Using the most advanced technology to bring you the cleanest, highest quality ...
Where your water comes from ...

GCWW supplies water from two sources: the Ohio River and the Great Miami Buried Valley 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 13 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.

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.

Only your tap water delivers these protective benefits:

- **PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION**
  A safe water supply is critical to protecting public health. In the United States, water utilities monitor for more than 100 contaminants and must meet close to 90 regulations for water supply and quality.

- **SPILL PROTECTION**
  GCWW takes great care to protect your water supply from spills into the Ohio River that may contaminate the drinking water supply. GCWW has the ability to shut down intakes and can utilize stored and supplementary water until the spill passes, and uses its advanced treatment system to remove contaminants.

- **FIRE PROTECTION**
  A well-maintained water system is critical in protecting communities from the threat of fire. The same system of water mains, pumps and storage tanks transports water to home faucets and fire hydrants.

Sources of your drinking water

The sources of drinking water - both tap and bottled - 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. As with all surface waters, the Ohio EPA has classified the Ohio River as highly susceptible to potential contamination. The Ohio EPA has also classified the portion of the Great Miami Aquifer that supplies water to the well fields for the Bolton Treatment Plant as highly susceptible to contamination since it does not have an overlying, protective clay layer. The ground water from this aquifer has low levels of nitrate, and there are other 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 agriculture, 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.

Protecting your drinking water

GCWW has helped establish two source water protection programs.

- **PROTECTION OF THE OHIO RIVER IN THE CINCINNATI AREA**
  GCWW has partnered with the Northern Kentucky Water District and the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) to create a source water protection program for the Ohio River near Cincinnati. ORSANCO maintains 16 monitoring stations strategically placed along the Ohio River to detect and warn treatment plants about spills. GCWW participates as one of the monitoring stations for this program.

- **PROTECTION OF THE GREAT MIAMI BURIED VALLEY AQUIFER**
  The Ground Water Consortium-Hamilton to New Baltimore area is comprised of seven public and industrial ground water producers/suppliers in southwest Ohio. The consortium 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 about source water protection or to find out what you can do to help, call GCWW at (513) 591-7700, email info@gcww.cincinnati-oh.gov, or visit myGCWW.org.
GCWW meets or exceeds all state and federal health standards.

The tables below show the substances detected in GCWW drinking water while performing the most up-to-date monitoring required by the EPA. The Ohio EPA requires GCWW 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 listing of GCWW test results, call (513) 591-7700 and press “0”.

### REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

- **Fluoride (ppm)**: 4
- **Nitrate (ppm)**: 10
- **Trihalomethanes (ppm)**: 80
- **Bolton Water (from the Great Miami River)**: No Violation
- **Toxics (ppm)**: 0.575
- **Violations of MCLs (ppm)**: 0
- **Violations of MCLs (ppb)**: 0
- **Molybdenum (ppb)**: 0.012
- **Monochloroacetic Acid (ppb)**: 2
- **Fluoride (ppm)**: 0
- **Sulfate (ppm)**: 12.7
- **Residual Chlorine (ppb)**: 0.276
- **Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)**: 1.0
- **Barium (ppm)**: 2
- **Chlorine (ppm)**: 4
- **Lead (ppb)**: 0.12
- **Chloroform (ppb)**: 0.04
- **Chloride (ppm)**: 2
- **Bolton Water (from the Ohio River)**: No Violation
- **Nitrate (ppm)**: 10
- **Monochloroacetic Acid (ppb)**: 2
- **Chloroform (ppb)**: 0.04
- **Strontium (ppb)**: 3.31
- **Methane (ppb)**: 1.95
- **Chloride (ppm)**: 24
- **Bolton Water (from the Great Miami River)**: Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries.
- **Bolton Water (from the Great Miami River)**: Additive which promotes strong teeth. May come from erosion of natural deposits.
- **Bolton Water (from the Great Miami River)**: Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits.
- **Bolton Water (from the Great Miami River)**: Erosion of natural deposits.
- **Bolton Water (from the Great Miami River)**: Soil runoff.
- **Bolton Water (from the Great Miami River)**: May come from erosion of natural deposits. There is no detectable lead in our water as it leaves the treatment plants. However, corrosion of household plumbing is a source of lead and copper contamination. GCWW test water samples collected at customer taps, as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure safe water.
- **Bolton Water (from the Great Miami River)**: Water additive used to control microbes.
- **Bolton Water (from the Great Miami River)**: Naturally present in the environment.
- **Bolton Water (from the Great Miami River)**: Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries.

### UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

- **Fluoride (ppm)**: 4
- **Nitrate (ppm)**: 10
- **Trihalomethanes (ppm)**: 80
- **Bolton Water (from the Great Miami River)**: No Violation
- **Toxics (ppm)**: 0.575
- **Violations of MCLs (ppm)**: 0
- **Violations of MCLs (ppb)**: 0
- **Molybdenum (ppb)**: 0.012
- **Monochloroacetic Acid (ppb)**: 2
- **Fluoride (ppm)**: 0
- **Sulfate (ppm)**: 12.7
- **Residual Chlorine (ppb)**: 0.276
- **Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)**: 1.0
- **Barium (ppm)**: 2
- **Chlorine (ppm)**: 4
- **Chloroform (ppb)**: 0.04
- **Chloride (ppm)**: 24
- **Bolton Water (from the Ohio River)**: Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries.
- **Bolton Water (from the Ohio River)**: Additive which promotes strong teeth. May come from erosion of natural deposits.
- **Bolton Water (from the Ohio River)**: Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits.
- **Bolton Water (from the Ohio River)**: Erosion of natural deposits.
- **Bolton Water (from the Ohio River)**: Soil runoff.
- **Bolton Water (from the Ohio River)**: May come from erosion of natural deposits. There is no detectable lead in our water as it leaves the treatment plants. However, corrosion of household plumbing is a source of lead and copper contamination. GCWW test water samples collected at customer taps, as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure safe water.
- **Bolton Water (from the Ohio River)**: Water additive used to control microbes.
- **Bolton Water (from the Ohio River)**: Naturally present in the environment.
- **Bolton Water (from the Ohio River)**: Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries.

### Footnotes (continued from page 4)

2. Miller and Bolton were considered as one distribution system for regulatory purposes by Ohio EPA during 2016. Data listed for each system represents the combined distribution system.

3. In 2016, only 1,525 samples were taken total. Compared to 4,36 of 1,546 samples found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb during 2016. 14 months were between 15-20 ppb; 9 between 20-30 ppb; 8 between 30-40 ppb; 2 between 40-50 ppb; 2 between 50-100 ppb; 1 result between 100-200 ppb.

4. The value reported under “Highest Compliance Level Detected” for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is the lowest ratio between percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than one (1) indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than one (1) indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.
A leader in water quality treatment and technology

GCWW uses state-of-the-art water treatment processes that include multiple barriers to protect public health.

GCWW treatment processes include Sand Filtration, Granular Activated Carbon (GAC), Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC), and ultraviolet (UV) light to remove and treat for natural and man-made contaminants from our drinking water. It is one of the first in the nation to use a combination of all four treatment methods.

GCWW also treats the drinking water specifically to minimize the amount of lead that may leach into the drinking water — this treatment process is called corrosion control. This process ensures there is no lead in the water as it leaves GCWW treatment plants and minimizes the chance that lead can be picked up from home plumbing.

More than 600 daily tests ensure that all the aforementioned treatments are effective.

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 small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. However, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-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 healthcare providers. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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 2016. GCWW also tested for Crypto in the Ohio River surface water and it was found in 2 samples of 24 during 2016. USEPA/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.

WHY IS FLUORIDE ADDED TO MY WATER?

Fluoride is added to the water to protect teeth as required by state and federal law passed in 1969. According to the American Dental Association, persons who drink fluoridated water have a 20% to 40% reduction in the amount 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 29 mg (milligrams) per liter in the Miller Water and 34 mg per liter in the Bolton Water. There are approximately 4 cups in a liter.

IS THERE LEAD IN MY WATER?

There is no detectable lead in drinking water as it leaves the 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 may be found at https://www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagre or by calling (646) 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 (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. GCWW offers lead information online at www.myGCWW.org or call the lead hotline (513) 651-LEAD.

SOMETIMES MY WATER IS REDDISH-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. 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 a laundry aid to remove the rust. Do NOT put stained laundry in the dryer.

WHY DOES DRINKING WATER SOMETIMES LOOK CLOUDY?

Cloudy water that clears quickly from the bottom up is caused by tiny air bubbles in the water similar to gas bubbles in soda. After a while, the bubbles rise to the top and disappear. This cloudiness occurs more often in the winter when drinking water is cold. Air does not affect the safety of water.

HOW HARD IS GCWW’S WATER?

Hard water is water that contains more minerals, such as calcium and magnesium. Water from GCWW’s Miller Plant has an average hardness of 159 mg per liter or 9 grains per gallon. Water from the Bolton Plant averages 144 mg per liter or 8 grains per gallon. Hardness does not affect the safety of water.
Contact Us
For more information about water quality, customer billing, or to request additional copies or submit comments about this report, call (513) 591-7700 or visit myGCWW.org.

For more information about ...

- **Lead Awareness**: lead.myGCWW.org | (513) 651-LEAD (5323)
- **USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline**: water.epa.gov | (800) 426-4791
- **The Food and Drug administration (FDA)**: www.fda.gov | (888) 723-3366
- **National Sanitation Foundation (NSF)**: www.nsf.org | (800) 673-8010

Participate in water decisions by attending the following meetings:

- **City of Cincinnati Council** — www.cincinnati-oh.gov | (513) 352-3246
- **ORSANCO** — www.orsanco.org | (513) 231-7719
- **OKI Regional Council of Governments Groundwater Committee** — (513) 621-6300
- **Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium** — Call (513) 785-2464

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

City of Cincinnati is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

GCWW has a current unconditioned license to operate.

*This report meets the Ohio and USEPA’s National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for Consumer Confidence Reports.*