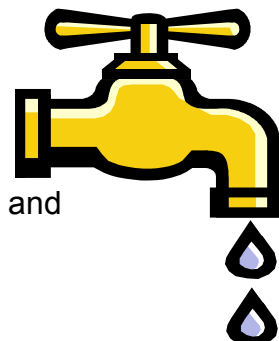


# City of Ashland Water Treatment Plant

## Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report - 2008

### Introduction

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



### **Source Water Information**

The City of Ashland is a ground water supply. Water comes from 12 wells located in the Jerome Fork basin. These wells range in depth from 70 to 300 feet. The average daily usage is 2,800,000 gallons provided to approximately 7700 customers.

### **What are sources of contamination to drinking water?**

The sources of drinking water tap 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 may 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, 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 provide the same protection for the public.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain 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 (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. *Immune-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 regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The City of Ashland conducted sampling for bacteria, inorganic and organic contaminants during 2008. 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, are more than one year old.



## How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of the Ashland City Council. Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month, except during August. They are held on the third floor of the Municipal Building, 206 Claremont Avenue, at 7:00 pm. For more information on your drinking water, or to receive additional copies of this report, call the Water Treatment Plant at 419-281-7041.

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the City of Ashland's drinking water.

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level	Range of Detection	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.79	0.71- 1.00	No	2008	Water additive, which promotes strong teeth.
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.18	NA	No	2008	Runoff from fertilizer use; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sulfate (ppm)	NA	250	120	NA	No	2004	Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppb)	NA	AL=130	<50	<50 - <50	No	2006	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead (ppb)	NA	AL=15	<5.0	<5.0 - <5.0	No	2006	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Arsenic (ppb)	NA	50	<3.0	NA	No	2005	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>							
* TTHM's Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	81.0	66.7 – 101.4	Yes	2008	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
HAA5 (ppb)	NA	60	9.1	8.1 – 10.7	No	2008	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chloroform (ppb)	NA	NA	24.5	NA	No	2008	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Bromoform (ppb)	NA	NA	8.7	NA	No	2008	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	NA	NA	25.3	NA	No	2008	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	NA	NA	22.9	NA	No	2008	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

\* **TTHMs:** During the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008 the City of Ashland exceeded the MCL for TTHMs. The violation is a running average of four continuous quarters. The exceedance level poses no danger to the consumer. The City of Ashland is taking the necessary steps to lower the MCL by investigating flushing programs, circulation techniques, and super chlorination techniques. TTHMs may have adverse health effects at high concentrations after very long periods of time.

**Lead:** The lead concentration in our water is below the level of detection. Infants and young children are more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels in your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in the home's plumbing. You may wish to flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water hotline at 800-426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)

**Susceptibility Analysis:** The Ohio EPA recently completed a study of the City of Ashland's drinking water, to identify potential contaminant sources and provide guidance on protecting the drinking water source. According to this study, the aquifer (water-rich zone) that supplies water to the City of Ashland has a high susceptibility to contamination. This determination is based on the following:

1. The thin discontinuous clay layer does not provide much protection to the aquifer.
2. Shallow depth to water.
3. Presence of significant potential contaminant sources in the protection area.

This susceptibility means that under currently existing conditions, the likelihood of the aquifer becoming contaminated is relatively high. This likelihood can be minimized by implementing appropriate protective measures. The City of Ashland is currently in the process of developing a protection plan. Upon completion, implementing the plan will help protect the health of the community residents, protect the community's water supply investment and preserve the ground water resource for the future.

### ***Definitions of terms contained in this report.***

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (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.

**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 (ug/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

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

**The "<" symbol:** A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

