



City of Tallmadge Utilities Bureau

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2005

This report is provided to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included is an explanation of where our water comes from, general health information, water quality test results, as well as tips on how to interpret the data.

We're proud to share the results with you. Please read them carefully.

Water Source

Surface water is taken from the Upper Cuyahoga River via three impounding reservoirs: Wendell R. LaDue and East branch, both located in Geauga County. These reservoirs supplement Lake Rockwell, located in Franklin Township, Portage County, 2.5 miles north of Kent, Ohio. Akron's water is taken from Lake Rockwell, treated at the nearby water supply plant, then pumped 11 miles to Akron, through three force mains to equalizing reservoirs. Tallmadge has the water pumped through two force mains to our pump station at 29 Northeast Avenue, and then distributed to over 6,000 customers.

What are sources of contamination to 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:

- 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 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, 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 prescribes regulations, which limits 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.

Required Additional Health Information

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 (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).

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water:

Public participation and comments are encouraged at committee meetings of the City Council, which meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, as posted in the Tallmadge Express or on the worldwide web at www.tallmadge-ohio.org.

For more information on your drinking water, contact the City of Tallmadge Water Department at (330) 633-0851

How to Read These Tables

This report is based upon tests conducted in the year 2005 by Akron Public Utilities Bureau, as well as the fourth lead and copper triennial monitoring period in 2005 and monthly bacteria and disinfection by-product samples for 2005, conducted by the City of Tallmadge. Terms used in the Water Quality Table and in other parts of this report are defined here.

Definitions of terms contained within this report:

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a tested for contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Range: The range of all values for samples of each contaminant.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

Detected Level: The average level detected of these levels could be the highest single level average of values depending on the contaminant.

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

Parts Per Million (ppm): units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in approximately 11.5 days

Parts per Billion (ppb): units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years

Not Under Ohio EPA Regulation But of General Interest

	Detected Level	Range
Alkalinity	76 mg/L	37 – 103 mg/L
Hardness (metric units)	115 mg/L	64 – 150 mg/L
Hardness English units)	6.7 grains per gallon	3.7 to 8.8 grains per gallon
pH	7.33 units	6.93 – 7.95 units
Orthophosphorus	1.02 mg/L	0.55 – 2.03 mg/L
Total Organic Carbon	2.57 mg/L	1.96 – 3.25 mg/L

Water Quality Table

Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Source	Violation
Inorganic Contaminants								
Copper	2005	ppb	AL=1300	0	250 90% level	<20-400	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits leaching from wood preservatives.	NO
*No samples of the 30 tested for copper exceeded the current action level of 1300 ppb.								
Fluoride	2005	ppm	4	2	1.23	0.76-1.23	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	NO
Lead	2005	ppb	AL=15.0	0	<2.0 ug/L 90% level	2-15	Corrosion of household plumbing system. Erosion of natural deposits.	NO
*No samples of the 30 tested for lead exceeded the current action level of 15 ppb.								
<p>Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).</p>								
Nitrate	2005	ppm	4	2	1.23	0.76-1.23	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion	NO
Microbiological Contaminants								
Turbidity	2005	NTU	TT	n/a	0.593	0.14-0.593	Soil runoff	NO
<p>*Nephelometric Turbidity Units or turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. Akron monitors it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system. The turbidity limit set by EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the daily samples and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, Akron's highest recorded turbidity result for 2005 was 0.593 NTU, and for all months the percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100%. The 0.593 NTU occurrence lasted less than 15 minutes above 0.3 NTU and therefore did not qualify as any period above the 0.3 NTU limit.</p>								
Disinfection By Products								
HAA5 (Five Haloacetic Acids)	2005	ppb	60	n/a	36.3	9-68	By-product of drinking water disinfection	NO
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	2005	ppb	80	n/a	66.9	8.9-191.7	By-product of drinking water disinfection	NO
Volatile Organic Chemicals								
Bromodichloromethane	2005	ppb	n/a	n/a	4.5	4.5	By-product of drinking water disinfection	NO
Bromoform	2005	ppb	n/a	n/a	less than 0.5	less than 0.5	By-product of drinking water disinfection	NO
Chloroform	2005	ppb	n/a	n/a	5.5	5.5	By-product of drinking water disinfection	NO
Dibromochloromethane	2005	ppb	n/a	n/a	1.5	1.5	By-product of drinking water disinfection	NO

For more information, call City of Tallmadge Water/Sewer Department at (330) 633-0851. This report is also available on the World Wide Web at www.tallmadge-ohio.org
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