

City of Fostoria Water Treatment Plant
Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report
2023
PWS ID #OH7400411

What's the Quality of My Water?

The City of Fostoria is pleased to share this water quality report with you. It describes to you, the customer, the quality of your drinking water. This report covers January 1 through December 31, 2023. The City of Fostoria's drinking water supply strived to comply with the strict regulations of both the State of Ohio and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which requires all water suppliers to prepare reports like this every year.

In 2023 our water department distributed 817.67 million gallons of water to our customers. We have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system. The City of Fostoria's public water system uses surface water stored in six above ground reservoirs, drawn from the East Branch of the Portage River.

Historically, the Fostoria public water system has treated the source water effectively to meet drinking water standards. The potential for water quality impacts can be further decreased by implementing measures to protect the East Branch of the Portage River and the local aquifer. We have a completed Source Water Assessment Plan that shows our susceptibility to contamination as HIGH. Surface waters are by their nature susceptible to contamination, and numerous potential sources along their banks make them more so. The protection areas around the East Branch of the Portage River include some urbanized areas and contain a moderate number of potential contaminant sources including agricultural run-off, inadequate septic systems, leaking underground storage tanks, and road and rail bridge crossings. If a system is rated highly susceptible, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. More detailed information is provided in the City of Fostoria's Source Water Assessment Report, which can be obtained by contacting *Robert Shaver, Water Plant Superintendent*, by phoning (419) 435-2793, faxing (419) 435-2354, Email at water@fostoriaohio.gov, or by writing to this address: 213 S. Main Street; Fostoria, OH 44830.

Your water is treated by using disinfection and filtration to remove or reduce harmful contaminants that may come from the source water. The water is treated with a six step process. Chemicals are mixed with the raw water to minimize odor, taste, and organic compounds. Aluminum sulfate is added to coagulate water (solid particles clump together). Then the "clumped" particles are allowed to settle. The water is then filtered to remove particles that did not settle. Water is chlorinated to disinfect. The last treatment process is the addition of fluoride compounds to promote strong and healthy teeth.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants you to know: 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.

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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 (1-800-426-4791).

Who needs 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 infection. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

About your drinking water: The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Fostoria Water conducted sampling for bacteria; inorganic; radiological; synthetic organic; volatile organic during 2021. Samples were collected for a total of fifty-six different contaminants most of which were not detected in the Fostoria Water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

Lead Educational Information: 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 Fostoria Water Treatment Plant 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 at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Definitions of some terms contained within this report:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** 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.
- **Maximum Contaminant level (MCL):** The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **PFAS: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)** are a group of man-made chemicals applied to many industrial, commercial and consumer products to make them waterproof, stain resistant, or nonstick. PFAS are also used in products like cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam called aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) which are used mainly on large spills of flammable liquids, such as jet fuel. PFAS are classified as contaminants of emerging concern, meaning that research into the harm they may cause to human health is still ongoing.
- **PFBA: Perfluorobutanic Acid (PFBA)** is a breakdown product of other PFAS used in stain-resistant fabrics, paper food packaging, and carpets. PFBA was also used for manufacturing photographic film. Production was phased out in 1998.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of 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.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.
- **Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (µg/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.
- **The “<” symbol:** A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.
- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A common measure of radioactivity.
- **NA:** not applicable
- **LRAA:** Locational Running Annual Average
- **NTU** (or Nephelometric Turbidity Units): A measure of clarity.
- **LARA:** Lowest Annual Running Average.
- **HQA:** Highest Quarterly Average.
- **CDC:** Centers for Disease Control.
- **EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency.

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the City of Fostoria drinking water.

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the samples analyzed each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, the City of Fostoria Water Treatment Plants' highest recorded turbidity result for 2023 was 0.25 NTU and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100%.

Table of Detected Contaminants									
2023 Monitoring Results for the City of Fostoria PWS ID # OH7400411									
Contaminant	Unit	MCLG	MCL EPA's	Highest Level	Range	Violation	Year	Potential Source of contamination	
		Health	Limits	Detected	Detected	Yes / No	Sampled		
		Goal							
Microbiological Contaminants									
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	NA	TT	1.61 LARA	0.78 - 2.32	NO	2023	Naturally Present in the environment	
The value reported under "Level Found" for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is the annual running average of the ratio between percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than one (1) indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than one (1) indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.									
Turbidity	NTU	TT = 1 NTU		0.25	0.02-0.25	NO	2023	Soil Runoff	
		95 % of Samples must be less than 0.3 NTU		100% met 0.3 NTU Limits					
Inorganic Contaminants									
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.018	NA	NO	2023	Discharge of drilling wastes;Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	1.04	0.78-1.18	NO	2023	Erosion of Natural deposits. Water additive to promote strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and Aluminum factories.	
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	3.82	0.10 - 3.82	NO	2023	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion of natural deposits	
Residual Disinfectants									
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG = 4 MRDL =4		1.35 HQA	1.12 - 1.68	NO	2023	Water Additive to control microbes.	
Disinfection Byproducts									
Haloacetic Acid (HAA5s)	ppb	NA	60	19.5 LRAA	10-25.2	NO	2023	Byproduct of Drinking Water Chlorination.	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)		NA	80	58.4 LRAA	21.4 - 71.1	NO	2023	Byproduct of Drinking Water Chlorination.	
Lead and Copper									
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3 = AL	0.031	All sites	NO	2023	Corrosion of Household Plumbing Systems.	
				90th percentile	below AL			Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from	
Lead	ppb	0	15 = AL	< 0.0	All sites	NO	2023	Corrosion of Household Plumbing Systems.	
				90th percentile	below AL			Erosion of natural deposits.	

Unregulated contaminants are those for which U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2023 the Fostoria WTP participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). For a copy of the results please E-Mail Robert Shaver at water@fostoriaohio.gov.

Table Of Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminants (Units)	Sample Year	Average Level Found	Range Of Detections
Lithium (ppb)	2023	6.075	5.55-6.6
PFBA (ppb)	2023	0.00395	0.0035-0.0044

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water? If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water quality, please contact Robert Shaver, Water Plant Superintendent, by calling (419) 435-2793, faxing (419) 435-2354, Email at water@fostoriaohio.gov, or by writing to this address: 213 S. Main Street; Fostoria, OH 44830. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. You can attend regular City Council meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building at 213 S. Main Street.