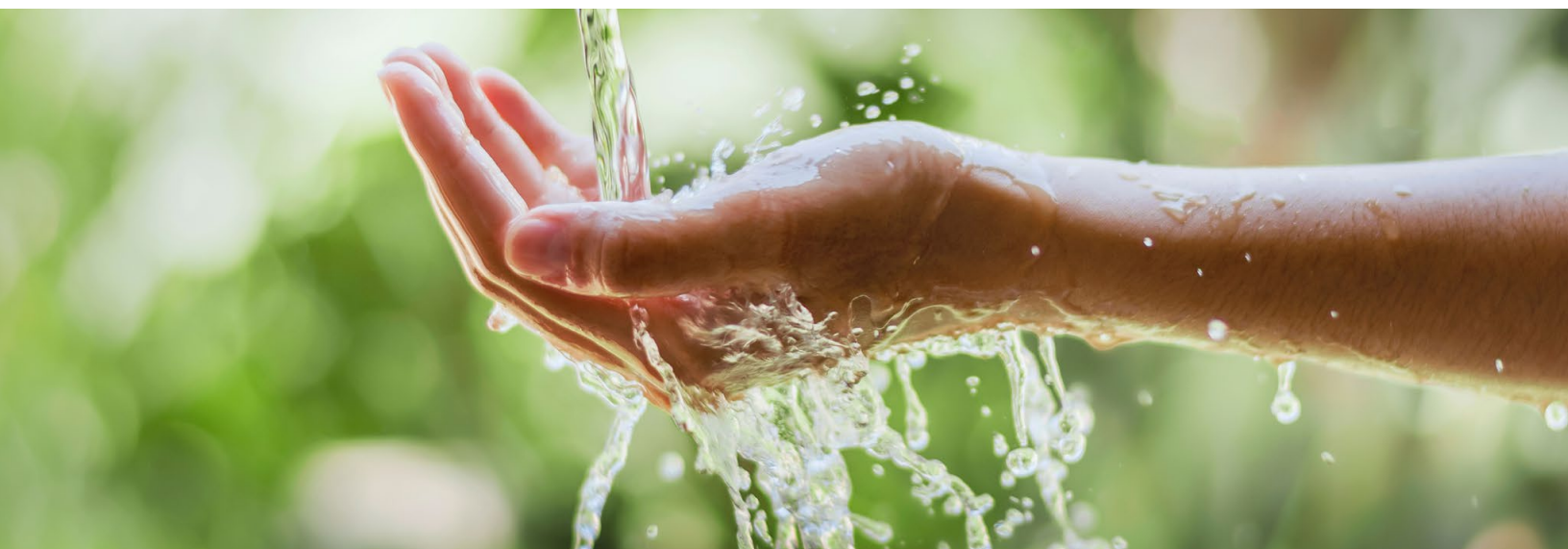




# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023



*Presented By*  
City of Middletown



PWS ID#:0901712



## Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. Included are details about your source of drinking water, what it contains, and how it compares to the high standards set by regulatory agencies. The City of Middletown is committed to supplying high-quality drinking water, continually improving the water treatment process, and protecting our invaluable water resources.

## How Do I Participate in Decisions Concerning My Drinking Water?

Public participation and comments are encouraged at regular city council meetings, which are held the first and third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the lower-level Council Chambers of the City Building. Please visit [cityofmiddletown.org](http://cityofmiddletown.org) or call (513) 425-7864 for more information.



“When the well is dry, we know the worth of water.”  
—Benjamin Franklin

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 at (800) 426-4791 or [water.epa.gov/drink/hotline](http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline).



## FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)

You may not be aware of it, but every time you pour fat, oil, or grease (FOG) down your sink (e.g., bacon grease), you are contributing to a costly problem in the sewer collection system. FOG coats the inner walls of the plumbing in your house as well as the walls of underground piping throughout the community. Over time, these greasy materials build up and form blockages in pipes, which can lead to wastewater backing up into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains. These backups allow FOG to contaminate local waters, including drinking water. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public health hazard. FOG discharged into septic systems and drain fields can also cause malfunctions, resulting in more frequent tank pump-outs and other expenses.

Communities spend billions of dollars every year to unplug or replace grease-blocked pipes, repair pump stations, and clean up costly and illegal wastewater spills. Here are some tips that you and your family can follow to help maintain a well-run system now and in the future:

### NEVER:

Pour FOG down the house or storm drains.

Dispose of food scraps by flushing them.

Use the toilet as a wastebasket.

### ALWAYS:

Scrape and collect FOG into a waste container such as an empty coffee can, and dispose of it with your garbage.

Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid wastes.

Place a wastebasket in each bathroom for solid wastes like disposable diapers, creams and lotions, and personal hygiene products, including nonbiodegradable wipes.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Scott Belcher, Treatment Plant Manager, at (513) 425-7781.



## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

**Microbial Contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

**Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, 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 runoff, and residential uses;

**Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

**Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Source Water Description

Your drinking water comes from the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer. Groundwater production wells produce up to 20 million gallons of drinking water per day. The untreated well water is pumped to the water treatment plant, where it is softened using lime, disinfected with chlorine, and then filtered using dual-media water filters. Fluoride is also added to the water as a measure to prevent tooth decay. Middletown maintains established water supply connections with Warren County, Southwest Regional Water District, and the City of Monroe. These emergency connections are available in extraordinary conditions such as drought, source failure, line breaks, fires, and other periods of unusually high water demand.



## Tip Top Tap

The most common signs that your faucet or sink is affecting the quality of your drinking water are discolored water, sink or faucet stains, a buildup of particles, unusual odors or tastes, and a reduced flow of water. The solutions to these problems may be in your hands.

### Kitchen Sink and Drain

Handwashing, soap scum buildup, and the handling of raw meats and vegetables can contaminate your sink. Clogged drains can lead to unclean sinks and backed-up water in which bacteria (i.e., pink or black slime growth) can grow and contaminate the sink area and faucet, causing a rotten egg odor. Disinfect and clean the sink and drain area regularly and flush with hot water.

### Faucets, Screens, and Aerators

Chemicals and bacteria can splash and accumulate on the faucet screen and aerator, which are located on the tip of faucets and can collect particles like sediment and minerals, resulting in a decreased flow from the faucet. Clean and disinfect the aerators or screens on a regular basis.

Check with your plumber if you find particles in the faucet screen, as they could be pieces of plastic from the hot water heater dip tube. Faucet gaskets can break down and cause black, oily slime. If you find this slime, replace the faucet gasket with a higher-quality product. White scaling or hard deposits on faucets and showerheads may be caused by water with high levels of calcium carbonate. Clean these fixtures with vinegar or use water softening to reduce the calcium carbonate levels for the hot water system.

### Water Filtration/Treatment Devices

A smell of rotten eggs can be a sign of bacteria on the filters or in the treatment system. The system can also become clogged over time, so regular filter replacement is important. (Remember to replace your refrigerator filter!)

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. The water we deliver must meet specific health standards to comply with Safe Water Drinking Act state and federal regulations. Substances detected are listed in this report, along with their respective maximum allowed levels.

Note that we have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)		YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE	
Barium (ppm)		2023	2	2	0.0665	0.5675–0.885	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	
Chlorine (ppm)		2023	[4]	[4]	0.762	0.57–0.89	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
Fluoride (ppm)		2023	4	4	0.91	0.81–1.00	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)		2023	3	NA	1.49	NA	No	NA	
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 1 (ppb)		2023	60	NA	6.3	ND–6.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Nitrate (ppm)		2023	10	10	1.1	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Radium 228 (pCi/L)		2023	1	NA	0.537	NA	No	NA	
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 1 (ppb)		2023	80	NA	19.0	18.6–19.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)		YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2022	1.3	1.3	0.0465	0.002–0.0762	0/32	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead (ppb)	2022	15	0	0.9114	0.1–2.11	0/32	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits	
UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)		YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE				
Nickel (ppb)	2023	2.9	NA	Naturally occurring					

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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.

**MCLG (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.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** 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.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** 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.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

## Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 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 Ohio to test for lead may be found at [epa.ohio.gov/ddagw](http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw) or by calling (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 at (800) 426-4791 or [epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Count on Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water.
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions.
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results.
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry.
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels.
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies.
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

## Source Water Assessment

Protecting our water source is one important way the City of Middletown limits contaminants in our drinking water. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) completed a study of the City of Middletown's source of drinking water to determine its susceptibility. According to this study, the aquifer (water-rich zone) that supplies water to the City of Middletown has a high susceptibility to contamination. This determination is based on the following:

- Lack of a protective layer of clay overlying the aquifer.
- Shallow depth (less than 15 feet below ground surface) of the aquifer.
- The presence of significant potential contaminant sources in the protection area.
- Past detection of human-made contaminants in Middletown's aquifer.

The risk of future contamination is minimized by implementing appropriate protective measures. The City of Middletown has developed and implemented a comprehensive Wellhead/Source Water Protection Plan to help prevent potential contamination from entering the aquifer. The protection plan contains an educational component, source control strategies, a contingency and emergency response plan, and groundwater monitoring strategies. For a copy of this report and CCR, more information about the source water assessment, or information about what consumers can do to help protect the aquifer, please call (513) 425-1860 or (513) 425-7781.

