



THE CITY OF ST. MARYS

2024 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT



*“St. Marys...Delivering Quality
Drinking Water since 1895”*

Dear Water Customers:

We are pleased to present to you this report on Drinking Water Quality for the 2024 year. 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 all our employees to provide safe, reliable drinking water services to the citizens of St. Marys at competitive rates. What does high-quality drinking water cost in St. Marys? Less than 2 pennies a gallon!

St. Marys has been delivering quality drinking water to citizens since 1895. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable drinking water supply that achieves the highest customer satisfaction standards. In 2024, St. Marys distributed over 379 million gallons of drinking water to customers and met all Federal and State drinking water standards. For more information on your drinking water, contact Ryan Santore at (419) 300-3167. Water system highlights in 2024 included:

- ◆ **Supply:** Per the Lead and Copper Rules, Public Water Systems must develop and maintain an inventory of service lines. A service line is the underground pipe that supplies water to your home or business. Residents are encouraged to complete a brief survey, which takes only 5 to 10 minutes, to identify the materials used in their service lines. If you need assistance with the survey or have questions about the service line inventory, please contact Ryan Santore at (419) 300-3167.
- ◆ **Treatment.** Water quality remains excellent with little change to water quality or treatment methods.
- ◆ **Laboratory:** Testing to comply with Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements was moderate in 2024; as Ohio EPA required, we tested for the following: *lead & copper, nitrate, radiological, volatile organic chemicals (VOC), total coliform, and disinfection byproducts*. Results were well below regulatory limits.
- ◆ **Water Rates:** As part of our long-term planning efforts, it was determined that a nominal increase of approximately 3% in water utility rates will be necessary to cover inflation costs and ensure the continued maintenance and upgrades of our water system and treatment process. This increase is essential to sustain service quality and meet the demands of the growing population. We remain committed to maintaining the highest standards of service and excellence, and we appreciate your understanding.

Source Water Information

The City of St. Marys receives its water from 4 total wells located in the Teays river valley, an ancient river filled with glacial deposits. Ohio EPA has completed a study of the City of St. Marys source of drinking water, to determine the susceptibility. According to this study (available at <http://www.wapp.epa.ohio.gov/gis/swpa/OH0600612.pdf>), the aquifers (water-rich zones) that supply water to the City of St. Marys have a moderate susceptibility to contamination. This does not mean that the wellfields cannot become contaminated, only that the likelihood of contamination is moderate. This determination is based on the following:

- ◆ The depth of the aquifers (75-200 feet below ground level) and the presence of a thick layer of clay above the aquifers 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.

What Are The Sources Of Contamination In 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, 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 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.

What Are The Sources Of Contamination In Water? (Cont.)

- ◆ 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).

How Can You Be Sure Your Drinking Water Is Safe?

- ◆ St. Marys has a current, unconditional license to operate our water system, issued by Ohio EPA.
- ◆ Certified Water Treatment Plant operators check water quality at all stages of the treatment process to ensure that the water is adequately treated and that the finished water is of consistent quality. We conducted 4,264 chemical and 147 routine system bacteria tests in 2024.
- ◆ To ensure the safety of tap water, the EPA prescribes regulations that 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 individuals should consult their healthcare providers for advice on drinking water. 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).

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. St. Marys 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 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 (800) 426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

License to Operate (LTO) Status Information

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

Mayor Joe Hurlburt

To Learn More

St. Marys is committed to providing you with information about your water supply. We encourage all citizens to learn more about water resources, conservation, and 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
Internet Web Page: www.cityofstmarys.net

Water Treatment Plant: (419) 300-3167
City Council & Water Committee Meetings: (419) 394-3303

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. For years, samples have been collected for over 150 different contaminants, most of which were not detected in the City of St. Marys 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, is more than one year old. A complete listing of all the contaminants we monitor is available upon request.

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS								
Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants	
Residual Disinfectant								
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.906858	1.7129 - 2.03	No	2024	Water additive used to control microbes	
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride ¹ (ppm)	4	4	0.534	N/A	No	2023	Erosion of natural deposits water additive that promotes strong teeth.	
Radiological Contaminants								
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	0	5	1.06	< 1.00 - 1.12	No	2024	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	Detected Range	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical source of Contaminants
Lead ² (ppb)	15	0	N/A	<2.0	<2.0 - 3.2	No	2024	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
	0 out of 27 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb.							
Copper ² (ppm)	1.3	1.3	N/A	0.0548	< .001 - .073	No	2024	Corrosions of household plumbing systems; Erosions of natural deposits;
	0 out of 27 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the copper action level of 1.3 ppm.							

Table of Unregulated Contaminants			
Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2024, the City of St. Marys participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). For a copy of the results, please call the Water Dept. Office at 419-394-4114.			
Contaminant (Units)	Sample Year	Average Result Found	Range of Detection
Lithium (ppb)	2024	21.05	20.9- 21.2

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 allowed (addition is necessary to control microbial contaminants)
MRDLG (MRDL Goal) - Disinfectant level below which there is no known or expected health risk (goal does not reflect microbial control benefits)
N/A - Does not apply
¹ - Fluoride naturally occurs in the well water used by St. Marys
² - Lead and copper are measured at the customers tap, and in St. Marys their presence is due to private household plumbing

ST. Marys Source Water Protection Area

