

WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY 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).

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. Environmental Protection Agency/Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). For more information about your drinking water, please call us at 982-7990.

SOURCE WATER

The sources of drinking water (both 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 waters are:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, or oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- 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 and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe 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.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

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 City of Maryville Water Quality Control 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

DID YOU KNOW?

2010 - The City of Maryville provided our customers with 1,473,980,000 gallons of drinking water. That is enough water to cover the Maryville High School football field 3,390 feet deep, or just over half way up Mt. LeConte as measured from sea level.

WE DELIVER - The Maryville water system consists of over 281 miles of water distribution pipe. These lines deliver clean, safe, drinking water directly to you in your home 365 days a year! Our "in home" delivery of water saves you time, energy, and money, without adding to the plastic bottles filling our landfill.

WE SAVE YOU MONEY — An average Maryville home uses about 1 and 1/2 gallons per day for drinking water and more than 200 hundred gallons of water per day in total water usage. Think what this would cost you as a homeowner if purchased anywhere else.

2010 HIGHLIGHTS

WATER METERS - New electronic read water meters are in place. We can now measure water use more accurately. We also read water meters more efficiently. New meters were funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN - Maryville, Alcoa and Tuckaleechee Utility District completed a cooperative drought management plan. Droughts will continue to occur, they are a part of the natural cycle of rainfall.

THE ECONOMY – 2010 was a difficult year for many families, businesses and our community. The Water Quality Control Department, using a variety of cost control measures, was able to maintain our water rate structure despite increasing costs and an aging water system. As with all water systems, we must meet our long term maintenance and operation requirements for the sale of water to you.



City of Maryville Water Quality Report

2011

Great People, Great Water

Maryville Water Filtration and Distribution operations continued to shine during 2010.

The most recent Sanitary Survey (2010) by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation rated the City of Maryville Water system with a score of 99 out of 100.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Water Quality decisions and operations decisions are made by the Water Quality Control Department of the City of Maryville. If you have comments or concerns please contact Baron Swafford, Public Utility Director, at 273-3300 or Jack Graham, P.E., Water Quality Control Assistant Director, at 273-3346.

Major financial decisions and significant public issues are decided by the Maryville City Council. City Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Maryville Municipal Center (400 W. Broadway). The meetings are announced in *The Daily Times* and the agendas are posted at, www.maryvillegov.com, the City website, prior to each meeting.

We value your opinions, please feel free to participate in these meetings.

2010 WATER QUALITY DATA

Contaminant (unit)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range	Violation	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contaminant
Regulated Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	0% of samples taken	n/a	No	Ongoing	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and <i>E. coli</i>	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i> positive	0	n/a	No	Ongoing	Human and animal fecal waste ¹
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL=1.3	0.0702	0 of 33 exceeding action level	No	6/22-26/09	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.2 maximum	0.9-1.2	No	Ongoing	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Lead (ppb)	0	AL=15	<5	0 of 33 exceeding action level	No	6/22-26/09	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	0.3	n/a	No	2/19/10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	0	60	12	6-21	No	Ongoing	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	0	80	56	10-83	No	Ongoing	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity (NTU)	n/a	TT=0.3 95% of samples to be ≤ 0.3 NTU in a given month	0.26 NTU maximum	100% ≤ MCL	No (TT)	Ongoing	Soil runoff
Total Organic Carbon (TOC) (ppm)	TT	No MCL for 2010. We met the requirements for TOC removal	0.7 average	0.5-0.8	No (TT)	Ongoing	Naturally present in the environment
Unregulated Contaminants							
Sulfate (ppm)	n/a	250	8.5	n/a	No	2/11/08	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	2.8	n/a	No	2/19/10	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminant / Disinfectant	MRDLG	MRDL	Level Found	Range	Violation	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	2.5 maximum	1.8-2.5	No	Ongoing	Water additive used to control microbes

Note 1: We routinely monitor for coliform bacteria because coliform is an indicator of bacteriological contamination of the water. We proudly report that no coliform bacteria have ever been detected in our finished water.

Note 2: Lead and Copper levels found are reported as the 90th percentile of the level detected.

Note 3: HAA5 and TTHMs are the highest running annual average for all quarters of 2010.

Note 4: Maryville water meets the EPA's standard for trihalomethanes (TTHMs), however, it does contain low levels. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidney, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Note 5: Annually we run more than 2190 turbidity tests

Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite which is found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although Cryptosporidium can be removed by filtration, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Monitoring of our source water indicated the presence of cryptosporidium in 1 out of 3 samples tested in 2010. The City of Maryville utilizes treatment techniques in addition to filtration, that enable us to meet or exceed the requirements for cryptosporidium removal set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals are able to overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people have more difficulty and are at greater risk of developing severe, life threatening illness. Immuno-compromised individuals are encouraged to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to prevent infection. For more information on Cryptosporidium, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

About the data: Most of the data presented in this table is from testing done between 1 Jan-31 Dec 2010. We monitor for some contaminants less than once per year, and for those contaminants, the date of the last sample is shown in the table.

IS MY DRINKING WATER SAFE?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. In 2010, we conducted thousands of tests for over a hundred contaminants that may be in drinking water. As you'll see in the chart, we only detected twelve of these contaminants.

WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF MY WATER?

Our water is a surface water source from the Little River originating in the Great Smoky Mountains. A final source water assessment of our watershed has been completed by the Tennessee Division of Water Supply, which considers the untreated water source serving our system to be of moderate susceptibility to potential contamination. An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment program and the source water assessment for the Maryville system can be viewed online at www.state.tn.us/environment/dws/dwassess.shtml and is available for review at our offices, 332 Home Avenue, Maryville, TN 37801.

WHAT DOES THIS CHART MEAN?

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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.

MRDL: 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 the control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal, the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Turbidity: We monitor turbidity, which is a measure of the cloudiness of water, because it is a good indicator that our filtration system is functioning properly. Turbidity does not present any risk to your health.

Abbreviations:

ppb - parts per billion or micrograms per liter

ppm - parts per million or milligrams per liter

n/a - not applicable

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in drinking water

AL - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

< - Less than

≤ - Less than or equal to

TT - Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.