of pipe corrosion occurring due to the water itself.

M/R: Monitoring and Reporting

Units of Measurement & Conversions:

NA: Not applicable

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ND: Not Detected

ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected in your water. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, may be up to five years old.

Lead & Copper:

Contaminant	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 th Percentile	# Sites over AL	Range of Tap Sampling	Units	Violation	Typical Source
Copper	2024	1.3	1.3	0.32	0	<0.05 – 0.44	mg/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	2024	0	0.0150	0.0014	0	<0.0010 – 0.0015	mg/L	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

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 inventory was submitted to MDE on October 9, 2024 and is available upon request.

Contaminants (Units)	Date Sampled	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range		Violation	Typical Source
					Low	High		

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products:

Chlorine (ppm)	2024	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4	0.6	0.6	0.6	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2024	No goal for the total	80	20	20.4	20.4	No	Byproduct of chlorination
Haloacetic Acids HAA5 (ppb)	2024	No goal for the total	60	4	3.9	3.9	No	Byproduct of chlorination

Inorganic Contaminants:

Arsenic (ppb)	01/11/2023	0	10	1.4	0	1.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	11/11/2024	2	2	0.0322	0.0298	0.0322	No	Discharge of drilling waters; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	11/11/2024	100	100	2.3	1.9	2.3	No	Discharge of drilling waters; discharge from metal refineries; discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits

Nitrate as Nitrogen (ppm)	04/23/2024	10	10	6	2.8	5.9	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	11/11/2024	50	50	1.1	0	1.1	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines

Violations:

Analyte	Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
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During the period covered by this report we had the following noted violations:

Fluoride	Monitoring, Routine Major	12/31/2021	12/30/2024	No monitoring samples were taken or reported
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The laboratory responsible for collecting and analyzing our drinking water samples failed to collect the triennial fluoride samples, resulting in a missed monitoring requirement. Although this was a violation of monitoring regulations, there is no immediate risk to the safety of your drinking water. Historical data for the past five years show fluoride results to be well below the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 4.0 mg/L. Current analytical data also indicate fluoride results to be below the MCL.

Definitions

Lead: 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 Town of Mount Airy 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 Michael Thoma at wwtp@mountairymd.gov. 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>.

Copper: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

Arsenic: Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Barium: Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

Chromium: Some people who drink water containing chromium well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience allergic dermatitis.

Fluoride: Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

PFAS: 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 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://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx>.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized 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) will be regulated with a Hazard Index of 1 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

The 5th Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) began testing for 29 PFAS compounds and lithium in 2023, and testing will run through 2025. The UCMR5 should test all community water systems with populations of at least 3300 people. Three randomly selected systems in Maryland with populations less than 3300 people will also be tested under the UCMR5. Detections greater than the minimum reporting levels for each constituent should be reported in the CCR.

Town of Mount Airy
For additional information or questions contact:
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