

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Covington

2009 Water Quality Report

Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. As you'll see in the following chart, we only detected 6 of these contaminants. We found all of these contaminants at safe levels.

What is the source of my water?

Your water, which is ground water, comes from the sand aquifer (water bearing zone). Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water source to potential contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water sources serving water this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to potential contamination. To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible (high), moderately susceptible (moderate), or slightly susceptible (low) based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The Covington Water System sources rated as reasonably susceptible to potential contamination. An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed online at www.tn.gov/environment/dws/dwassess.shtml or you may contact the Water System to obtain copies of specific assessments.

Why are there contaminants in my water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Community water systems are required to disclose the detection of contaminants; however, bottled water companies are not required to comply with this regulation. 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 (800-426-4791).

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?

The State and EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

Other Information

Due to all water containing dissolved contaminants, occasionally your water may exhibit slight discoloration. We strive to maintain the standards to prevent this. We at Covington Water Treatment Plant work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Do I Need 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 under-gone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

How can I get involved?

Our City Board meets at 5:30 P.M. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the City Hall. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

For more information about your drinking water, please call Harvey Wilson at 475-4965.

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

W a t e r Q u a l i t y D a t a

What does this chart mean?

- MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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.
- MCL: 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 one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect
- MRDL: Maximum residential Disinfectant Level – the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
- MRDLG: Maximum residential Disinfectant Level Goal – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- BDL – Below Detection Limit

Discretionary language regarding the use of averages to report levels of some contaminants.

- AL: Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Non-Detects (ND): laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- N/A: Not Applicable
- Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l): explained as a relation to time and money as one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter: explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- TT: Treatment Technique or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

About the data: Most of the data presented in this table is from testing done between January and December of 2009. We monitor for some contaminants less than once per year and for those contaminants, the data of the last sample is shown in the table.

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	No	1.3 ppm (Average)	0.1 – 1.30 ppm	2009	4	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Trihalo-methanes	No	6.56 ppb	N/A	8/17/09	N/A	80 ppb	Byproducts formed by the disinfection process
Sodium	No	7.7 ppm	N/A	8/22/08	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	90 th % = 0.076 ppm	N/A	July 2-16th, 08	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	No	90 th % = 2.0 ppb	N/A	July 2-16th, 08	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	No	2.7 ppm	0.9 – 2.7 ppm	2009	MRDLG =4 ppm	MRDL =4 ppm	Drinking water disinfectant

Lead and Copper: We had 0 out of 30 sites exceed the lead action level and 0 sites exceed the copper action level.

Iron: Iron occurs naturally in our raw water and occasionally accumulates in the distribution system. Iron shows up as "red" or "rusty" water at your tap. Although you do not want to drink water that is not clear, iron is not considered to be a hazard to your health. We test for iron daily and it is usually around 0.02 ppm. The aesthetic limit for iron is 0.3 ppm.

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 Covington 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>