City of Stow
Tradition Centered. Future Focused.

Water Department · 3760 Darrow Road · Stow, Ohio 44224
Phone: 330-689-2911 · Fax: 330-689-2917 · Email: jpsmith@stow.oh.us

Jeff Smith, Utility Superintendent

2024 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

The Stow Public Water System has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, and how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

What is the source of my water?

The City of Stow purchases its potable water from the City of Akron. This surface water is taken from the Upper Cuyahoga River, via three impounding reservoirs. Water is stored and released from two upstream reservoirs; the Wendell R. LaDue and East Branch, both located in Geauga County. These serve to supplement the Lake Rockwell Reservoir, located in Franklin Township, Portage County. Water is taken from Lake Rockwell, for treatment at the Lake Rockwell Treatment Plant, and pumped to Stow via a transmission main along North River Road.

Water is received at the Marsh Road and North Main Street (Munroe Falls) Booster Pump Stations. It is then distributed throughout our system. The Stow Public Water System serves over 35,000 residents, via 160+ miles of water main, and over 13,500 individual service taps within the City. The Stow Public Water System has been licensed to operate a public water system through the Ohio EPA since 2001.

For the purposes of the source water assessments, all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature surface waters are accessible and can readily be contaminated by chemicals and pathogens, with relatively short travel times from source to the intake. The drinking water source assessment for the City of Akron indicates that the source water is susceptible to potential contamination. Potential sources of contamination include agricultural runoff, home sewage disposal systems, failing on-site wastewater treatment systems (septic systems), municipal wastewater treatment plant discharges, and non-point sources. In addition, the source water is susceptible to contamination through derailments, motor vehicle accidents or spills at sites where the corridor zone is crossed by roads and rail lines, or at fuel storage and vehicle service areas located adjacent to the corridor zone. An assessment of our source water susceptibility to contamination was completed by Ohio in 2003, and determined that our source water has a moderate susceptibility. The report is available upon request. Since the EPA's assessment in 2003, Akron has taken further actions to strengthen the protection of its source water.

It is important to note that this assessment is based on available data, and therefore may not reflect current conditions in all cases. Water quality, land uses and other activities that are potential sources of contamination may change with time. While the source water for the City of Akron Public Water System is considered susceptible to contamination, historically the City of Akron Water System has effectively treated this source water to meet drinking water quality standards.

Copies of the source water assessment report prepared for the City of Akron are available by contacting City of Akron Watershed Division at (330) 678-0077 ext. 3749.

What are the possible sources of contamination to my drinking 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.

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).**

Who needs 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 infection. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

About your drinking water

The EPA requires public water systems to perform routine testing to insure the safety and quality of its drinking water. The City of Stow conducts routine bacteria sampling, at a rate of forty (40) samples per month, from designated, EPA approved, test sites throughout the city. All sampling for the calendar year of 2024 showed negative results for coliform bacteria meeting the EPA standards.

The following tables represent various substances found in your drinking water during the year 2022-2024. Some test results are supplied by the City of Akron, which maintains a state-of-the-art laboratory to monitor drinking water quality. Many other substances are routinely tested for, though not listed below. You may rest assured that those substances not listed were not found in your drinking water.

For a complete list of test results contact the Akron Water Supply Bureau at (330) 375-2748. This report is also available at https://www.akronohio.gov/departments/service/water_supply_bureau/index.php

Table of Detected Contaminants

Definitions of some terms contained within this report.

MCL or Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible, using the best available treatment technologies.
MCLG or Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MRDL or 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 microbial contaminants.
MRDLG or Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
AL or Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.
Detected Level: The **average level** detected of a contaminant for comparison against the acceptance levels for each parameter. These levels could be the highest single measurement, or an average of values, depending on the contaminant. (N.D. means None Detected)
Range: The range of values for samples tested for each contaminant.
MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
TT: Treatment Technique
N.D: Not detected
NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units
Microcystins: Liver toxins produced by a number of cyanobacteria. Total microcystins are the sum of all the variants/congeners (forms) of the cyanotoxin microcystin.

Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L): are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.
Parts per Billion (ppb) or **Micrograms per Liter (µg/L):** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A common measure of radioactivity.

Results from the City of Stow

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Lead and Copper							
Copper* (ppm)	1.3 Action Level	1.3 Action Level	0.136	0 – 0.199*	NO	2024 (3 year cycle)	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits.
Lead* (ppb)	0	15 Action Level	0	0 – 0*	NO	2024 (3 year cycle)	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfection Byproducts							
HAA5 Five Haloacetic Acids **(ug/L)**	N/A	60	45.95	23.7 – 47.4**	NO	2024	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes **(ug/L)**	N/A	80	74.2	30.7 – 91.5**	NO	2024	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Residual Disinfectant							
Contaminant (units)	**MRDLG**	**MRDL**	**Level Found**	**Rang of Detections**	**Violation**	**Sample Year**	**Typical source of Contaminants**
Total Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.3041	0.91 – 1.64	NO	2024	Water additive used to control microbes.

*Zero of 30 samples was found to have lead and copper in excess of the Action Level of 15 ppb for Lead and 1.3 ppm for Copper
**The maximum Range of Detections is not a violation because individual samples are averaged with other samples before being compared with the maximum contaminant

Results from Akron

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	TT	0.18	0.02 – 0.18	NO	2024	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (% meeting standard)	N/A	TT	100.0%	100% - 100%	NO	2024	
Total Organic Carbon (compliance ratio)	N/A	TT	1.46	1.33 – 1.69	NO	2024	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants							
Alpha emitters (picocuries per liter)	0	15	-1.32	NA	NO	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium-226/228 (picocuries per liter)	0	5 combined	0.0949	NA	NO	2022	Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants							
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	1.72	NA	NO	2024	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder.
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	1.49	NA	NO	2024	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.026	NA	NO	2024	Discharge of drilling waste; discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorite (ppm)	0.8	1.0	0.57	0.15 – 0.64	NO	2024	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.98	0.77 - 1.10	NO	2024	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum
Copper, Plant Tap (ppm)	1.3	TT	0.003	0.001 – 0.006	NO	2024	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.33	0.02 - 0.33	NO	2024	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	3.17	NA	NO	2024	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Residual Disinfectants							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	1.29	1.02 – 1.68	NO	2024	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	MRDLG = 800	MRDL = 800	220	20 – 220	NO	2024	Water additive used to control microbes
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	NA	NA	14.9	NA	NO	2024	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform (ppb)	NA	NA	20.1	NA	NO	2024	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	NA	NA	6.8	NA	NO	2024	By-product of drinking water chlorination

*ppm: corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days
**ppb: corresponds to one second in 31.7 years

Turbidity

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the samples analyzed each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, the City of Akron's highest recorded turbidity result for 2024 was 0.18 NTU and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 0.

Not Under Ohio EPA Regulation but of General Interest

	Average Detected Level	Range
Alkalinity	84 mg/L	50 - 110 mg/L
Hardness (English units)	7 grains per gallon	4 - 8 grams per gallon
pH	7.3 units	7.16 - 7.76 units
Nickel	0.029 mg/L	NA, one test in 2024
Manganese	0.008 mg/L	0.001 – 0.016 mg/L
Temperature (English Units)	58*F	34 - 79*F
Total Organic Carbon	2.51 mg/L	1.81 – 3.57 mg/L
Total Solids	311 mg/L	290 – 331 mg/L

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 service lines and home plumbing. The Stow Public Water system 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 800-426-4791** or on the internet at **http:www.epa.gov/safewater/lead**

Information Regarding Lead Service Line Inventory

Our distribution system has no lead, galvanized needing replacement, or lead status unknown service lines. To determine this, we used the following sources: historical records and visual inspections.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) Sampling

Unregulated contaminants are those for which U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2024 Stow Public Water System participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5). For a copy of the results please contact Jeff Smith at 330-689-2911.

License to Operate (LTO) Status Information

In 2024 the City of Stow had an unconditioned license to operate our public water system.

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comments are encouraged at regular meetings of Stow City Council which meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. For more information on your drinking water contact Jeff Smith at 330-689-2911.