



Village of Covington Ohio

2015 Consumer Confidence Report

Is my water safe?

The Village of Covington is pleased to present the Covington Public Water system 2014 Annual Water quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

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?

The Village of Covington obtains its public drinking water from buried sand and gravel aquifers located on Village property west of the Stillwater River and North and South of the confluence of Greenville Creek where it meets the Stillwater River. The Village currently uses four (4) wells to draw water from the aquifers. Treatment consists of four pressure sand filters to remove iron and manganese and three softeners to soften the water. Permanganate is added to the raw water to oxidize the iron before filtration. The water is disinfected with chlorine and delivered to the water distribution system.

Water Source Susceptibility to Contamination.

Due to the proximity of our source water wells to the river and the methods used during well construction, our wells present a high susceptibility to contamination. Due to this fact, our utility staff is required to perform periodic testing to insure that our drinking water is safe. Our water quality meets all of the standards that are set forth by the State of Ohio and the United States Environmental Protection Agencies.

Source water assessment and its availability.

The Village of Covington developed a Wellhead protection plan which was approved by the Ohio EPA in 1997. The initial phase of this plan establishes a 5-year "time of travel" and a 1-year "time of travel" around the village well field. As part of this process, the Village has compiled an inventory of all potential sources that could contaminate the ground water within the "time of travel" zones around the well field. In the future as time and funds permit we will develop a wellhead management plan to protect this valuable resource. Public information and communication will play a role in implementing the next phase.

Why are there 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; 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; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; 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, septic systems; and 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.

How can I get involved?

Issues or questions concerning the Village of Covington's water quality may be expressed to the Covington Village Council. Their meetings are @ 7:00PM on the 1st. and 3rd. Mondays of each month. The meeting location is the Covington Government Center, 1 South High Street. Additional information may also be obtained from Michael Busse, Village Administrator by calling (937) 473-3420 or Emailing Mr. Busse at administrator@covington-oh.gov.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. 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 vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Water Quality Test Results Data Table

	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	9-18-15	8.2	8- 8.2	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	9-18-15	26.2	23.4 – 26.2	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	9-17-15	0.28	.28	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	9-17-15	0.433	.433	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead and Copper	Collection Date	90th Percentile	# of Samples Over AL	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	Jan 26-28 & Sept 16-24 2015	1.31	3	1.3	1.3	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	Jan 26-28 & Sept 16-24 2015	BDL	0	0	15	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Coliform Bacteria	Collection Date	# of Positive Total Coliform Samples	# of Positive Fecal/E. Coli Samples	MCLG	MCL	Fecal/E.Coli MCL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	Multi	1	1	0	5.0% of monthly samples are positive		N	Naturally present in the environment.

Keys to Decoding the Abbreviations

PPM = parts per million / or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

PPB = parts per billion / or micrograms per liter (up/l)

N/A – not applicable to this test

MCL = maximum contaminant level / the maximum allowable level set by the EPA

MCLG = maximum contaminant level goal / The level which if contaminants are below there are no known or expected health risk.

MRDLG = The level of 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 microbial contaminants.

MRDL = The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is a convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of Microbial contaminants.

AL = action level / If a contaminant is found to be above the Action Level, the treatment system is required to take steps to reduce the level of the contaminant.

The Covington Water Department is working with a consultant to continually test how corrosive our water is to plumbing found in your home. We are currently feeding a Poly/Ortho phosphate blend into our drinking water to make the water less corrosive. This helps us keep lead and copper levels in the drinking water to safe levels.

Additional information concerning lead:

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. Covington Water Department 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 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>.

Outside water Usage

The Village of Covington encourages persons with irrigation systems or swimming pools to install a second meter for outside water usage. Once installed, the homeowner is billed monthly for the outside water used and is no longer charged the sewer fee on the outside water that passes through this additional meter.

THE COVINGTON WATER DEPARTMENT HAS AN UNCONDITIONAL LICENSE TO OPERATE OUR WATER SYSTEM.

Conservation Tips from the Covington Water Department

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers – a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 500 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce net month's water bill?
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.