

The City of Lakewood Water Quality Report 2008

Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. Old Hickory Utility District and the City of Lakewood have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be present in drinking water. The chart below shows only 10 contaminants were found and all of these were at safe levels.

What is the source of my water?

The City of Lakewood purchases its water from the Old Hickory Utility District (OHUD). OHUD's source is Old Hickory Lake.

Why are there contaminants in my water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Community water systems are required to disclose the detection, however bottled water companies are not required to comply with this regulation. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate 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 (800-426-4791).

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?

The State and EPA require us to test, sample and report on our water regularly to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements.

What is a cross-connection?

A cross-connection shall mean any physical arrangement whereby a public water supply is connected directly or indirectly with any other waste supply system, sewer, drain, conduit, pool, storage reservoir, plumbing fixture, or other waste or liquid of unknown or unsafe quality which may be capable of imparting contamination to the public water supply as a result of backflow. Bypass arrangements, jumper connections removable sections, swivel or changeover devices through which or because of which backflow could occur are considered to be cross-connections.

How can I get involved?

The City Officials meet at City Hall, located at 3401 Hadley Ave., the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Please feel free to attend and participate in these meetings.

Lead in 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. Lakewood 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 individually 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>

Do I need to take 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 chemo-therapy, 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 medical advice about not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Water System Security

Following the events of September 2001, we realize that our customers are concerned about the security of their drinking water. We urge the public to report any suspicious activities at any Lakewood facilities, including pumping stations, fire hydrants, valves etc. to 847- 8030 .

Other Information

We, the City of Lakewood Officials, know the Old Hickory Utility District is doing their absolute best to make our water safe and free of contaminants and abiding by all the rules of the State and EPA. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

For more information about your drinking water, please call Robert Franklin, City Manager at 847-2187.

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

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What does this chart mean?

- **MCLG** - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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** - Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.
- **MRDL**: 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 the control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG**: Maximum residual disinfectant 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.
- **AL** - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Below Detection Level (BDL)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a level that can be detected.
- **Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter** - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Millirems per year (mrem/yr)** - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
- **Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)** - million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **TT** - Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform *1 Bacteria	No	1 positive		2008	Presence or Absent	0	<2 positive samples	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity *2	No	.500	.035- .500	2008	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Lead *3	No	90th% =3.4		2008	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	90th% =.28		2008	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household Plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	No	1.05 avg.	0.875- 1.23	2008	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sodium	No	6.4		2008	ppm	n/a	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
TTHM *4 (Total Trihalomethanes)	No	54 avg.	32-95	2008	ppb	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids)	No	41 avg.	36-46	2008	ppb	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic *5 Carbon	No	1.19 avg.	1.00-1.36	2008	ppm	TT	TT	Naturally present in the environment
Nitrate *6 (as Nitrogen)	No	0.70		2008	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Found	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	No	2.23 avg.	1.54-2.96	2008	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.

During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, only 1 out of 20 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level.

*1 During 2008 the Old Hickory Utility District collected 58 Total Coliform Bacteria samples. 1 of the 58 samples were positive for total coliforms. Due to the 1 positive sample 3 repeat samples were collected within 24hrs. One at the original site and one within 5 taps upstream and one within 5 taps downstream. All repeats samples were negative for total coliform bacteria.

*2 99.9% of our samples were below the turbidity limit.

*3 Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

*4 While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for trihalomethanes, it does contain low levels. 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.

*5 The Old Hickory Utility District has met the treatment technique requirements for Total Organic Carbon removal in 2008.

*6 Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agriculture activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

**OLD HICKORY UTILITY DISTRICT
2008
WATER QUALITY DATA**