

CITY OF MARION
MARION WATERWORKS
P.O. BOX 127
MARION, WI 54950

2012 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Marion Waterworks is pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all Federal and State requirements. This report shows our water quality. We monitor for contaminants according to Federal and State laws. The table on the back of the page shows any contaminants detected from January 1st 2008 to December 31st, 2012. The State requires us to monitor some contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations are not expected to vary significantly. In addition to the contaminants shown on the table, Marion's drinking water has been tested for 30 other items such as pesticides, herbicides, and volatile organics. These tests all had zero detects.

Our source of water is wells. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. These contaminants can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons can particularly be at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health provider. 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).

So what does the table mean? As you will see, our system had **no violations**. We are proud that our drinking water exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected but the EPA has determined that our water **IS SAFE**.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning the water utility please call the Utility Superintendent at 715-754-2616 or leave a message at City Hall at 715-754-2124. The Water and Sewer Utility Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 4:30 P.M. at City Hall. Our customers are welcome to attend.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm 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 agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health provider.

As you look at the table, there are two columns that are of particular interest. The 'Level Detected' column shows the actual amount of the contaminant found in the water. The 'MCL' column shows what is allowed. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand possible health effects for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters (about 2 quarts) of water every day at that level for a **lifetime** to have a one-in-a-million chance of having a health effect. See the back of this page for the table and definitions.

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TEST RESULTS

Contaminant & When Tested	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Typical Source of Contamination
HAA5 9/12/2011	No	1	ppb	60	60	Disinfection Byproducts
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
TTHM 9/12/2011	No	14.6	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Radioactive Contaminants						
Alpha Emitters 4/13/2009	No	9.4	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants						
Arsenic 6/14/2011	No	2	ppb	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium 6/14/11	No	.054	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	.16	ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing
Fluoride 6/14/2011	No	.6	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; additive which promotes strong teeth
Lead	No	3.50	ppb	0	AL = 15	Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing
Nickel 6/14/2011	No	2.70	ppb	n/a	100	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as nitrogen)	No	3.30	ppm	10	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks
Unregulated Contaminants						
Bromodichloromethane 9/12/2011	No	4.40	ppb	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bromoform 9/12/2011	No	1.30	ppb	n/a	n/a	n/a
Chloroform 9/12/2011	No	4.40	ppb	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dibromochloromethane 9/12/2011	No	4.50	ppb	n/a	n/a	n/a

The following definitions will help explain the table:

(ppm) - One part per million is the same as one minute in two years or one penny in \$10,000.

(ppb) - One part per billion is the same as one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000.

(pCi/L) - Picocuries per liter is a measure of radioactivity in water.

(AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

(MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" is 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.

(MCLG) - The "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.