

Additional Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled 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 (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 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, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

(B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm 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, storm water runoff, and residential uses.

(D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater 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.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those 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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791).

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CITY OF O'FALLON



WATER QUALITY REPORT 2008

Dear Customer,

We are pleased to present a summary of the water quality provided to you during the past year. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that water systems issue an annual “Consumer Confidence” report to customers in addition to other notices that may be required by law. This report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. The City of O’Fallon is committed to providing you with the safest and most reliable water supply possible. Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water. Call us for information about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions about our drinking water. See the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water information at www.epa.gov/safewater/

Concerning Lead in Our Water

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home’s plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home’s water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Other monitoring

The City of O’Fallon’s water system professional staff performs hundreds of tests on the water including bacteriological, inorganic and organic compounds to make certain your water is safe and of high quality. If you are interested in a more detailed report, please call Dan Scherer, Managing Director at 636-281-2858. The City of O’Fallon utilizes state and private testing laboratories to perform analyses for 188 potential pollutants and microbiological contamination. In addition, licensed operators perform process monitoring and quality control analysis at each of the City’s water supply wells each day. Of the 188 contaminants tested for, traces of only 12 were detected and all were below the allowed levels as illustrated in the accompanying table.

Source of Supply

The current water supply consists of a Reverse Osmosis Water Plant, supplemented by five ground water deep rock wells followed by zeolite softening, aeration, and disinfection.

How to Read This Table

The chart in this report provides representative analytical results of water samples, collected in 2008 from our system. Range represents historical high/low readings from multiple years. Please note the following definitions: Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: 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. Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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.

Key To Table

AL=Action Level
MCL=Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG=Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
MFL=million fibers per liter
mrem/year=millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
NTU=Nephelometric Turbidity Units TT=Treatment Technique
nd=not detectable at testing limits

pCi/L=picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppm=parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb=parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
ppt=parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
ppq=parts per quadrillion or picograms per liter

Contaminant	Date	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Highest Value	Range	Major Sources	Violation	
Inorganic Contaminants									
Arsenic	2008*	ppb	10.00	n/a	1.18	1.18	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.	No	
Barium	2008	ppm	2	2	0.0777	0.00924-0.777	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.	No	
Chromium	2005*	ppb	100	100	2.15	1.66-2.15	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.	No	
Fluoride	2008	ppm	4	4	1.39	0.82-1.39	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	No	
Nitrate+Nitrite as N	2008	ppm	10	10	0.20	0.12-0.20	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	No	
Nitrite (asN)	2006	ppm	1	1	0.23	0.06-0.23	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	No	
Disinfection By-Products									
Total Trihalomethanes	2008	ppb	80	n/a	6.11	6.11	By-product of drinking water chlorination	No	
Combined Radium Level RA226 and RA228									
		Unit	MCL	MCLG	Combined Radium Detected				
Radium	2007*	pCi/L	5	0	5.2				
Volatile Organic Contaminants									
TTHM's	2008	ppb	80	0	10.4000	6.11	6.11	By-product of drinking water chlorination	No
		Collected Unit	MCL	MCLG	90th Percentile	Range	Sites Over AL	Sources	
Copper	2007*	ppm	AL=1.3	AL=1.30	0.0889	0.0154-0.104	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from preservatives	
Lead	2007*	ppb	AL-15	AL-15	4.1	1.05-6.71	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.	
Unregulated Inorganic Contaminants									
		Collected Unit	Unit	Level Found	Range of Detections				
Nickel	2005*	ppm		0.00519	0.00127-0.00519				

Violations and Health Effects Information

No Violations Occurred in the Calendar Year of 2008.

The State has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Records marked with *, though representative, are more than one year old.