



COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN  
ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT  
FOR THE PERIOD OF  
JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 2023

<http://leonardtown.somd.com>

PWSID #0180006

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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 80 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).

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. Leonardtown Water Treatment Plant is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Town Office at 301-475-9791 or [Leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov](mailto:Leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov). Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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

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 2023 to assess the quality of the Town's water supply:

<b>Leonardtown Library College of Southern Maryland</b>	<b>Wastewater Treatment Plant St. Mary's Health Department</b>	<b>Town Hall State Troopers' Barracks Restroom</b>	<b>Ace Hardware St. Mary's Medical Arts Bldg</b>
<b>Source Water Name</b>	<b>Type of Water</b>	<b>Report Status</b>	<b>Location</b>
LEONARDTOWN 3 SM811397	GW	Y	NEAR 0 MI LEONARDTOWN APPROX. 30 FT OF GREENBRIER RD
LEONARDTOWN 4 SM813372	GW	Y	NEAR 0 MI OF LEONARDTOWN APPROX. 50 FT E OF COURTHOUSE RD
LEONARDTOWN 5 SM951367	GW	Y	T OF LEONARDTOWN APPROX 50 FT N OF GREENBRIAR

## **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).

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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limits 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 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).

### **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. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limits 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.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily cause for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

## 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
Chlorine	2023	2.5	1.6 – 2.5 ppm	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Halo acetic (HAA5)	2023	1.6	1.6 – 1.6	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2023	8.36	8.36 – 8.36	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection

*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.*

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level of Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2022	0.011	0 – 0.011	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2023	0.40	0.34-0.40	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	2023	<2	<2	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

#### Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known 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.

### 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	2023	1.3	1.3	0.129	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits, Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	2023	0	15	<2	1	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

### 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	5/17/2022	64.5	64.5 – 64.5	N/A	N/A	ppm	N/A	

### INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violations
Arsenic *	2023	5 – Back up Well 2 – Well #5 <2 - Well	0-5	0	10	ppb	N

*\*This number is from a back-up Well that is only used in case of an emergency and when used is blended with another Well. Well #5 is the Well we use every day and the test results for that Well are less than 2 with 2 being the lowest that can be tested.*

**VIOLATION TABLE**

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
No Violations			

**IMPORTANT DRINKING WATER DEFINITIONS**

The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

<u>TERM</u>	<u>DEFINITION</u>
Avg	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running average of monthly samples.
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.
Level 1 Assessment	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
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.
Level 2 Assessment	A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
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.
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.
NA	NA: not applicable
mrem	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body).
ppb	micrograms per liter or parts per billion – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
ppm	milligrams per liter or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water
Treatment Technique or TT	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
PFAS	<p>Short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. Uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in April 2024. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are each 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The MCLs for PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals) are each 10 ppt. Additionally, a mixture of two or more of the following chemicals (PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS) will be regulated with a Hazard Index of 1 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action. Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website: <a href="https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx">https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx</a></p>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT**

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