Drinking Water Regulations:

USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) 673-8010

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA):

www.fda.gov

info@nsf.org

Organic chemical contaminants, including byproducts of industrial processes and septic systems; and

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. As a result, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency regulates source water protection.

For More Information
GCWW Drinking Water:
(513) 591-7700 or visit www.cincinnati-oh.gov
GCWW has a Teacher Resource Center — ORSANCO, EARLY WARNING DETECTION SYSTEM — OHIO RIVER (Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission)

Thirteen monitoring stations, strategically placed along the Ohio River, detect and warn treatment plants of potential contamination on the river. Established in 1978, this coordinated early warning system was the first of its kind in the country.

ORSANCO, the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission, was established by the Clean Water Act of 1977. ORSANCO monitors water quality in the Ohio River basin and provides early warning of contamination upstream, allowing nearby treatment plants to take precautionary actions. ORSANCO collaborates with other organizations to ensure a clean, safe environment for the Ohio River.

To reduce the potential of contamination in its source water, GCWW has helped establish two environmental protection programs:

1. GCWW’s Source Water Protection Program: GCWW works closely with local governments to protect groundwater and surface water sources from contamination.
2. ORSANCO’s Early Warning Detection System — Ohio River: GCWW monitors water quality in the Ohio River and alerts other treatment plants of potential contamination.

Source Water Protection

Our state-of-the-art treatment processes protect our water from harmful contaminants.

Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) provides a plentiful supply of the highest quality drinking water to more than 1.1 million people in parts of Hamilton, Butler, Warren and Clermont Counties in Ohio and Boone County, Kentucky.

Greater Cincinnati Water Works
4727 Spring Grove Avenue
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45232

Contact Us
GCWW has a current unconditional license to operate our water system. For more information about water quality, customer billing, or to request additional copies or submit comments about this report, call (513) 591-7700.

Visit Us Online
www.cincinnati-oh.gov/gcww

Just for Teachers
GCWW has a Teacher Resource Center full of educational materials and resources.

Participate in Water Decisions
You may attend any of the following meetings:
• City of Cincinnati Council
Call (513) 352-3246 or visit www.cincinnati-oh.gov
• Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium
Call (513) 785-2464
• OKI Regional Council of Governments Groundwater Committee
Call (513) 621-6300
• ORSANCO
Call (513) 231-7779 or visit www.orsanco.org

City of Cincinnati is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.
This report meets the Ohio and USEPA’s National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for Consumer Confidence Reports.

Where your water comes from
GCWW supplies water from two sources: the Ohio River and the Great Miami Aquifer. Surface water from the Ohio River is treated at the Miller Treatment Plant. This plant, located on the east side of Hamilton County, supplies about 88% of drinking water to GCWW’s customers.

In 2012 GCWW used 0.1 million gallons of water, during a two hour time period, from an emergency connection supplied by Clermont County Water Resources. A copy of their Consumer Confidence Report can be obtained by calling (513) 752-7970.
Water Quality for Consumer Confidence Reports. This report meets the Ohio and USEPA’s National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. City of Cincinnati is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

You may attend any of the following meetings:
- City of Cincinnati Council: Call (513) 352-3246 or visit www.cincinnati-oh.gov
- City of Cincinnati City Council: Call (513) 591-7700 or email info@nsf.org
- City of Cincinnati City Council: Call (800) 426-4791 or visit www.orsanco.org

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Where your water comes from
GCWW supplies water from two sources: the Ohio River and the Great Miami Aquifer. Surface water from the Ohio River is treated at the Miller Treatment Plant. This plant, located on the east side of Hamilton County, supplies about 88% of drinking water to GCWW’s customers. The Bolton Treatment Plant treats ground water from twelve wells in the Great Miami Aquifer. It is located in the southern part of Butler County and supplies about 12% of drinking water to GCWW customers.

In 2012 GCWW used 0.1 million gallons of water, during a two hour time period, from an emergency connection supplied by Clermont County Water Resources. This report does not contain information on the water quality received from Clermont County Water Resources. A copy of their Consumer Confidence Report can be obtained by calling (513) 752-7970.
Our state-of-the-art treatment processes

Before the water comes to your tap, GCWW takes many steps to ensure its quality and safety. Our priority is safe drinking water. On average, we perform 600 tests a day throughout the treatment process and distribution system to ensure you receive the highest quality water possible.

THE TREATMENT PROCESS AT THE MILLER PLANT ON THE OHIO RIVER

Backwash water from the sand filters and plant recycle water is returned to the beginning of the treatment process.

THE TREATMENT PROCESS AT THE BOLTON PLANT ON THE GREAT MIAMI AQUIFER

A leader in Water Quality Technology

GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON

GCWW’s Miller Treatment Plant is one of only a few water treatment plants in the nation that incorporates granular activated carbon (GAC) with on-site reactivation into its water treatment process. This state-of-the-art technology uses granular carbon which contains numerous microscopic cavities. When water is passed through the GAC, impurities adhere to the carbon and are removed from the water. Benefits of GAC are barrier against potential chemical spills in the Ohio River; barrier against impurities in raw source water; less chlorine required for disinfection; reduced disinfection-by-products; and improved control of taste and odor.

UV, A BRIGHT LIGHT IN OUR FUTURE

Greater Cincinnati Water Works is constructing an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection treatment facility at the Mill Plant. UV disinfection uses UV light, in low doses, to inactivate disease-causing organisms such as Cryptosporidium. Once completed, GCWW will be the largest water utility in North America to use UV disinfection following sand filtration and GAC adsorption to protect public health.

GCWW typically treats 132 million gallons of water a day.

Source water protection

The sources of drinking water — both tap 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 from human activity. As a result, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has classified all surface waters as highly susceptible to potential contamination. The Bolton Well Field, a ground water source, is also highly susceptible to contamination because the well field doesn’t have a protective clay layer, ground water has low levels of nitrate and there are potential contaminant sources nearby. Contaminants 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 and wildlife;
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or 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 agricultural, urban, stormwater runoff and residential uses;
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about source water protection or to find out what you can do to help, call (513) 591-7700 or email info@gcww.cincinnati-oh.gov.

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For more information, visit www.orsanco.org.

HAMILTON TO NEW BALTIMORE GROUNDWATER CONSORTIUM — GREAT MIAMI AQUIFER

This group, comprised of seven public and industrial ground water producers/suppliers in southwest Ohio, maintains a network of early warning monitoring stations, works with facilities that store hazardous substances to minimize the risk of spills, and educates the public on what they can do to protect ground water. For more information, visit www.gwconsortium.org.
When your water comes from

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THE TREATMENT PROCESS AT THE MILLER PLANT ON THE OHIO RIVER

- Lime added
- Sand and gravel filter water
- Coagulation
- Settling
- pH adjusted again
- Fluoride added
- UV disinfection
- pH adjusted
- Chlorine added
- Final settling
- For final treatment
- Distribution system

Backwash water from the sand filters and plant recycle water is returned to the beginning of the treatment process.

THE TREATMENT PROCESS AT THE BOLTON PLANT ON THE GREAT MIAMI AQUIFER

- Lime added
- Sand and gravel filter water
- Coagulation
- Settling
- pH adjusted
- Granular activated carbon for water
- UV disinfection
- pH adjusted again
- Granular activated carbon for water
- Lettuce added
- Sand and gravel filter water
- Coagulation
- Settling
- pH adjusted
- Fluoride added
- Distribution system

A leader in Water Quality Technology

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**GCWW met or exceeded all state and federal health standards**

GCWW can be confident that tap water is safe for drinking. USEPA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which shall provide the same protection for public health.

The tables below show the substances detected in GCWW drinking water while performing the most up-to-date monitoring required by the EPA. The EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Because of this, some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old. For a complete list of GCWW test results, call (513) 591-7700 or press “0”.

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### REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Substances subject to a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), Action Level (AL) or Treatment Technique (TT)*. These standards protect drinking water by limiting the amount of certain substances that can adversely affect public health and are known or expected to 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. GCWW 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 3 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 [www.epa.ohio.gov/dwserve](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dwserve) or by calling (614) 644-2752. Information on 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 at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance (Unit)</th>
<th>MCL*</th>
<th>Detected</th>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Year Sampled</th>
<th>Typical Source of Contamination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alkalinity</td>
<td>120 mg/L</td>
<td>120 mg/L</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorinated Hydrocarbons</td>
<td>0.05 ppm</td>
<td>0.05 ppm</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chromium-6</td>
<td>15 ppb</td>
<td>15 ppb</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giardia lamblia</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helminths</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naphthalene</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pesticides</td>
<td>10 ng/L</td>
<td>10 ng/L</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staphylococcosis</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Coliforms</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Dissolved Solids</td>
<td>500 mg/L</td>
<td>500 mg/L</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Copper</td>
<td>1.3 ppm</td>
<td>1.3 ppm</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Substances for which EPA requires monitoring to determine where certain substances occur and whether it needs to regulate those substances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance (Unit)</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>Detected</th>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Year Sampled</th>
<th>Typical Source of Contamination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barium</td>
<td>2 mg/L</td>
<td>2 mg/L</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bromoform (ppb)</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cryptosporidium</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dibromochloromethane (ppb)</td>
<td>4.34</td>
<td>4.34</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haloacetic Acids</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercury</td>
<td>0.5 mg/L</td>
<td>0.5 mg/L</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrogen</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selenium</td>
<td>0.005 mg/L</td>
<td>0.005 mg/L</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Organic Carbon</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Chlorine</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Suspended Solids</td>
<td>0.032</td>
<td>0.032</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOCs</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Natural mineral content</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### WHAT IS CRYPTOSPORIDIUM?

Cryptosporidium (Crypto) is a microscopic organism, that when ingested can result in diarrhea, fever and other gastrointestinal symptoms. Crypto is found in surface waters and comes from animal and human waste. GCWW routinely tests for Crypto and did not detect it in our finished water in 2012. GCWW also tested for Crypto in the Ohio River surface water and it was found in 1 of 12 samples during 2012. USEPA/CDCC 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.

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### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**IF THERE ARE REPORTED CONTAMINANTS, HOW CAN MY WATER BE SAFE?**

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. However, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

**IS THERE LEAD IN MY WATER?**

There is no detectable lead in our drinking water as it leaves our treatment plants. 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. GCWW 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 3 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 [www.epa.ohio.gov/dwserve](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dwserve) or by calling (614) 644-2752. Information on 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 at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

**IS MY WATER REDISH-BROWN. IS THIS SAFE?**

The reddish-brown color can be caused by rust from corrosion in GCWW’s pipes, the pipes in your home, or from corrosion in your home’s water heater. This is not a health concern: the water meets or exceeds all health-based regulations. If you have rusty water, try running cold water for several minutes. If you have questions, or your laundry is stained from rusty water, call GCWW at (513) 591-7700. We will deliver laundry aid to remove the rust. Do NOT put stained laundry in the dryer.

**WHY IS FLUORIDE ADDED TO MY WATER?**

Fluoride is added to the water to protect teeth as required by state law passed in 1969. According to the American Dental Association, persons who drink fluoridated water have a 20% to 40% reduction in the number of cavities that would have occurred without fluoride. Some home filtration devices remove fluoride. Bottled water may not contain fluoride.

**WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF SODIUM IN MY WATER?**

GCWW has tested for sodium in treated water as it leaves the treatment plants and has found 34 mg (milligrams) per liter in the Miller water and 29 mg per liter in the Bolton water. There are approximately 4 cups in a liter.

**HOW HARD IS GCWW’S WATER?**

Hard water is water that contains more minerals such as calcium and magnesium. Ground water tends to have higher mineral content than surface water because minerals are present in the rocks and aquifer. Water from GCWW’s Miller Plant has an average hardness of 150 milligrams per liter or 8 grains per gallon. Water from the Bolton Plant averages 140 milligrams per liter or 8 grains per gallon. Hardness does not affect the safety of water.
GCWW met or exceeded all state and federal health standards

GCWW says that we should drink water as it leaves their treatment plants.

The tables below show the substances detected in GCWW drinking water while performing the most up-to-date monitoring required by the EPA. The EPA keeps us up to date on pollutants that may be present in your water.

The concentration of substances in water is regulated by USEPA regulations that establish limits for the contaminants in bottled water, which shall provide the same protection for public health.

The tables show whether tap water is as clean and safe as bottled water. In the U.S., bottled water costs between $0.25 and $2 per bottle, while GCWW met or exceeded all state and federal health standards.

It’s time to un-bottle. We’ve all heard about the effects bottled water has on our environment, but people often ask whether tap water is as clean and safe as bottled water. Let’s look at the facts:

- Our tap water is constantly checked for biological and chemical contaminants while bottled water is not.
- Most brands of bottled water are essentially bottled tap water. In the U.S., bottled water costs between $0.25 and $2 per bottle, while tap water costs less than $0.10.
- Drinking tap water will reduce the almost 15 million tons of plastic waste created each year by bottled water.
- Drinking tap water also eliminates greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and fossil fuel consumption required for the transportation of bottled water.

You can feel confident that GCWW is always working to provide the highest quality water for you, your family and your community.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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   Drinking tap water as it leaves GCWW’s treatment plants will reduce the almost 15 million tons of plastic waste created each year by bottled water. Drinking tap water also eliminates greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and fossil fuel consumption. It’s time to un-bottle.

2. **WHEN IS MY WATER REDDISH-BROWN, IS THIS SAFE?**

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3. **WHAT IS CRYPTOSPORIDIUM?**

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It’s time to un-bottle. We’ve all heard about the effects bottled water has on our environment, but people often ask whether tap water is as clean and safe as bottled water. Let’s look at the facts:

- Our tap water is constantly checked for biological and chemical contaminants while bottled water is not.
- Most brands of bottled water are essentially bottled tap water. In the U.S., bottled water costs between $0.25 and $2 per bottle, while tap water costs less than $0.10.
- Drinking tap water will reduce the almost 15 million tons of plastic waste created each year by bottled water.
- Drinking tap water also eliminates greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and fossil fuel consumption required for the transportation of bottled water.

You can feel confident that GCWW is always working to provide the highest quality water for you, your family and your community.
Where your water comes from

Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) provides a plentiful supply of the highest quality drinking water to more than 1.1 million people in parts of Hamilton, Butler, Warren and Clermont Counties in Ohio and Boone County, Kentucky.

In 2012 GCWW used 0.1 million gallons of water, during a two hour time period, from an emergency connection supplied by Clermont County Water Resources. A copy of their Consumer Confidence Report can be obtained by calling (513) 752-7970.