

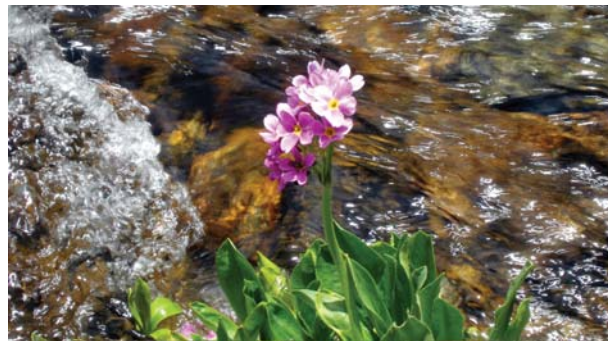


# Frederick County Division of Utilities & Solid Waste Management

## Annual Water Quality Report

2008 Summary • Prepared for Customers of Frederick County Water Systems

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report which is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you daily. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts and dedication of our employees who strive continuously to improve the water treatment process and protect your water resources. The Frederick County Division of Utilities & Solid Waste Management is committed to ensuring the quality of your water.



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### SOURCES OF WATER

Sources of drinking water, both tap and bottled water, include rivers, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. The majority of the County's water system customers receive treated water from surface water supplies, primarily the Potomac River. The remainder of our customers receive treated ground water from deep well sources.

### SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

The Maryland Department of the Environment has completed source-water assessments for each of the County's water supplies. These assessments are used to implement source-water protection plans, which identify and prevent potential sources of contamination from entering your drinking water supply. More information on these assessments can be found on-line at [www.co.frederick.md.us/index.asp?NID=2026](http://www.co.frederick.md.us/index.asp?NID=2026) or by contacting our offices at (301) 600-1825.

In 2008, Frederick County produced a total of 1.67 billion gallons of water at 13 treatment plants. Most (89%) was produced at the New Design Plant which uses the Potomac River as its source of water. The remainder was produced at numerous treatment plants using groundwater sources.



We are pleased to report that your drinking water is safe and meets Federal and State requirements.

This report details information about your water quality and what the analyses mean. In addition to the test results shown in this report, testing has been performed on well over 100 various regulated and unregulated contaminants. These contaminants, which include volatile and synthetic organic chemicals (industrial chemicals and herbicides/pesticides), metals, other inorganic, and radiological compounds are not listed because they were not detected. Specific information on this additional testing may be obtained by contacting the Frederick County Division of Utilities & Solid Waste Management.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Mark Schweitzer, Regulatory Compliance Department Head, at (301) 600-1825, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. Periodically, issues pertaining to your water system are addressed at regularly scheduled Board of County Commissioners' meetings. You may contact the Commissioners' Office at (301) 600-1100 to obtain information on the Commissioners' meeting agenda and location.

\* \* \* \*

Visit the County's web site for pertinent information concerning your water system or e-mail us your questions.

[www.co.frederick.md.us/](http://www.co.frederick.md.us/)  
(email address: [wsops@fredco-md.net](mailto:wsops@fredco-md.net))

## TESTING REQUIREMENTS

The Frederick County Division of Utilities & Solid Waste Management and the Maryland Department of the Environment routinely monitor the constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This report summarizes the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2008.

## VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immuno-compromised persons such as individuals 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 from their health care providers about their drinking water.

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. Call (800) 426-4791.

## SPECIFIC WATER QUALITY DATA

The insert(s) in this pamphlet provides specific water quality information regarding your water supply. It also includes other information that is related to the operation of your community's water supply system.



The Division's State-Certified Water Quality Laboratory performed over 4,250 analyses on samples collected from County water systems during 2008.



## CUSTOMERS WITH MULTIPLE WATER SOURCES

Some of our water system customers receive water from multiple sources of supply. This typically occurs when water systems located next to each other share water between their respective distribution systems. Because the flow and movement of water in the distribution system can be non-uniform, it is difficult to accurately identify the proportion of water that comes from each water system.

If your community is supplied by multiple sources of water, you may find data from more than one water source enclosed with this report. Your specific water quality can be a combination of the multiple sources. Regardless of how many sources of water the water system uses, each source met or exceeded the standards set by EPA.

## COMPLIANCE WITH SAFE DRINKING ACT REQUIREMENTS

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all EPA and state drinking water health standards. Frederick County vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals, and radioactive substances.

All 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.



MCL's are set at very stringent levels. 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.

## TERMS, UNITS AND ABBREVIATIONS

**PPM** - Parts per Million - Generally equivalent to milligrams per liter.

**PPB** - Parts per Billion - Generally equivalent to micrograms per liter.

**pCi/L** - Picocuries per Liter - a measure of radiation.

**TT** - Treatment Technique - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

**NTU** - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit - A measure of the clarity of water.

**SDWA** - Safe Drinking Water Act - Federal Law which regulates the water quality for public water supplies.

**MCLG** - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - 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 - 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.

**ND** - Non-Detected - Means not detectable (at lowest level for which contaminant can be measured).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

For more information on your water supply or the information contained in this report you may want to contact the following agencies.

Frederick County Division of Utilities & Solid Waste Management  
(301) 600-1825

Maryland Department of the Environment  
(410) 537-3000  
(800) 633-6101

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline  
(800) 426-4791



Division of Utilities & Solid Waste Management Emergency Telephone Numbers

Monday thru Friday  
7:00 AM - 3:30 PM  
(301) 600-2187

After Hours & Weekends  
(301) 600-2194

The Frederick County Commissioners and the Division of Utilities & Solid Waste Management strive to provide our customers with a safe, uninterrupted water supply. We hope that all of our customers recognize the need to protect our most precious resource, our community water supply.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### Source Water Protection

Drinking water sources are vulnerable to contamination that can cause a community significant expense and threaten public health. The Frederick County Division of Utilities and Solid Waste Management is a member of the Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership, an organization of almost two dozen regional water suppliers and government agencies that promote a comprehensive approach to protecting raw drinking water supplies in the region through cooperative research and the exchange of knowledge. The best and most cost-effective way to ensure safe water at the tap is to keep our source water clean. Below are some easy steps that everyone can take to help protect our water supply.



### Dispose of Unused Pharmaceuticals Properly

Unused medication should never be flushed down a toilet or sink since most wastewater treatment processes are unable to completely remove these compounds. As a result, many of these compounds wind up in bodies of water that also serve as sources of drinking water. A better solution is to bring them to a Household Hazardous Waste Dropoff Day sponsored by the Frederick County Department of Solid Waste in the spring and fall. For specific information, check online at [www.co.frederick.md.us/recycling](http://www.co.frederick.md.us/recycling) or call (301) 600-2960.



### Help Prevent Sewer Back-ups

**DO NOT** pour grease, fats, and oils from cooking down the drain. Collect grease in a container, such as a soup can, and throw it in the garbage.

**DO NOT** use the toilet as a wastebasket. Diapers, personal hygiene products, and baby wipes should be disposed of with household trash.

Grease buildup and the accumulation of trash in sewer lines are common causes of sewage overflows which can contaminate sourcewater supplies. Should you see a sewage overflow, contact us immediately.

### Don't Overuse Pesticides or Fertilizers

You may have a thick green lawn, colorful flowers, or an abundant vegetable garden, but many fertilizers and pesticides contain hazardous chemicals that can contaminate groundwater. If you feel you must use these chemicals, please use them in moderation.