

Source Water Information

The City of Lancaster Water Treatment Plants receive their drinking water from wells located adjacent to the Water Treatment Plants. Water is drawn out of the Hocking River Valley Aquifer by 14 separate wells situated in the Miller Park Well Field for the North Plant. The South Water Treatment Plant draws water from 4 wells in the South Well Field near the South Plant.

Important Phone Numbers

Water Plant Office
740-687-6631 North Plant
740-652-2285 South Plant

Safe Drinking Water Hotline
1-800-426-4791

Aquifer Protection Questions
740-687-6631

License to Operate (LTO) Status

We have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system. This means there are no ongoing conditions or violations we are required to address in order to operate.

Source Water Assessment

The Ohio EPA recently completed a study of the City of Lancaster's drinking water source to determine its susceptibility to contamination. The City's present groundwater supply is located within the Hocking River Valley Aquifer. This extensive system is comprised of vast quantities of subsurface sand and gravel deposits. The North Well Field has been operational since 1932 and has continued to be a reliable and clean source of drinking water for Lancaster's residents.

The City of Lancaster has finished the construction



of an additional wellfield and treatment plant South of Lancaster. The new wellfield will provide for Lancaster's water supply needs well into the future. This wellfield is located within the same Hocking River Valley Aquifer as the North Well Field.

Based upon known hydro-geologic conditions and from information gathered during the development of the Wellhead Protection Program, the City of Lancaster's source water is considered to have a high susceptibility to contamination. The susceptibility rating means that under existing conditions, the likelihood of the aquifer becoming contaminated is relatively high. These susceptibility conditions are lessened by the continued implementation of the City's Wellhead Protection Program which was designed to preserve the drinking water supply. At this time there is no evidence indicating the quality of water provided by the City of Lancaster has been impacted by contaminants.

Wellhead Protection Program

Based on the potential for contamination, the City of Lancaster has placed a priority on protecting its groundwater sources through a combination of public education, routine groundwater monitoring, a pollution source inventory, contingency and emergency planning, and zoning ordinances. The City has been administering the Wellhead Protection Program since 1996 to ensure the safety of the community's water supply. The City received full endorsement from the Ohio EPA for their Wellhead Protection Plans for both the North and South wellfields.

Protecting our drinking water source from contamination is the responsibility of all area residents. Please dispose of hazardous chemicals in the proper manner and report polluters to the appropriate authorities. Only by working together can we ensure an adequate safe supply of water for future generations.

The City of Lancaster has devoted considerable time and expense in developing, implementing, and managing its Wellhead Protection Program to ensure the integrity of its water supply. More information about the source water assessment and what consumers can do to help protect the aquifer is available by calling 740-687-6631.

Your Water

General Health Information

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). 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 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 Water Drinking Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 Lancaster Department of Water 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 Monitoring

The sources of drinking water both tap water and bottled water includes 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. It can also 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; 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has established limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. Samples are collected and analyzed for many different contaminants. The monitoring frequency requirement for some contaminants is less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not normally change. Some of our data, though accurate, may be more than one year old.

Your Right to Know

As a public water consumer, it is your right to know the quality of your drinking water. Reading your annual water quality report is the first step you can take to become a more knowledgeable consumer. So, look for your report each year. When you receive it, take the time to read it. If you don't receive a report by July 1st each year, contact your water company to request a copy. As you're reading the report, write down any questions you may have. Contact your local water company to get the answers to those questions.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is water hardness?

Hardness in water is caused by calcium and magnesium ions. The more hardness in the water the more soap is required to wash and clean. Lancaster's water hardness ranges from 7.0 to 8.5 grains. *We do not produce zero hardness water because it is corrosive to the pipes and plumbing.* The ion exchange method of softening uses salt for regeneration of the softening media. People who are on sodium free diets should take this into consideration when planning your sodium intake. Sodium in Lancaster's water had an annual average of 184 mg/L. The new South Water Treatment Plant at 4600 Lancaster-Sugar Grove Road uses membrane filtration to remove hardness. No additional sodium is added to the water.

What is the white stuff in my coffee pot?

Minerals dissolved in water tend to settle out when water is heated. These minerals are white and accumulate in coffee pots, water heaters, and on shower heads and

glass doors. These minerals are necessary to meet other standards set forth by the EPA.

What causes discolored water?

Routine hydrant flushing or plumbing changes in your home can stir up material that has settled. This can give your water a temporary "sandy" appearance. The best way to solve this problem is to verify with your water supplier that there is no break in the system, and if there is none, flush your home pipes by running cold water for a while through your largest faucet, probably the bathtub.

How long can I store drinking water?

Drinking water that has been disinfected can be stored in closed plastic or glass containers. Make sure the container has no metal that will rust and possibly contaminate the water. The disinfectant that is in the water will slowly dissipate. Replacing the water every six months is recommended. The taste of stored drinking water may become flat after extended storage, so periodic replacement will help with taste also.

North Water Treatment Plant

