ONTELAUNEE TOWNSHIP
PWSID #3060098

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Water Testing Performed in 2024

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda.
(This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.)

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 human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can naturally occur or result from urban stormwater run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater run-off and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater run-off and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and DEP prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and DEP 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 the 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).

Information 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. Ontelaunee Township 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*.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-comprised persons such as a person with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from 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).

2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report of Ontelaunee Township

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. The Reading Water Authority (RAWA) and Ontelaunee Township routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State Laws. The table shows the results of this monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2024. The State allows 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 is from prior years in accordance with the Safe Water Drinking Act. The date has been noted on the sampling results table. Our water source comes from RAWA. Lake Ontelaunee is the RAWA water source. The water is collected by RAWA and is tested by both RAWA and Ontelaunee Township.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact us at 610-926-4240. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you want to learn more, please attend our regularly scheduled monthly meetings. They are held on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M. at the Ontelaunee Township Municipal Building.

Chemical Contaminant (unit of measurement)	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm) (Monthly Average of Distribution System) *	MRDL 4.0	MRDLG 4.0	2.61	0.99 – 2.61	Sept 2024	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids ** (HAA5) (ppb)	60	N/A	**** 38.9	19.6 – 38.9	Oct 2024	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb) ***	80	N/A	**** 63.3	20.1 – 63.3	Oct 2024	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Inorganic Chemicals (IOCS)

Chemical Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Fluoride (ppm)	^^2	4	0.85	0.37 – 0.85	Nov 2024	N	Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
Nitrate as Nitrogen (ppm)	10	10	0	0 – 3.88	Dec 2024	N	Runoff from fertilizer use.
Cyanide (ppm)	0.2	N/A	0.038	0 – 0.038	Jul 2022	N	Discharge from steel/metal factories & plastic and fertilizer factories.
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	18	14	2.9	0 – 2.9	Dec 2024	N	Industrial and consumer products; clothing, carpeting, food packaging, non-stick cookware, firefighting foam, personal care products, adhesives, metal plating, wire manufacturing.
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)	14	8	6.6	4.1 – 6.6	Dec 2024	N	
Perfluorononanoic acid (ppt)	*****10	10	2.5	0 – 2.5	Dec 2024	N	
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBAS) (ppt)	N/A	N/A	5.6	3.5 – 5.6	Dec 2024	N	

* Based on the monthly average of all the individual sites tested.

** Some people who drink water containing Haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

*** Some people who drink water containing Trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**** Based on a running annual average.

^^ EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

***** EPA's MCL which is enforceable in 2029. Pennsylvania has not yet set a limit for this contaminant.

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual

Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	0.20	1.3	1.3 – 3.96	Nov 2024	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Lead and Copper							
Contaminant	**Action Level (AL)**	**MCLG**	**90th Percentile Value**	**# of Sites above AL of Total Sites**	**Sample Date**	**Violation Y/N**	**Sources of Contamination**
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.091	0 out of 30	Sept 2022	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Lead (ppb)	15	0	0	0 out of 30	Sept 2022	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Microbial Contaminants	**TT**	**Number of Level 2 Assessments triggered by an E. coli MCL**	**Number of Level 2 Assessments triggered by Multiple Level 1 Assessments**	**Violation Y/N**	**Sources of Contamination**
Total Coliform Bacteria	Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments or correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement.	N/A	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

RAWA is required, based on population served, to do 90 bacteriological samples per month. In July 2024, 2 routine samples out of 106 confirmed to be positive for total coliform.
*E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly and people with severely compromised immune systems.

Contaminant	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Sample Date**	**Violation Y/N**	**Sources of Contamination**
Turbidity	TT = 1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.168 NTU	Aug 2024	N	Soil runoff.
	TT = at least 95% of monthly samples ≤ 0.3 NTU		100%	N/A	N	

Radionuclides						
Chemical Contaminant	**MCL in CCR units**	**MCLG**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Sample Date**	**Violation Y/N**	**Sources of Contamination**
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	5	0	0.56	Aug 2019	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha	15	0	0.593	Mar 2023	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Total Organic Carbon (TOC)

Percent removal range required for TOC is 0 – 35%. The percent removal achieved by RAWA in 2024 is 33.3% – 48.6%.

Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs)

We were not required to monitor for SOCs in 2024.

What's In My Water?

In the summary table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms and abbreviations we've provided you with the following definitions:

Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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 Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL) - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

Level 1 Assessment – *A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.*

Level 2 Assessment – *A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.*

Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

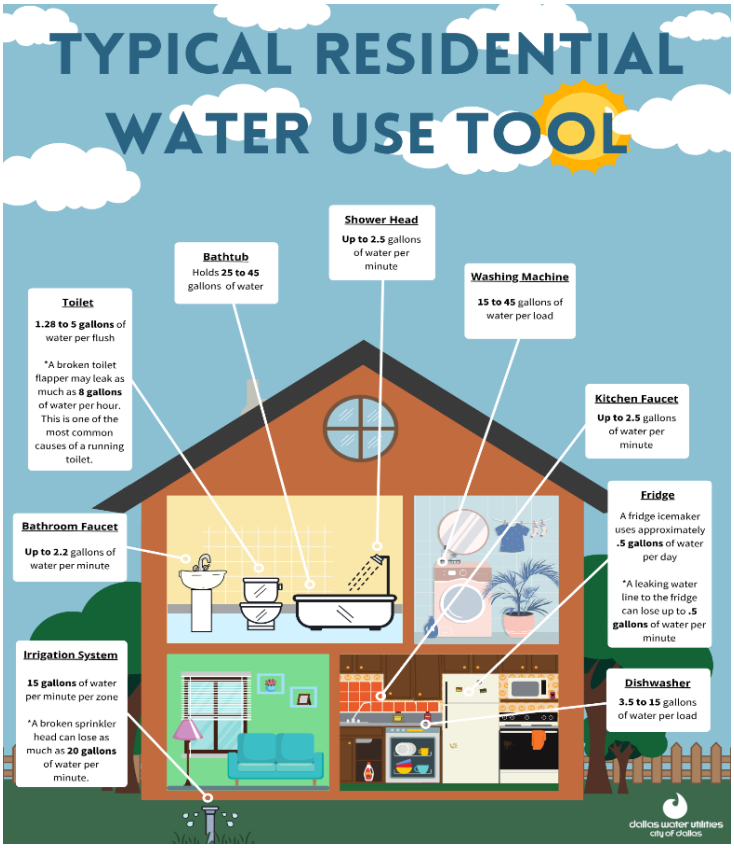
Mrem/year = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) ***ppq*** = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) ***ppt*** = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

How Do We Use Drinking Water In Our Homes?



We take our drinking water supplies for granted; yet they are limited. Only about 3% of Earth's water is fresh water, with only approximately 1% suitable for drinking. The remainder is stored in glaciers, ice caps, permafrost, or deep underground. Rivers and streams primarily serve as sources for most of our drinking water.

The average American uses 82 gallons of water each day home. Toilets, showers, and faucets account for most of the water consumption at home.

- Toilets in the average home use 33 gallons of water per day.
- Showers and faucets account for 27 gallons each day.
- Leaks cause approximately 18 wasted gallons of water every day.

The EPA suggests that installing water-efficient fixtures and appliances can help reduce water consumption by 20%. Here are some statistics from the EPA about reducing water consumption.

- Nationwide, household leaks contribute to an estimated waste of nearly 900 billion gallons of water annually.
- By running the dishwasher once a week instead of twice, a family can save 320 gallons of water annually.
- Turning off the tap while brushing your teeth and shaving can save about 5,700 gallons of water a year if done regularly.
- Allowing the faucet to run for five minutes while washing dishes can squander 10 gallons of water!
- If the average-sized lawn in the US is watered continuously for 20 minutes daily over seven days, it is equivalent to running a shower continuously for four days or taking more than 800 showers!