DRINKING WATER QUALITY

FACTS & FAQs

BACKGROUND

- Drinking water quality is assured through scheduled tests required of all public community water systems for a wide variety of potential contaminants. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) defines "contaminant" as any physical, chemical, biological or radiological substance or matter in water. Drinking water may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The most common sources of contaminants are as follows:

  - Naturally occurring chemicals and minerals (e.g., arsenic, radon, uranium)
  - Local land use practices (fertilizers, pesticides, livestock, concentrated animal feeding operations)
  - Manufacturing processes
  - Sewer overflows
  - Malfunctioning wastewater treatment systems (for example, nearby septic systems)

- Through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), the Division of Water Supply and Geoscience (DWSG) is tasked with the protection of public health and safety by ensuring public community water systems are serving water to their customers that meet all Federal and State Drinking water standards for contaminant levels and monitoring.

- The Marlboro Water Utility meets all Federal and State drinking water standards for contaminant levels. Note that the most recent system-wide lead testing done in 2016 indicates levels to be significantly below the NJDEP/EPA limits. Testing for lead is on a reduced three year monitoring schedule because years of testing have demonstrated that the results are consistently below the EPA/NJDEP action levels.

- If you have questions or require additional information on contaminants found in your drinking water, please reference a copy of the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The CCR was mailed to all customers in May and may also be viewed at http://www.marlboro-nj.gov/notices/Marlboro_Water_Report_2016-FINAL.pdf. The CCR provides information on your drinking water quality, including the source of the water, contaminants found in the water and how consumers can help protect the drinking water supply.

FAQs

- **What common contaminants are included in drinking water testing?**

  The EPA sets standards and regulations for the presence and amount of over 90 different contaminants in public drinking water, including E.coli, Salmonella and Cryptosporidium bacteria. Information regarding the specific contaminants and maximum contaminant levels can be found on the EPA's website https://www.epa.gov/ccl.

- **How often does your public water system test its drinking water?**

  The frequency of drinking water testing depends on the number of people served, the sources of water and types of contaminants. Certain contaminants are tested more frequently than others, as set forth by the Safe Drinking Water Act. You can find out about levels of regulated contaminants in your treated water for the preceding calendar year in your annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) http://www.marlboro-nj.gov/notices/Marlboro_Water_Report_2016-FINAL.pdf.

- **Who should I contact if my water has a funny smell, taste or appearance?**

  A change in your water's taste, color or smell is not necessarily a health concern. If you are concerned about changes in your water, contact the Marlboro Water Utility at (732) 536-0200 or keifert@marlboro-nj.gov.

- **How can I find out if my public water system is in compliance with water quality standards?**

  When water quality standards have not been met, your public water system must notify you through the media, mail or other means. Your annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is another way to find out about the water quality in your area http://www.marlboro-nj.gov/notices/Marlboro_Water_Report_2016-FINAL.pdf. It provides information regarding contaminants, possible health effects and the water's source.

- **What should I do if I want my household water tested?**

  If you wish to have your water tested, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline toll free at 1-800-426-4791 for additional information. Depending on how many contaminants you wish to test for, a water test can cost between $20.00 to several hundred dollars.

- **Do water filtration systems remove contaminants from drinking water?**

  "In-home" water filtration systems may help reduce the levels of some contaminants. Questions regarding specific contaminants should be posed to individual manufacturers to confirm the efficacy of their products.