



2015 Consumer Confidence Report

What is the source of my water?

The City of Stow purchases its potable water from the City of Akron. This surface water is taken from the Upper Cuyahoga River, via three impounding reservoirs. Water is stored and released from two upstream reservoirs; the Wendell R. LaDue and East Branch, both located in Geauga County. These serve to supplement the Lake Rockwell Reservoir, located in Franklin Township, Portage County. Water is taken from Lake Rockwell, for treatment at the Lake Rockwell Treatment Plant, and pumped to Stow via a transmission main along North River Road. Water is received at the Marsh Road and North Main Street (Munroe Falls) Booster Pump Stations. It is then distributed throughout our system. The Stow Public Water System serves over 34,000 residents, via 155+ miles of water main, and 13,000 individual service taps within the City. The Stow Public Water System has been licensed to operate a public water system through the Ohio EPA since 2001. The City of Stow has a current, unconditioned license to operate.

What are possible sources of contamination to my water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791**. The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, streams, ponds reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land, or percolates down through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present include:

- A. **Microbials**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- B. **Inorganics**, such as salts and metals which can be naturally-occurring or the result of industrial or domestic discharges, oil and gas production, storm water run-off, farming, or mining.
- C. **Pesticides and Herbicides**, which come from a variety of sources, including agricultural and urban storm water run-off, and residential uses.
- D. **Organic Chemicals**, these include synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, also from gas stations, storm water run-off, and septic systems.
- E. **Radioactives**, which can be naturally-occurring or from oil and gas production and mining activities.

To insure the safety of our tap water, the EPA regulates the limits for each contaminant that may be found in public water systems. The FDA regulates contaminant limits in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for the public health.

Who needs 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 and undergoing chemo therapy, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, as well as some elderly persons and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. The EPA and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) offer guidelines on the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants by calling the **Safe Water Drinking Hotline at (800) 426-4791 Keeping tabs on water quality.**

The EPA requires public water systems to perform routine testing to insure the safety and quality of its drinking water. The City of Stow conducts routine bacteria sampling, at a rate of forty (40) samples per month, from designated, EPA approved, test sites throughout the city. Sampling for the calendar year of 2015 showed negative results for *coliform bacteria*. On July 15, 2015, the system exceeded its allowable number of total coliform bacteria positive results. Repeat samples from this site, taken July 16th, showed results were negative. The positive sample resulted from the mishandling of the initial sample and no further action was required.

Total Coliform Bacteria: Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

The following tables represent various substances found in your drinking water during the year 2015. Some test results are supplied by the City of Akron, which maintains a state-of-the-art laboratory to monitor drinking water quality. Many other substances are routinely tested for, though not listed below. You may rest assured that those substances not listed were not found in your drinking water. For a complete list of test results, contact the **Akron Public Utilities Bureau, (330) 375-2651**. This report is also available on the internet at <http://www.ci.akron.oh.us>

How to Read the Table

MCL or Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible, using the best available treatment technologies.

MCLG or Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.

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

Detected Level: The **average level** detected of a contaminant for comparison against the acceptance levels for each parameter. These levels could be the highest single measurement, or an average of values, depending on the contaminant. (N.D. means None Detected)

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

Contaminant	Year Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Violation	Major Source
Copper	2015 (3 yr cycle)	ppm	1.3 Action Level	1.3 Action Level	.132	.005 to .141	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	2015 (3 yr cycle)	ppm	15 Action Level	0	.005	.005 to .141	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits.
		One of 30 samples was found to have a lead level in excess of the Action Level of 15						
Fluoride	2015	ppm	4	4	1.02	.78 to 1.25	NO	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive promoting stronger teeth, discharges from fertilizer/aluminum factories.
HAA5 Five Haloacetic Acids	2015	ug/l	60	N/A	27.65	20 to 56.6	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes	2015	ug/l	80	N/A	31.68	3.8 to 65.6	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violations	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminants
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	TT	0.14	0.04-0.14	No	2015	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (% meeting standard)	N/A	TT	100%	100% - 100%	No	2015	
Total Organic Carbon (compliance ratio)		TT	1.46	1.23 - 1.81	No	2015	Naturally present in the environment
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.045	NA	No	2015	Discharge of drilling waste; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.02	0.78 - 1.25	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.66	0.01 - 0.66	No	2015	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.18	0.66 - 1.10	No	2015	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	MRDLG = 800	MRDL = 800	340	10 - 340	No	2015	Water additive used to control microbes
Alkalinity	83 mg/L			42 - 118 mg/L			
Hardness (English units)	7 grains per gallon			4 - 9 grains per gallon			
pH	7.2			6.9 - 7.9 units			
Total Organic Carbon	2.84 mg/L			1.9 - 3.73 mg/l			

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 Stow Public Water system 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 800-426-4791** or on the internet at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Where to Call:

Accounts & Billing (330) 689-2889

Permits & Inspections (330) 689-2719

Distribution (330) 689-2911

After-Hours Emergency (330) 689-5700