



CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS

Public Works - Water Department

2009 Drinking Water Quality Report

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Is my water safe?

Our top priority is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, so we test for a variety of substances throughout the year. We are pleased to inform you that the City of Ocean Springs has complied with all drinking water requirements of the Mississippi Department of Health. As a part of the Safe Drinking Water Amendments of 1996, we provide Water Quality Reports to all our customers. By Federal Law, we must report test results from the previous year's test information. The City of Ocean Springs is pleased to announce that the overall rating of the system is 5.0, the highest possible rating offered by the Mississippi Department of Health.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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 drinking water supplied by the City of Ocean Springs is pumped from ground water aquifers using six separate wells across town. Five of the wells draw from the Graham Ferry Formation and the other from the Pascagoula Formation. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality has completed a ground water study and its availability to Jackson County. The Department has also completed a source water assessment for the City of Ocean Springs and its susceptibility to contamination. Copies of these reports are available for viewing at the Ocean Springs Public Library.

Source water assessment and its availability

The City of Ocean Springs is dedicated to protecting your water supply. To insure our water supply is not contaminated from commercial or residential customers, we install backflow prevention devices on all services. On rare occasions, some periodic release from faucets or the hot water tank relief valve may occur. If this problem persists, you may need to contact a plumber to install additional protection on your system.

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 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; 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 Ocean Springs Board of Aldermen meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1018 Porter Avenue. Any questions or comments regarding the water system can be addressed at their meeting. We encourage your participation.

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. City of Ocean Springs 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>.

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 requires 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>Lo</u> <u>High</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	0.89	ND	0.89	2009	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	10	ND	10	2009	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	12.04	3.24	17.06	2009	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	0.003427	NA		2009	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.353	NA		2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.2	0.2	0.2	2009	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	0.05	0.05	0.05	2009	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	0.5	0.5	0.5	2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	0.5	0.5	0.5	2009	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.00197	0.00197	0.00197	2009	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	0.5	0.5	0.5	2009	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cadmium (ppb)	5	5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2009	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Mercury [Inorganic] (ppb)	2	2	0.5	0.5	0.5	2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland

Selenium (ppb)	50	50	2.5	2.5	2.5	2009	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Thallium (ppb)	0.5	2	0.5	0.5	0.5	2009	No	Discharge from electronics, glass, and Leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories
Cyanide [as Free Cn] (ppb)	200	200	15	15	15	2009	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	70	70	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	0.0005	NA		2009	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories
Dichloromethane (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	0.5	NA		2009	No	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7	7	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	100	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	200	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	0.05	NA		2009	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb)	3	5	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	0.0005	NA		2009	No	Discharge from petroleum factories
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	700	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Styrene (ppb)	100	100	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; Leaching from landfills

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Inorganic Contaminants							
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	0.002	2007	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.075	2007	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

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.

Important Drinking Water Definitions

Term	Definition
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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