



Water Quality Report for 2011



The City of Oxford Water Treatment Plant began producing water in 1991. Routine operation removes iron and manganese, adds fluoride to help prevent tooth decay, and chlorinates to kill bacteria. The City of Oxford (Oxford) water system receives its drinking water from wells located in the federally designated Sole Source Aquifer of the Greater Miami Valley. The well fields are developed north and east of Oxford. Oxford has a current, unconditional license issued by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) to operate its water system (License No. OH 0902312-841721-2012, effective until January 30, 2013).

What are possible sources of contamination to drinking water?

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 due to the presence of animals and/or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring, or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. eastern-time weekdays (excluding national holidays), or on the internet by visiting <http://water.epa.gov/drink>. Internet access is available at most public libraries.

Who needs to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Guidelines from the USEPA and the Center for Disease Control 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). While some people prefer bottled or home treated water, these are not necessarily safer than tap water. The safety of any water depends on its source and treatment. For more information about bottled water, please contact the FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition Safe Food Information Line (1-888-723-3366) between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. eastern time weekdays (excluding national holidays), or visit <http://www.fda.gov/Food/default.htm>. Sources of information concerning home treatment devices can be obtained from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Lead-specific information

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. Oxford 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 thirty seconds to two 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. A list of laboratories certified in the State of Ohio to test for lead may be found at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw> or by calling the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) at 1-614-644-2752. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or by visiting <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead>.



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City of Oxford Drinking Water Quality Information Enclosed

About Your Drinking Water

The United States Environmental Protection Agency requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. Water samples are analyzed for bacteria, inorganic, radiological, synthetic organic, volatile organic, and disinfection by-product contaminants on a contaminant-specific monitoring schedule in accordance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Samples were collected for all regulated and many unregulated contaminants, most of which were not detected in the City of Oxford (Oxford) water supply; those which were detected are listed in this document. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) requires that Oxford monitor for some contaminants less than once per year, as the concentrations of these possible contaminants do not change frequently. The Miami Conservancy District and the Ohio EPA conduct additional monitoring of untreated water at Oxford well sites. Information about source water protection and water monitoring analytical results may be obtained at <http://www.miamiconservancy.org>, (1-937-223-1271) between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays (excluding national holidays), or <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw>, (1-800-686-8930) between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays (excluding national holidays). Internet access is available at most public libraries. You may receive additional assistance by contacting Mr. David Weihrauch, Oxford's Water Treatment Plant Manager, at telephone number 1-513-523-1753.