2009 Consumer Confidence Report

The **City of Marietta Water Treatment Department** has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. The employees of the Water Treatment Department are proud of our commitment to quality water & service. We have a current Ohio EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) license to operate and maintain a public water system. Our Public Water System License to Operate is OH8400412.

Copies of this report are available at: the Marietta Water office at 304 Putnam St., the Mayor's office at 301 Putnam St, or by calling (740) 374-6864. This report is also on the City of Marietta web site at www.mariettaoh.net.

Is my water safe?	Do I need to take special precautions?
Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.	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 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 City of Marietta's water source is from seven (7) production wells located in a sand and gravel aquifer. Other areas nearby are included in a boundary line approved by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to inform the public of lands that might contribute possible contaminants to our water supply due to unwise usage of chemicals or accidental spills. These boundaries are marked by signs and give an emergency number to call to alert officials of situations that might compromise the future availability and quality of our public water supply.

A potential pollution source of lands, homes and businesses within this water supply area has been inventoried and submitted to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency as required. Finally, a water supply management plan has been developed to ensure the continued protection of our water resources and that future activities and uses of this land does not compromise the well field and our valuable water supply.

Present management of our water quality includes the following: (1) monthly monitoring of an existing element called, tetrachloroethylene (PCE), which was first discovered in 1986, (2) continuous pumping and aeration of interceptor wells #1, #2 and #6 to contain and remove PCE from our water supply, (3) hourly checks, continuous sampling and testing (4) boil advisories issued after water main breaks or loss of water service in various parts of our distribution network, (5) hydrant flushing to remove mineral deposits and air pockets that accumulate within the distribution mains, (6) upgrades in the existing system such as the new six inch water main on Sunset Lane this last year, (7) addition of flush hydrants to dead-end water mains and (8) upgrading smaller water mains to six inches to support fire demand water supplies for emergencies as needed.

Please call the water plant at 740-374-6864 with your questions of concerns.

Source Water Assessment Plan and its availability

The Ohio EPA conducted a Source Water Assessment of all public water system sources in the State of Ohio. The City of Marietta Source Water Assessment Plan has been approved by the Ohio EPA and is available upon request by contacting us at (740)374-6864.

Our well water quality is superior to surface water, but also has a high susceptibility to contamination based on its shallow layer of flood plain soil over sand and gravel deposits. Thus, surface contamination from ordinary human activities, especially from petroleum or man-made chemicals can quickly contaminate the ground water. A few examples include spilled or leaking containers of herbicides, pesticides, diesel, kerosene, gasoline and various chemical cleaners.

Contaminates that migrate underground from sources even a mile or two away can quickly impact the quality of our well water. That is why our source water protection area includes the southern half of the Oak Grove Community south to the Washington Street Bridge, as well as the west side of the Muskingum River up to the western hillsides and eastward to Fourth Street and following the natural eastern hillside north, until we pass the various businesses along St Rt. 60 just north of Colegate Drive.

Our Source Water Assessment Inventory list includes not only past environmental activities that might have already contaminated some areas but current land uses. These potential hazards include the discharge of contaminates by any unintentional or intentional spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, releasing, injecting, escaping, leeching, dumping, or disposing into or upon the soil, surface water or groundwater within the defined 2-3 square mile area of influence.

How can I get involved?	Water Treatment Plant Sampling
We encourage public participation and comments at the Water/Sewer Committee meetings. The meetings are announced at the City of Marietta Council meetings. Council meets the 1st; 3rd Thursday of each month at Lookout Park. You may also contact the Clerk of Council at 740-374-5501. For more information on your drinking water, contact Paul Beach, Water Superintendent, at 740-376 –2010; plant no. 740-374-6864; fax no. 740-376-2002 or by E-mail wtpm@mariettaoh.net.	Our water plant operators and Bacteriologist test many samples of water daily, weekly and monthly to monitor the water softening process and final water distributed to you. This certified laboratory testing is done for pH, alkalinity, total hardness, fluoride, chlorine and stability. Other approved drinking water laboratories perform other tests, such as total phosphate, as required to meet all Ohio EPA testing requirements. Total coliform tests are performed to ensure that the water has no bacterial contamination. Negative results were reported for all **289** samples taken during 2009.

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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 resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference. Try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check you toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach you kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce your month's water bill!

NOTICE TO ALL CUSTOMERS OF MARIETTA CITY WATER & WASTEWATER

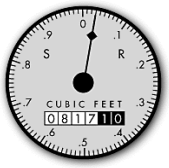
This notice is mailed to our customers in accordance with provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 4933.19.

TAMPERING WITH WATER METERS OR WATER SERVICE EQUIPMENT AND THE THEFT OF WATER ARE CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES AND MAY RESULT IN PENALTIES TO OFFENDERS. A PERSON FOUND BENEFITING FROM TAMPERING OR AN UNAUTHORIZED SERVICE CONNECTION IS PRESUMED TO HAVE COMMITTED THE VIOLATION AND WILL BE PROSECUTED.

It is a crime to tamper with or by-pass a water meter, conduit or attachment of a utility. It is also a crime to reconnect a water meter, conduit or attachment of a utility that has been disconnected by the utility.

It is a crime to knowingly consume any water, which has not been correctly registered because a meter, conduit or attachment of a utility has been tampered with, or by-passed, or knowingly use service that has been disconnected by a utility and reconnected without the utility's consent.

A felony or misdemeanor conviction for a theft offense can result from a violation of these laws. The person so convicted is subject to the imposition of criminal sanctions including imprisonment and payment of fines and will also be required to make restitution for the costs of repairs, replacement of the meters, conduits or attachments damaged and for the value of the illegally consumed water.



Checking Meters

The City Meter Department must read, inspect and service its meters bi-monthly to make sure they're operating properly. Only City of Marietta Water Department employees can connect or disconnect the meter, or change its location. Whether the meter is inside or outside your home, please clear a three-foot area around it; making sure it is accessible and visible.

Servicing a blocked meter is difficult and can be a safety hazard in an emergency.

Backflow Prevention Requirements

The backflow prevention devices are required to be tested annually to make sure the devices are in proper working condition. It is the *customers/property owner's* responsibility to install (as per City of Marietta specifications) and have backflow devices tested by a qualified tester; backflow prevention devices will also be required on residential service connections. The type of device required will depend on the degree of hazard your service connection exposes our water system to. Our required Testing and Maintance Forms maybe obtained on the City of Marietta website at www.mariettaoh.net. Please contact the Backflow Dept. at (740) 374-6864 if you have any questions.

Removing or relocating an existing backflow device without the approval of the City of Marietta Backflow Department will result in the loss of your water services.

The City of Marietta Announces New Office Hours for the Water & Wastewater Office

The City of Marietta Water & Wastewater office, located at 304 Putnam Street, Marietta, OH will be changing their public office hours to better serve its customers, starting on Monday, April 5, 2010. The new public office hours will be Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and will remain open during the noon lunch hour. Phone lines will remain open from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., for questions on bills, appointment changes, and any problems that need reporting. After hours payments can be made by paying through the night deposit box, located at 304 Putnam Street or by paying on-line using our newest payment option where you can use your American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or Visa credit card or debit card or an electronic check. Simply go to our website at www.mariettaoh.net, click on the Online Services link in the top menu and then click on Pay your Water and Sewer Bills Online link.

City of Marietta's website: www.mariettaoh.net

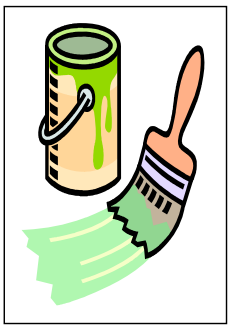
Here you will find the latest information on news and events around the City as well as government services. Use the pull down menus at the top of the page to take a shortcut to a specific service, information or department. We hope that it will help you navigate municipal services in our great City. If possible, Boil Advisories will be posted on this web site.

Paint Disposal

by Kathy Davis, Washington Soil and Water Conservation District Storm Water Coordinator

So you're finally finished with that paint job. Now, what should you do with leftover paint and the cleanup? A lot of literature tells us what we "CAN'T" do. "Don't dump it on the ground." "Don't dump it into a storm drain or stream." "Don't burn it". Good advice, but, what we really need to know is what we CAN do.

Here are a few suggestions:



- Paint Disposal:
  - Plan ahead. Buy only what you need.
  - Use it up. Add another coat to your project – paint a piece of cardboard until gone.
  - Dry it up. Use kitty litter or an oil dry absorbent. Dispose with household solid waste.
  - (Works for latex or oil base paint.)
  - Give to a neighbor or friend.
  - Save for the annual Paint Swap Day – held each spring in Washington County.
- Brush & Roller Clean Up:
  - Drain & Dry utensils completely. (***Oil or Latex***) Dispose with household solid waste.
  - Flush with soap and water (***Latex only***). Drain to waste water treatment – not on the ground. Flush, flush, flush those drains with plenty of water!
  - If solvent is used - Dry up solvent using kitty litter or an oil dry absorbent. Dispose with household solid waste.
  - Reuse painting utensils from day to day by sealing in a zip lock bag and placing in a cool dry place.

Following this advice you will be reducing the chance for storm water runoff to become contaminated. This will further protect ground water and surface water from potential contamination, keeping it safe for us and for future generations to enjoy.

For more information on the Washington County annual Paint Swap Day or for commercial disposal of paint, contact the SouthEastern Joint Solid Waste Management @ 800-860-8103.

For questions or comments about this article, contact Kathy Davis @740.373.7113 ext. 229.

Hydrant Flushing-The Importance of Flushing Water Lines

Residents who notice crews working at fire hydrants and see water running into the street may think that we are ignoring our own philosophy on conserving water. The process of periodically "flushing" fire hydrants, however, is an important preventive maintenance activity. Although it may appear to waste water, this process is part of a routine maintenance program necessary to maintain the integrity of the water system and to continue to deliver the highest quality water possible to our customers.

Flushing the water system on a routine basis removes sediment from lines and keeps the entire distribution system refreshed.

As a result of the flushing procedure, residents in the immediate vicinity of the work may experience temporary discoloration of their water. This discoloration consists primarily of harmless silt and precipitates and does not affect the safety of the water. If you experience discoloration in your water after crews have been flushing in your neighborhood, clear the pipes in your own home by running all cold water faucets for 15 (fifteen) minutes.

This same philosophy of water line preventive maintenance is one that you should use in your own home. Your home's water heater should be drained and flushed at least once a year to keep it working efficiently and to protect the quality of water inside your home. Also, if you go out of town and there is no water use in your home for a week or more, when you return it's always a good idea to run all your faucets for a minute or so before using the water. This ensures that you don't use any stagnant water that may have developed in your home's pipes while you were away.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. 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 EPA requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminants (Units)	MCGL	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminants
Inorganic Contaminants							
Lead (ppb)	0	15	0	N/A	No	2009	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Cooper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.181	N/A	No	2009	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Nitrate (ppm)	10 mg/L	10 mg/L	.67 mg/L	N/A	No	2009	Runoff from fertilizer use; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (ppb)	2000 ug/L	2000 ug/L	17 ug/L	N/A	No	2007	Discharge of Drilling Wastes Discharge from Metal Refineries Erosion from natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.99	.84 to1.18	No	2009	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Residual Disinfectants							
Total chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.00	.4 to 1.30	No	2009	Water additive used to control microbes
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
Haloacetic Acids HAA5 (ppb)	NA	60	6	6 to 6	No	2009	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes TTHMs (ppb)	NA	80	25.8	25.8	No	2009	By-products of drinking water chlorination
"Under the State 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Rule (D/DBPR), our public water system was required by USEPA to conduct an evaluation of our distribution system. This is known as an Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE), and is intended to identify locations in our distribution system with elevated disinfection byproduct concentrations. The locations selected for the IDSE may be used for compliance monitoring under Stage 2 DBPR, beginning in 2012. Disinfection byproducts are the result of providing continuous disinfection of your drinking water and form when disinfectants combine with organic matter naturally occurring in the source water. Disinfection byproducts are grouped into two categories, Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5). USEPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfectants and disinfectant byproducts in drinking water, including both TTHMs and HAA5s."							
IDSE TTHM	NA	NA	NA	11.3 to 42.5	No	2009	By-products of drinking water disinfection
IDSE HAA5	NA	NA	NA	<6.0 to 7.8	No	2009	By-products of drinking water chlorination

Term	Definition
	Important Drinking Water Definitions
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.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances 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

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.