



# COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT 2008

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# Commissioners of Leonardtown Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

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## **Spanish (Español)**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúscalo o 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 three licensed operators who have a combined experience of more than 50 years between them. Together our operators have attended more than 264 hours of continuing education 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?**

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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Where does my water come from?**

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 The Department of the Environment.

### **Source water assessment**

Following is a list of water sample sites utilized in 2008 to assess the quality of the Town's water supply:

1. Leonardtown Library
2. Wastewater Treatment Plant
3. College of Southern Maryland
4. St. Mary's Health Department
5. State Troopers' Barracks restroom
6. Wendy's Restaurant
7. Leonardtown CVS
8. 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 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 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).

**Information on Lead required by EPA:**

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.

The Town’s drinking water, at an average concentration of .002 mg/L Arsenic, is below the new MCL of .010 mg/L that came into effect as of January 2006. The Start up of this new well began in July 2007 with a temporary permit. A permanent permit was issue in November 2007. The new Well’s Arsenic average concentration level is 0.002 mg/L. The Town’s new well is designed to meet the future MCL standards and provide approximately 100% of our potable water needs for the next 10 years. This can only be done if we all exercise good conservation practices in the use of this precious resource.

## 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.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range</u> <u>Low</u> <u>High</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]	NA	.080	0.0025	.002	0.003	2008	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Arsenic (mg/L) as of July 1,2007 Results from new well	0	0.010	.002 Average Mg/L	.002	.002	2008	NO	Erosion of natural deposits (Leonardtwn) New Well. Water source: From Patapsco Aquifer
Copper - source water (ppm)	NA	1.3	0.002 (mg/L)	.002	.002	2008	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.5 Average	0.5	0.5	2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	8	5	8	2002	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.
<b>Unregulated No Standards</b>								
Sodium	N/A	N/A	0.5	0.5	0.5	2008	N/A	Decreased due to use of Well #5 Patapsco Aquifer
Sulfate	N/A	N/A	6.9	5.5	8.3	2004	N/A	N/A

## Non-Detected Contaminants

Following is a list of potential drinking water substances that the Department of Utilities is required to test for, but which have not been detected in the water supply in the past year.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>State MCL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Explanation and Comment</u>
Lead - source water (ppm)	0.015 mg/L (TT)	0.002	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliforms and E. Coli	0	0	No	Total Coliform and E. coli bacteria are among potential drinking water substances that the Department of Utilities is required to test for, but which have not been detected in the water supply in the past year.

<b>Unit Descriptions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
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)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
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.
Variations and Exemptions	Variations 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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