

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2020

Report Date: June 14, 2021 (rev 1)

MD0100018

TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2020

For more information regarding this report contact:

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

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TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN is Ground Water System.

The Burgess and Commissioners of Middletown are pleased to present to you this annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of our water and services we deliver to you. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, to continually improve our water treatment process, and to protect our water resources.

The Middletown water system is supplied by twenty-three (23) wells and four (4) major groups of springs located on the west side of the Catoctin Mountain, north of town. The Middletown water system draws from the Catoctin Mountain Aquifer. Raw water sources are stored in a 1-million-gallon ground storage tank. Raw water from the raw water tank flows directly to our water treatment plant (WTP 01). The raw water tank and the treatment plant are located just west of Hollow Road about one mile north of the intersection with US Alternate 40. Water treatment consists of adding caustic soda, for pH adjustment, chlorine, as a disinfectant to protect against microbial contaminants. From the plant, the water is pumped to our 400,000 gallon elevated storage tank. Two other sources of raw water are treated by independent water treatment plants and flow directly into the distribution system. Those wells are 15 (WTP 02) and 22 and 23 (WTP 03 – Brookridge). Both facilities remove iron and manganese and disinfect the water for public consumption.

We are pleased to report that Middletown's drinking water is safe and continues to meet all Federal and State requirements. The Maryland Department of the Environment performed a source water assessment for the Town of Middletown in 2005. Copy of this assessment is available upon request. If you have any questions about this report or concerning water quality, please contact Bruce Carbaugh, Director of Public Works, at 31 West Main Street, Middletown, MD 21769 or call 301.371.6171. To learn more about the Town's water and sewer system activities, you are encouraged to attend our monthly Town Meetings at 7:00 PM on the second and fourth Monday's of each month at the Middletown Municipal Center, located at 31 West Main Street, Middletown, MD.

The Middletown water system routinely monitors your drinking water for possible contaminants in accordance with Federal and State laws. Of the 122 regulated and unregulated contaminants for which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), none were at violation levels. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, 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. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health risks can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.

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 infections. 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 (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. We 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>.

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.

The table below lists all contaminants found in Middletown’s drinking water during the 2020 calendar year. Unless otherwise noted, testing was performed January 1 – December 31, 2020. The State requires us to monitor some contaminants less than once per year because their concentrations are not likely to vary significantly from year to year. Therefore, some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2020	1.3	1.2- 1.3	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2020	5	5.1- 5.1	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2020	25	24.75 – 24.75	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2020	0.065	0.065 - 0.065	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2020	0.22		1.3	1.3	ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2020	2	0 – 2.4	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	06/08/2017	6.5	4.4 - 6.5	0	50	pCi/L	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Parts per million (ppm) - Milligrams per liter or parts per million or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

Parts per billion (ppb) - Micrograms per liter or parts billion or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no know or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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 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.

Average (Avg) - Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

na: not applicable.

mrem: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

Treatment Technique or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

LEAD AND COPPER RULE VIOLATION EXPLANATION: The Lead and copper rule requires the Town to solicit 20 residents of specific sampling criteria for sampling the water in their residence. Of the 20 site specific locations 14 of the customers being served by Middletown water complied with our requests for the sampling. The Town was unable to meet the minimum 20 sites without the cooperation of the property owners in 2017. Historical results of the Lead and Copper samples has never demonstrated an elevated or level exceeding the action level in the last 20 years.

Violations Table

Lead and Copper Rule			
The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
FOLLOW-UP OR ROUTINE TAP M/R (LCR)	10/01/2017	2020	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. (2020 lead and copper tests are in compliance)