



# COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT 2015

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# Commissioners of Leonardtown

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

### **SPANISH (ESPAÑOL)**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### **IS MY WATER SAFE?**

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The Town of Leonardtown vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

Our Water utility staff consists of five licensed operators who have a combined experience of more than 79 years between them. Our operators have maintained educational training in the past year in an effort to keep up-to-date with the latest in water treatment techniques. Our goal is to give you the best quality water possible. The provision of quality water is an ongoing effort for the Commissioners of Leonardtown and its staff, and upon which we are continuously trying to improve.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, it may be necessary to make improvements to your water system. The cost of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. The Town sets its water rates so that the system pays for itself without a subsidy from property tax revenues. In this way, the cost of the water service can be borne by those who actually use water rather than just by the property owners.

### **DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

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/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 (800-426-4791).

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 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>.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## **WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?**

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 at (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

The source of our drinking water is now the Patapsco Aquifer (November 2007) which lies about 800 feet below the earth's surface. An aquifer is a sort of underground river. Wells are drilled to tap the aquifer and pump water to the surface for distribution. The Maryland Department of the Environment's Water Supply Program (WSP) has conducted a Source Water Assessment for the Leonardtown water supply and has determined that it is not susceptible to contaminants originating at the land surface due to the protected nature of confined aquifers. The water supply is, however, susceptible to naturally occurring arsenic (based on the new EPA standard). A complete copy of the Source Water Assessment is available at the St. Mary's County Health Department, the Leonardtown Library, the Leonardtown Town Hall, and Leonardtown Post Office, Commissioner's web site, <http://leonardtown.somd.com> and The Department of the Environment.

## **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT**

Following is a list of water sample sites utilized in 2015 to assess the quality of the Town's water supply:

Leonardtown Library	Wastewater Treatment Plant	Leonardtown CVS	Ace Hardware
College of Southern Maryland	St. Mary's Health Department	State Troopers' Barracks Restroom	St. Mary's Medical Arts Bldg

## **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 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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water 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 which 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.

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### **HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?**

The Town's residents can all play a part to ensure the quality and supply of our water. Being conscious of how you utilize this precious resource will help the Town ensure the reliability of our water supply. The Commissioners of Leonardtown along with the staff of the Utilities Department remain dedicated to providing the best quality water possible for the Town's residents.

### **OTHER INFORMATION**

Water Conservation:

While the Town presently has a sufficient water supply, the Commissioners of Leonardtown urge every citizen to exercise good conservation practices in the use of this precious resource. Good information and advice on water resource conservation as well as other valuable drinking water information can be found on the EPA website at: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).

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. The Leonardtown Utilities Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been setting 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 drinking 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.”

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ARSENIC**

Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

## 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 and/or the State require us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

### REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)		4	3.87 – 3.87	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<i>Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the highest level detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.</i>								
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level of Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride		0.42	0.42 – 0.42	4	4.40	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.

### COLIFORM BACTERIA

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Leven	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly sample	1	0	0	N	Naturally present in the environment

### LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	12/31/2014	1.3	1.3	0.085		ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits, Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems

#### Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no know or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety

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

### UNREGULATED NO STANDARDS

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Sodium			51 – 52	N/A	N/A	ppm	N/A	

## IMPORTANT DRINKING WATER DEFINITIONS

<u>TERM</u>	<u>DEFINITION</u>
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.
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.
Avg	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running average of monthly samples.
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )
NA	NA: not applicable
Definitions	The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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