



# WATER QUALITY REPORT

For more information about your drinking water contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791; or contact the Northeast District Office of Ohio EPA at (330) 425-9171; or contact the Water Department Superintendent, Mr. J.D. Williams at (330) 489-3308.

**From glacial aquifer to you...  
Canton delivers exceptional quality,  
value and service to our consumers.**

The City of Canton Water Department is pleased to present you with our ninth Annual Water Quality Report. As this report will show you, Canton is fortunate to have an abundant, dependable source of high quality drinking water. We are proud to announce that our water meets or exceeds all federal and state Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards set for water quality. Our goal is and always has been to provide our consumers with a safe, dependable supply of drinking water and top-notch customer service at a minimum of cost.

## TASTE TIP:

If you feel Canton drinking water has a chlorine taste, try leaving an open pitcher of it in your refrigerator overnight. The chlorine will be reduced by morning.

# IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

**What to expect from your drinking water?** 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 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 (1-800-426-4791).

**What are sources of contamination to drinking water?** 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 and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife; (B) 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; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) 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; and (E) radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**How do the EPA and the FDA fit in?** In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

**Who needs to take special 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 chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly persons, and infants can be particularly at risk from infection. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

**What is the source of Canton's drinking water?** The Canton Water Department obtains 100% of its water from underground wells. Our wells extend hundreds of feet deep into sand and gravel aquifers that were created long ago by glacial activity. These natural aquifers provide Canton with more than 8 billion gallons of water per year. We have three separate well fields that supply water to our three water treatment plants. The first is referred to as our Northeast Well Field, which is located in the northeast section in Canton. The second is referred to as our Northwest Well Field, which is located in the northwest section in Canton. Finally, our Sugarcreek Well Field is located southwest of Canton. The Surface Water Assessment Reports have been completed for all three well fields. The reports indicate the well fields are potentially susceptible to contamination due to the physical nature and location of the respective aquifers. We have taken protective measures to avoid contamination. More information can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

**Backup Measures:** Should the need ever arise, we have several protective backup systems built into our utility that enable us to ensure a dependable flow of drinking water to our consumers. As previously mentioned, Canton has three separate water treatment plants and well fields. If one plant is taken off-line, the other two plants can make up the difference in water production. The City also has millions of gallons of drinking water stored in enclosed reservoirs. These reservoirs act as a protective reserve of water, if the need should arise. Another backup system is the 2500 horsepower Caterpillar Diesel generator which has been purchased and installed at our Sugarcreek Water Treatment Plant. This powerful generator can provide enough electricity to operate our Sugarcreek Plant in the event of a widespread power outage. We also have two interconnections with the North Canton Water System which are normally kept in a closed position. In an emergency, however, these valves could be opened and potable water supplied to our system or vice versa depending on the need. All of the redundant and overlapping "backup" systems described above ensure that the Canton Water Department can provide a dependable supply of drinking water to all of our consumers.

# ABOUT OUR WATER..

**What's in Canton's Drinking Water?** The EPA requires regular sampling of the City's water supply to ensure drinking water safety. In 2006 alone we ran over 20,000 tests for more than 100 different substances. The good news is **none** of the contaminants that we detected exceed EPA established \*Maximum Contaminant Levels (\*see below for definitions) or resulted in a violation of drinking water standards. Only a very small percentage of the contaminants tested for exist in our water at detectable levels. The accompanying tables identify the contaminants that were detected. *Note:* The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

**How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?** Public participation and comments are encouraged at regular meetings of the City Council which meets every Monday at 7:30 PM in City Hall Council Chambers. During the summer months of June, July and August, the Council meets every other week.

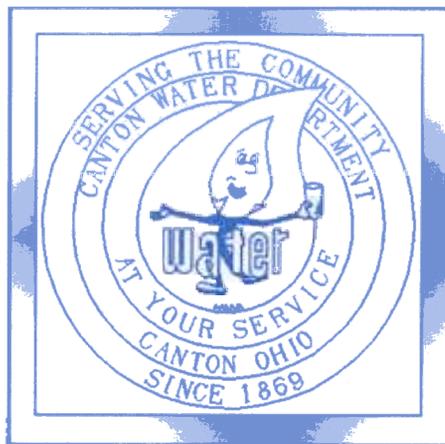
**Who do I contact for more information?** For more information about your drinking water contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791; or contact the Northeast District Office of Ohio EPA at (330) 425-9171; or contact the Water Department Superintendent, Mr. J. D. Williams at (330) 489-3308.

## Frequently asked questions:

**What is hard water?** Canton's water contains the naturally occurring mineral Calcium, which is better known as hardness. Water got nicknamed hard when people found it *hard* to make soap suds or lather from the water. The presence of Calcium in the water is not a health concern but rather somewhat of a nuisance that is very costly to remove on a large scale. Some individuals use a water softener to remove unwanted hardness. Calcium buildup can be removed from spigots and coffee pots using vinegar.

**Why do I occasionally see discolored water leaving my tap?** Discolored water is usually due to the presence of rust (iron). Rust in drinking water can be caused by corrosion in the pipes that carry the water from the treatment plant to your home or corrosion in your home's plumbing, including the hot water heater. Rust is typically not dangerous in terms of health but it can stain laundry. Do not heat-dry laundry washed in rusty water. Call us at (330)-489-3315 and we will deliver a laundry aid to remove rust from your clothes. Problems with discolored water usually clear themselves within a day. If you have a prolonged discolored water problem, please notify us.

**Hydrant Flushing:** During the warm summer months, you may see Water Department personnel flushing fire hydrants. We do this to remove the accumulation of iron sediment in the pipes, thereby reducing discolored water situations over the long term. Essentially, hydrant flushing is our way of cleaning our distribution system! Be aware, however, that hydrant flushing may *temporarily* cause both a drop in water pressure and discolored water.



**WATER TRIVIA:** The average home water use is 60 gallons a day for each person in the USA. The average cost is about a penny for every 5 gallons of water, which totals about 10 cents per day for each person! In comparison, bottled water may cost \$1.00 to \$3.00 per gallon.



# Canton Water Department

2664 Harrisburg Rd

Canton, OH 44705

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## TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Range of Detection	Date of Sample	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>								
Arsenic	No	3.1	ppb	N/A	ND-3.1	7-13-04	50	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	No	0.12	ppm	2.0	0.5-0.12	7-13-04	2.0	Discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	No	12	ppb	100	ND-12	7-13-04	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	604	ppb	1300	ND-1240 <small>(0 out of 50 samples exceeded the AL)</small>	2004	AL=1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Fluoride	No	1.13	ppm	4.0	0.81-1.35	2006	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Lead**	No	5.0	ppb	0	ND-47.1 <small>(1 out of 50 samples exceeded the AL)</small>	2004	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

\*\*Lead: 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 (800-426-4791)**.

## VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

TTHM <small>(Total Trihalomethanes)</small>	No	28.6	ppb	0	8.3-41.8	2006	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
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## RESIDUAL DISINFECTANTS

Total Chlorine	No	0.93	ppm	MRDLG = 4.0	0.36-1.52	2006	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive to control microbes
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## DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

HAA <small>(Haloacetic Acids)</small>	No	8.3	ppb	N/A	5.5-11.1	2006	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
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## \*\*\*UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Level Detected (AVG)	Unit Measurement	Range of Detection	Date of Sample	Contributing Source
Bromodichloromethane	1.5	ppb	5.3-11.2	7-20-06	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform	0.7	ppb	1.1-2.8	7-20-06	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromochloromethane	1.1	ppb	4.8-10.7	7-20-06	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform	0.6	ppb	3.6-8.2	7-20-06	By-product of drinking water chlorination

\*\*\*Note: Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

Definitions of some terms contained within this report. **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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. **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. **Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11 days. **Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in about 32 years. **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. **ND:** Contaminant Not Detected.