

# City of Galion

## Water Treatment

City of Galion  
PWS ID# OH1700211  
625 Railroad St.  
Galion, OH 44833

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2016. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available to assist you should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.



# 2016

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

### Community Participation

You are invited to participate and comment at regular meetings of the Galion City Council, which meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

### Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call the City of Galion Water Plant at (419) 468-1393.

*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

## Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

The City of Galion receives its drinking water from the Rocky Fork of the Olentangy River, which flows into Amman's Reservoir south of Galion in Morrow County. All surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature surface waters are accessible and can be readily contaminated by chemicals and pathogens with relatively short travel times from the source to the intake. The City of Galion is fortunate that we are at the top of our watershed and as such we are less susceptible to contaminants due to the short travel time from the watershed to our water plant.

The City of Galion has the ability during a water emergency to draw water from the City of Crestline. In 2016 the City of Galion did not use this resource. This report does not contain information on the water quality received from the City of Crestline, but a copy of their consumer confidence report can be obtained by contacting Todd Hoffman at (419) 683-2673.

## Source Water Assessment

In 2003 the Ohio EPA conducted a Source Water Assessment for the City of Galion. Copies of this report can be obtained at the Galion Water Plant. Based on the information compiled in our source water assessment, the City of Galion Public Water System is considered susceptible to agricultural runoff, industrial/commercial sources, and oil/gas production activities and transportation related spills. While the source water for the city of Galion Public Water System is considered susceptible to contamination, historically, the Galion Public Water System has effectively treated this source water to meet drinking water quality standards. More detailed information is provided in the City of Galion's Drinking Water Source Assessment Report, which can be obtained by calling the Galion Water Plant at (419) 468-1393.

## Substances that Could be in Water

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:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) 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.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) 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.
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## All Drinking Water May Contain Contaminants

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

## Lead and Drinking Water

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. Galion 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

A list of laboratories certified in the State of Ohio to test for lead may be found at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/labs.aspx> or by calling 614-644-2752.

## LICENSE INFO

We have a current, unconditional license to operate our water system.

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state allows us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Microbiological Contaminants							
Contaminant (Unit)	Sample Date	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range	Violation	Typical Source
Turbidity (NTU)	2016	N/A	TT	0.11 100%	0.03-0.11	No	Soil runoff
Total Organic Carbon	2016	N/A	TT	1.97	1.69-2.47	No	Naturally present in the environment

Inorganic Contaminants							
Contaminant (Unit)	Sample Date	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range	Violation	Typical Source
Nitrate (mg/L)	2016	10	10	0.39	<0.10-0.39	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2016	4	4	0.216	N/A	No	Water additive, which promotes strong teeth

Synthetic Organic Contaminants							
Contaminant (Unit)	Sample Date	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Range	Violation	Typical Source
Alachlor (ppb)	2016	0	2	<0.10	N/A	No	Herbicide runoff
Atrazine (ppb)	2016	3	3	<0.070	N/A	No	Herbicide runoff
Simazine (ppb)	2016	4	4	<0.050	N/A	No	Herbicide runoff

Volatile Organic Contaminants							
Contaminant (Unit)	Sample Date	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Range	Violation	Typical Source
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM] (ppb)	2016	N/A	80	80.9	33.9-113.7	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2016	N/A	60	24.6	13.5-33.7	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Residual Disinfectants							
Contaminant (Unit)	Sample Date	MRDLG	MRDL	Level Detected	Range	Violation	Typical Source
Total Chlorine (ppm)	2016	4	4	1.16	0.94-1.33	No	Water additive used to control microbes

Tap Monitoring for Copper and Lead							
Contaminant (Unit)	Sample Date	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile	Sampling Sites Exceeding the Action Level	Violation	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	2014	1.3	1.3	0.037	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2014	0	15.0	<2.0	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Coliform Bacteria							
Contaminant (Unit)	Sample Date	MCLG	MCL	Highest # Positive in a Month	Violation	Typical Source	
Total Coliform	2016	0	1	0	No	Naturally present in the environment	

## Definitions

In the table above, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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 Residual Disinfectant Level or 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 or MRDLG:** 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:** not applicable

## Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council, bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 25 percent of bottled water is actually just bottled tap water (40 percent according to government estimates).

The food and Drug Administration is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States. People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water.

The City of Galion's water routinely beats the industry standard for turbidity in bottled water. Galion's water consistently measures at 0.05, whereas, the industry standard for bottled water is 0.051 - 0.1.

For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, check out their website at [www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/exesum.asp](http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/exesum.asp).

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**ND (Not Detected):** indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**Parts Per Million (ppm) or Milligrams Per Liter (mg/l):** one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

**Parts Per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms Per Liter (µg/l):** one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

During 2016, our water system violated the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM). The average level of TTHM over the last four quarters was 0.081mg/L. The standard for TTHM is 0.080 mg/L. You do not need to use an alternative water supply as the levels detected do not pose an immediate risk to your health. However, some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. We are investigating and taking the necessary steps to correct the problem.

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 .3 NTU in 95% of the daily samples and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time.

The value reported under "level found" for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is the lowest running annual average ratio between the percentages of TOC actually removed. A value of greater than (1) indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. The value reported under "Range of detection" for TOC is the lowest monthly ratio to the highest monthly ratio.

Disinfection byproducts are the result of providing continuous disinfection of your drinking water and form when disinfectants combine with organic matter naturally occurring in the source water. Disinfection byproducts are grouped into two categories, Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5). USEPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfectants and disinfectant byproducts in drinking water, including both TTHMs and HAA5s.

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.