

2017 Columbus AFB Drinking Water Quality Report

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Spanish (Espanol)

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuniquese con alguien que pueda traducir la informacion.

Is my water safe?

We continually monitor our drinking water for contaminants. Our water is safe to drink. Columbus AFB did not receive any drinking water violations from either The State Of Mississippi or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight (BEF) is responsible for monitoring drinking water quality on Columbus Air Force Base. Since the base purchases its drinking water, the city of Columbus fulfills most of the EPA mandated monitoring requirements. In addition to the monitoring that is completed by the city of Columbus, BEF personnel sample for bacteriological contaminants, disinfectant and disinfectant byproduct contaminants, lead, and copper. BEF accomplishes this additional monitoring because each of these contaminants may be affected by the characteristics of the distribution system on the installation. The contaminants monitored only by the city are affected primarily by the quality of the source water and do not change as the water moves from the city's distribution system

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised 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 can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The base water supply is treated and distributed by Columbus Light and Water Company (CL&W). The water is drawn from eight wells supplied by the Coker Aquifer, a groundwater source, and is stored in various places on base, e.g. water towers. No further treatment is done by base personnel.

Source water assessment and its availability

The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. This source water assessment can be found in the Columbus Light and Water July 2015 newsletter.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Contact Information

If you have any questions, please contact Columbus Light and Water at: 662-328-7192, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM. If you want to learn more, please attend any of Columbus Light and Water's regularly scheduled meetings. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 12:30 PM at 420 Fourth Avenue South (CL&W Main Office). Answers to questions about Columbus AFB water can also be directed to BEF at 434-2284 or 434-2285.

Additional Information for 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. Columbus Air Force Base 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>.

Fluoridation

To comply with the "Regulation Governing Fluoridation of the Community Water Supplies, Columbus Light & Water is required to report certain results pertaining to the fluoridation of the water system. The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within optimal range of 0.7-1.3 ppm was 12. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.7-1.3 ppm was 100%.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table, you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the definitions below the table.

<u>Contaminants</u>	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	<u>Typical Source</u>
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	<6.0	NA	NA	2017	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	3.88	NA	NA	2017	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	1.30	0.21	1.8	2017	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0089	NA		2016	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Antimony (ppm)	0.006	0.006	<0.0005	NA		2016	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder

Arsenic (ppm)	NA	0.010	<0.0005	NA		2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Beryllium (ppm)	0.004	0.004	<0.0005	NA		2016	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cyanide (ppm)	0.2	0.2	<0.015	NA		2015	No	Discharge from steel metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Cadmium (ppm)	0.005	0.005	<0.0005	NA		2016	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; Runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium (ppm)	0.1	0.1	<0.0005	NA		2016	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Mercury (ppm)	0.002	0.002	<0.0005	NA		2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Dis charge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland

Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.625	NA		2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Selenium (ppm)	0.05	0.05	<0.0025	NA		2016	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Thallium (ppm)	0.002	0.002	<0.0005	NA		2016	No	Leaching from ore-processing sites; Discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.08	0.08	0.08	2016	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	0.02	0.02	0.02	2016	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	0	0	NA	NA	2017	No	Naturally present in the environment

Radioactive Contaminants							
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	0.41	NA	2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.504	NA	2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	1.05	NA	2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exc AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	<1.3	2015	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	<15	2015	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	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.
MCL	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variations and Exemptions	Variations and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

For more information please contact:

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