

DRINKING WATER QUALITY

BACKGROUND

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.

Drinking water quality is a function of the source from which water is drawn and the treatment it receives. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets regulatory limits for certain contaminants in water supplied by public water systems in order to protect public health.

- 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.
- Drinking water quality is assured through scheduled tests required of all public community water systems for a wide variety of potential contaminants.
- The Marlboro Water Utility meets all Federal and State Drinking Water requirements and regulations for contaminant 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), a copy of this report was mailed out in May of this year and can also be viewed at http://www.marlboro-nj.gov/water/Marlboro_Water_Quality_Report_2018.pdf Each community water system is required to provide this report to its customers. The report provides information on your drinking water quality, including the water's source, contaminants found in the water and how consumers can help protect the drinking water supply.

FAQs

- **How do contaminants get into my drinking water?**

There can be many sources of contamination of water systems. The most common sources 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)
- **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 our public water system test our drinking water?**

The frequency of drinking water testing depends on the number of people served, the type of water source 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. That said, if you are concerned about changes in your water, contact the Marlboro Water Utility at (732) 536-0200 or keifert@marlboro-nj.gov.

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

If you wish to have your water tested, please 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.

- **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.

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

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