

A photograph of water being poured from a glass pitcher into a tall, clear glass. The water is captured in mid-pour, creating a dynamic splash and bubbles. The background is a soft, light blue gradient.

Annual
WATER
QUALITY
REPORT

Reporting Year 2012

Presented By _____
City of Manistee Water Department

PWS ID#: 4030

There When You Need Us

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2012. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available to assist you should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

Community Participation

You can attend regularly scheduled City Council meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers at 70 Maple Street.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include 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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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 are 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Manistee customers are fortunate because we enjoy an abundant water supply. Our water source is groundwater from two natural aquifers. Four large water wells pump the water to two 500,000-gallon water towers.

Additional Information

In 2012, the City of Manistee Water Department distributed 326,179,000 gallons of water to our customers.

The Staff of the Manistee Water Department:

- Jeff Mikula, DPW Director
- Bruce Banks, Lead Operator
- Mike Hiller, Water Serviceman
- Tim Kolanowski, Water Serviceman
- Kathie Boyle, DPW Administrative Assistant
- Heather Pefley, Accounts Receivable/Water Billing Clerk

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or your drinking water, please contact Jeff Mikula, DPW Director, at (231) 723-7132 or by writing to this address: PO Box 358, Manistee, MI 49660. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council, bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 25 percent of bottled water is actually just bottled tap water (40 percent according to government estimates).

The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water.

For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, check out their Web site at www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/exesum.asp.

Water Treatment Process

The City of Manistee treats your water using phosphate, chlorine, and fluoride to remove or reduce harmful contaminants that may come from the source water. Our Wellhead Protection Program was started in 1996. The basic premise of the plan is to keep our water supply safe from contamination. A copy of the source water protection plan is available at City Hall, 70 Maple Street; it provides more information, such as potential sources of contamination.

Naturally Occurring Bacteria

The simple fact is, bacteria and other microorganisms inhabit our world. They can be found all around us: in our food; on our skin; in our bodies; and, in the air, soil, and water. Some are harmful to us and some are not. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease. Throughout the year, we tested many water samples for coliform bacteria. In that time, none of the samples came back positive for the bacteria.

Federal regulations require that public water that tests positive for coliform bacteria must be further analyzed for fecal coliform bacteria. Fecal coliform are present only in human and animal waste. Because these bacteria can cause illness, it is unacceptable for fecal coliform to be present in water at any concentration. Our tests indicate no fecal coliform is present in our water.



What is the typical per-day water usage?

While usage varies from community to community and person to person, on average, Americans use 183 gallons of water a day for cooking, washing, flushing, and watering purposes. The average family turns on the tap between 70 and 100 times daily. About 74% of home water usage occurs in the bathroom, about 21% in the laundry room, and about 5% in the kitchen.

Why do water pipes tend to break in winter?

Liquids generally contract when frozen and become more dense; however, the unique qualities of water cause it to expand by up to 9% when it freezes. That is why water pipes burst when temperatures reach the freezing mark.

How much water is used to create the food we eat each year?

The average American consumes 1,500 pounds of food each year; 1,000 gallons of water are required to grow and process each pound of that food. Thus, 1.5 million gallons of water is invested in the food eaten annually by just one person! This 200,000-plus cubic feet of water per person is enough to cover a football field four feet deep.

Is it okay to use hot water from the tap for cooking and drinking?

No, ALWAYS use cold water. Hot water is more likely to contain rust, copper, and lead from household plumbing and water heaters. These harmful substances can dissolve into hot water faster than they do into cold water, especially when the faucet has not been used for an extended period of time.

What type of container is best for storing water?

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or BPA-free plastics such as polyethylene are the safest choices. To be on the safe side, do not use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing 7 PC (which is the code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum containers that have BPA-free liners.

How much water is used in the shower?

A 10-minute shower can take 25 to 50 gallons of water. High-flow shower heads allow a flow of 6 to 10 gallons a minute. Low-flow shower heads can cut the rate in half without reducing pressure.

Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen, disinfectant levels, and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use and avoid using hot water, to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.

Fact *or* Fiction

Water treatment began as a way to remove disease-causing agents. *(Fiction: It was only in the 1950s that scientists began to suspect that water might carry diseases. Although earlier treatment of water could make the water safer, it was mainly done merely to improve the taste, smell, or appearance of the water.)*

About half of the world's water supply is available for drinking. *(Fiction: If all the world's water were fit into a gallon jug, the fresh water available for us to use would equal only about one tablespoon.)*

Due to its unique nature, water boils at the same temperature anywhere on the planet. *(Fiction: At sea level, water boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit, but on top of Mt. Everest, water boils at 154 degrees.)*

Water regulates the temperature of the Earth. *(Fact: As in the human body, the water in our oceans, lakes, and streams plays a major role in regulating planetary temperatures.)*

The Mississippi River is longer than the Amazon River. *(Fiction: At 3,902 miles the Mississippi River is not as long as the Amazon River, which flows for 4,000 miles.)*

Forty trillion gallons of water a day are carried in the atmosphere across the United States. *(Fact: Forty percent of the atmosphere's moisture content falls as precipitation each day.)*

Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2011	10	0	0	0–0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2010	2	2	0.04	ND–0.04	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2012	[4]	[4]	0.21	0.09–0.29	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2012	4	4	0.63	0.1–1.34	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2010	60	NA	6	4–8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2012	10	10	1.0	ND–1.22	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	2012	1	1	0	0–0	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2008	50	50	0.003	ND–0.003	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2010	80	NA	25.7	21–32	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2011	1.3	1.3	0.36	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2011	15	0	2	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Definitions

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

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.

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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not Detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).