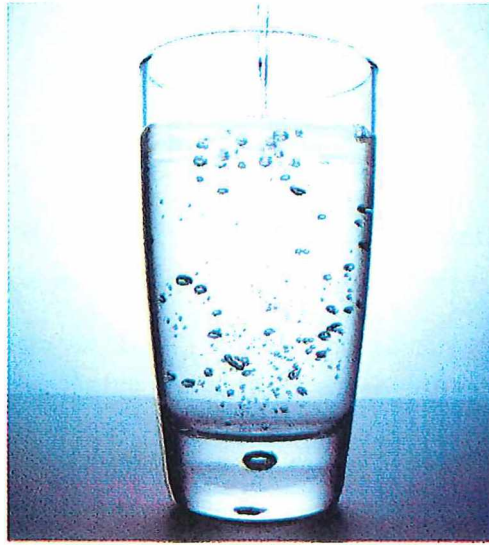
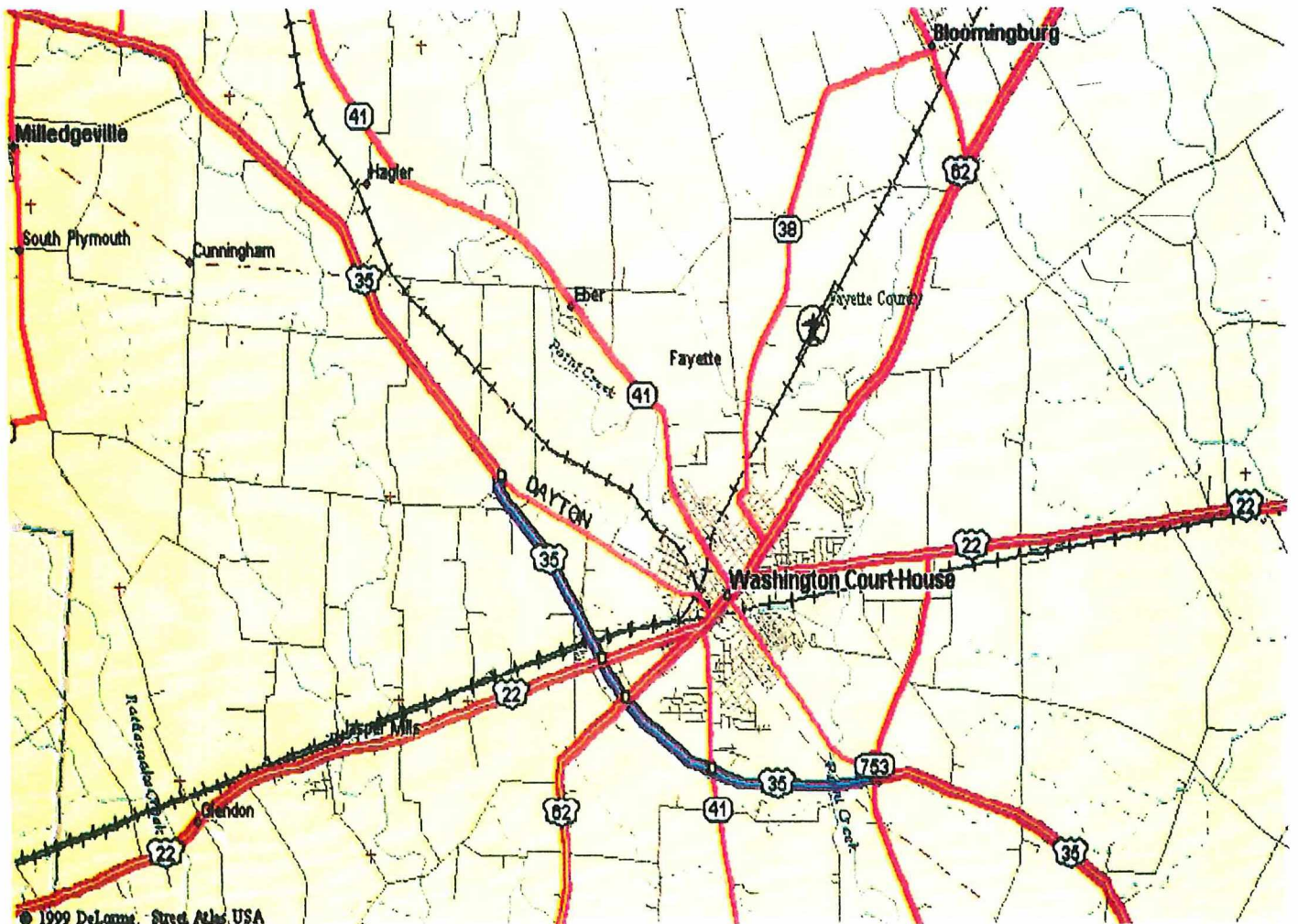


# City of Washington Court House Water Quality Report

*Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for 2023*



*TO ALL RESIDENTS*



# City of Washington Court House Water Consumer Confidence Report For 2023

We are pleased to present this year's report as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The City of Washington Court House is committed to providing a safe, clean, and dependable water product. In 2023 we had an unconditional license to operate our water system.

In the year 2023 here are some highlights of the Water Distribution Crew: 33 new services were added, 17 services were renewed, 38 services were repaired, 7 main line valves repaired, flushed 862 hydrants, 8 hydrants repaired, and 7 hydrants replaced. 12 main break repairs. GIS mapping is still in process. The annual hydrant- flushing program continues to help maintain adequate fire flows and water quality.

The City of Washington Court House has one surface water treatment plant with a 3 million gallon per day design capacity. The process typically introduces lime for softening, chlorine for disinfection and filtration for turbidity removal. The City of Washington Court House public water system uses surface water drawn from Paint Creek as well as ground water pumped from six water supply wells. Paint Creek is a natural flowing stream, winding through several adjacent counties. (Madison, Fayette, Highland & Ross) Approximately, two-thirds of our water needs are supplied by Paint Creek (surface) and the remaining one-third comes from the well field, (ground). Four wells are located in the North-end, behind the water plant and two wells are located on the farm adjacent to the YMCA. Areas around Paint Creek and the well field include a moderate number of potential contaminant sources (mega-dairy farms). **Agricultural runoff is the primary contaminant source.** As a result, the drinking water supplied to the City of Washington Court House is considered to have a high susceptibility to contamination. If you would like more information or a copy of the Source Water Assessment, please contact Quenten Matson or Zach Free at (740)636-2380.

The annual average precipitation for Fayette County is 37.5 inches. The year 2023 was an average year with 35.21 inches of precipitation. Our reservoirs and wells provided a sufficient supply to meet all the City's water demands. The City's wells are used throughout the year to supplement paint creek. Several residential wells were monitored during this time and no impact was recorded.

OAC rule 3745-07-02 requires the holder of a Class III water license be the one in charge of the water treatment plant. The Washington Court House water plant currently meets this requirement, as the plant is staffed with two Class III, one Class II, and three Class I operators. Annual educational credits, mandated by the OEPA, were successfully completed by all plant personnel. All OEPA chemical and bacterial performance studies were passed.

The City of Washington Court House monitors harmful algae blooms (HABs) in both reservoirs. In 2023 no raw or finished water samples have come back with any detections. Consuming water containing concentrations of microcystins over the action level may result in abnormal liver function, diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, numbness, or dizziness. Children younger than school age, pregnant women, nursing mothers, the elderly, immune-compromised individuals, those with pre-existing liver conditions and those receiving dialysis treatment may be more susceptible than the general population to the health effects of microcystins.

Some complaints were associated with the aesthetics of water quality. Taste, odor, and color become more apparent with main flushing and warm water algae blooms. The flushing of dead-end mains, increased carbon dosage, and reservoir treatment will usually eliminate the problem. The operation of the new reservoir has also contributed to higher water quality.

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.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Hot Line (1-800-426-4791).

Contaminants that may be present in untreated source water include:

- A. **Microbial** contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, 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.

MCLs (maximum contaminant levels) are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a **1-in- a- million** chance of having the described health effects. 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**).

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. During 2023, the Washington Water Dept. conducted sampling for bacteria, inorganic, synthetic organic, volatile organic chemicals, and phytoplankton. Samples were collected for different contaminants, most of which were not detected in the municipal water supply. No contaminants were detected at levels that exceeded federal standards. In addition, the local water staff collects and analyzes over 60 water quality control samples daily to ensure quality and stability throughout the system. All City of Washington Court House drinking water met EPA standards. The table included in this report lists only the detected constituents in your drinking water. 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, is more than one year old.

## TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Disinfectant and Disinfectant By-Products							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	.93	.77-1.05	No	2023	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	12.43	0.0-10.8	No	2023	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	NA	80	37.77	20.1-51.8	No	2023	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity							
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT	0.24	0.03- 0.24	No	2023	Soil Run-Off
Turbidity (% meeting standard)*	NA	TT	100%	100%	No	2023	Soil Run-Off
TOC** (mg/L)	NA	TT	3.83	2.96-3.83	No	2023	Naturally Present in the Environment
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.418	NA	No	2023	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	.47	0 – .47	No	2023	Run off from fertilizer use, Leaching from septic tanks, sewerage; Erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants							
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0 pCi/L	15 pCi/L	3.66	3.66	No	2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead and Copper							
Contaminants (units)	Action Level (AL)	Individual Results over the AL	90% of test levels were less than	Violation	Sample Year	Typical source of Contami-nants	
Lead (ppb)	15 ppb	NA	0	No	2022	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	
	-0 out of 30 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb.						
Copper (ppm)	1.3 ppm	NA	0.059	No	2022	Erosions of natural deposits; leaching from wood preserva-tives; Corrosions of household plumbing systems	
	-0 out of 30 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the copper action level of 1.3 ppm.						
Unregulated Contaminants							
Chloroform (ppb)	NA	NA	27.5	6.8-27.5	No	2023	Byproduct of Drinking Water Chlorination
Bromo-dicholorometh-ane (ppb)	NA	NA	14.8	6.6-14.8	No	2023	Byproduct of Drinking Water Chlorination
Dibromo- chlorometh-ane (ppb)	NA	NA	8.3	3.8-8.3	No	2023	Byproduct of Drinking Water Chlorination
Synthetic Contaminates							
Atrazine (ppb)	NA	3	.18	.18	No	2023	Run-off from Herbicide

\*Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. It may interfere with the disinfect properties of chlorine and hide certain bacterial contaminants. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the daily samples and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, the City of Washington's highest recorded turbidity result for 2023 was 0.24 NTU and the lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100%. The yearly turbidity average was .10, all required samples were collected and analyzed, with no violations.

\*\*The value reported under "Level Found" for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is the lowest ratio between percentages of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value greater than one indicated that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than 1 indicated a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

**About Lead:** “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 Washington Court House Water 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 your drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead> or 1-800-426-4791. For your information, The City of Washington Court House Water Department has been in compliance with all EPA requirements concerning lead action levels (15 ppm). Without exception, all lead detects have been the result of internal plumbing. (Ex. New faucets or other water devices containing lead washers or lead solder)

**About Alpha Emitters:** Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**About Nitrates:** Nitrate is a chemical used in land fertilization and Fayette County has a large agricultural industry. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. Nitrates in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm are a health risk for infants less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider. To minimize the concentrations of nitrates and ensure a high quality of drinking water we pump only low nitrate source water into the reservoirs. This diversion policy also reduces the impact of any agricultural pesticide or herbicide. The highest level detected during 2023 was .47 ppm. (10 ppm is the MCL)

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#### **Definitions of terms and abbreviations used in the chart above:**

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the level of a contaminant below which there is no known or expected health risk. 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.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): level of disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumers tap.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDGL) the level of disinfectant below which there is no known or expected health risk. MRDLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- Action Level (AL): the concentration which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Treatment Technique (TT): a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water
- Parts per Million (ppm): or milligrams (mg/l) per liter 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 (ug/l) per liter are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.
- < 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.
- NTU: nephelometric turbidity unit; a measure of particles in water.
- pCi/L: picocuries per liter is a measure of radiation, or one trillionth of curie.

Do you desire more information on the Washington Court House Water System? We encourage participation with our public water system. City Council meetings are regularly scheduled on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

**For further information you may contact the water department directly at the following telephone number 636-2382 or the Safe Drinking Hot Line at 1-800-426-4791.**