

2005 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) Pump Stations. It is then distributed throughout our system. The Stow Public Water System serves approximately 33, 000 residents, via 13,000 service taps within the City.

What are 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 on 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 thirty (30) per month, from designated test sites throughout the city. All sampling for the calendar year of 2005 showed negative results for *coliform bacteria*.

The following table represents the substances found in your drinking water during the year 2005. 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 World Wide Web 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.

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

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (**mg/L**)

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (**ug/L**)

N/A: not applicable

