

2015 Consumer Confidence Report

Spanish (Español)

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

Is my water safe?

The City of Oakbrook Terrace is 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. We are happy to report that our water quality exceeds the IEPA standards.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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?

If you are a Lake Michigan water customer, your water gets to your home via the City of Chicago. The City of Chicago utilizes Lake Michigan as its source water via two water treatment plants. The Jardine Water Purification Plant serves the northern areas of the City and suburbs, while the South Water Purification Plant serves the southern areas of the City and Suburbs. Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that is entirely contained within the United States. It borders Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Lake Michigan is the second largest Great Lake by volume with 1,180 cubic miles of water and third largest by area.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Illinois EPA implemented a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) to assist with watershed protection of public drinking water supplies. The SWAP inventories potential sources of contamination and determined the susceptibility of the source water to contamination. The Illinois EPA has completed the SWAP for our supply. Further information on our community water supply's SWAP is available by calling the City of Chicago, Department of Water Management at 312-742-7499.

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 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; and 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.

How can I get involved?

The City of Oakbrook Terrace welcomes your involvement. The City Council meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at 7PM at City Hall located at 17W275 Butterfield Road in Oakbrook Terrace.

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. Oakbrook Terrace 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>. The City of Oakbrook Terrace reported non-detectable levels.

Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Explanation

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by IEPA.

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 we 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 us to monitor 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 have provided the definitions below the table.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|--------|--------|--------|------|----|---|
| Total Organic Carbon | NA | TT | NA | NA | | 2014 | No | Naturally present in the environment. The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by IEPA. |
| Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 1.4 | 2014 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb) | NA | 60 | 19.6 | NA | | 2014 | No | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) | NA | 80 | 40.6 | NA | | 2014 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Barium (ppm) | 2 | 2 | 0.0227 | 0.0223 | 0.0227 | 2014 | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 0.31 | 0.3 | 0.31 | 2014 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |

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|--|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|--|---|
| Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) | 1 | 1 | 0.31 | 0.3 | 0.31 | 2014 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 0.98 | 0.94 | 0.98 | 2014 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Sodium (optional) (ppm) | | MPL | 10 | 9.53 | 10 | 2014 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching |
| Chromium (ppb) | 100 | 100 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 2014 | No | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Turbidity (NTU) | NA | 0.3 | 100 | NA | | 2014 | No | Soil runoff |
| 100% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.11. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state. | | | | | | | | |
| Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L) | 0 | 5 | 0.84 | 0.5 | 0.84 | 2014 | No | Decay of natural and man made deposits. |
| Alpha emitters (pCi/L) | 0 | 15 | 6.6 | 6.1 | 6.6 | 2014 | No | Decay of natural and man made deposits. |
| Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) | 0 | 15 | 0 | 2014 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits | |
| Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm) | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0 | 2014 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits | |

| Term | Definition |
|-------|--|
| 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) |
| NTU | NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. |
| NA | NA: not applicable |
| ND | ND: Not detected |
| NR | NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended. |

| Term | Definition |
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|--------------------------|---|
| 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 |

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