Norwood purchases the water you drink from Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW), which is famous for its excellent drinking water. Their Granular Activated Carbon process it considered the best way to remove natural and man-made organic materials that can affect human health.

In order to make sure all of their treatment processes work, GCWW tests the water an average of 300 times each day. They also have monitors throughout the system that test the water continuously. Alarms on these monitors make it easy for them to respond quickly to potential problems.

As additional water quality safeguards, Norwood Health Department tests the water GCWW provides to us 365 days a year for chlorine residual. We also monitor the water each month for bacteria, and every year for lead and copper. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) reviews GCWW’s and Norwood’s compliance testing results annually.

About the Taste

Whether Norwood drinking water tastes good depends on who you ask. Because GCWW uses carbon filtration, they don’t need to add as much chlorine as many utilities do, so Norwood water has less of a “chemical” taste than water in many cities.

While some people like the taste of bottled or home-treated water, these are not necessarily safer than tap water. The safety of any water depends on its source and treatment. For more information about bottled water and home treatment devices, contact the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at 1-800-332-4010.

Norwood drinking water comes from the Miller Treatment Plant located in the southeastern Cincinnati neighborhood of California, Ohio. Miller treats “surface” water pumped from the Ohio River. GCWW has a current unconditioned license to operate our water system.
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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves natural minerals, and in some cases, natural radioactive materials. It can also pick up substances resulting from human or animal activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
1. Microbes, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, livestock or wildlife.
2. Inorganics, such as salts and metals, which can be natural or come from stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
3. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from farm or home uses, or stormwater runoff.
4. Organics, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are created through industrial processes and gas/oil products, and can also come from leaking storage tanks, stormwater runoff and septic systems.
5. Radioactive substances, which can be natural or the result of oil and gas production or mining.

GCWW uses the latest treatment technologies to remove harmful contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA 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.

The Health Connection

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. For example:
1. 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. The City of Norwood is 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 the water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested.
2. Infants and young children can have more trouble with lead in drinking water than other people. It is possible that lead levels in your home may be higher than in other homes in your community because of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested.

Free information is available on drinking water testing, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Infants and young children can have more trouble with lead in drinking water than other people. It is possible that lead levels in your home may be higher than in other homes in your community because of materials used in your home's plumbing. 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 at 800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

But what's in Norwood Drinking Water?

The table below contains the substances found in GCWW water provided to Norwood in 2018. Data show results of monitoring required by EPA. GCWW has tested for sodium in recent years as it leaves the treatment plants and has found 26 mg (milligrams) per liter in the Miller water and 32 mg per liter in the Belwood water. There are approximately 4 liters in a gallon. All of the regulated substances in GCWW drinking water were well within limits EPA has set to ensure safety of tap water.

The lead, copper, and chlorine residual data show the results of Norwood testing in 2018. These substances were also well within EPA limits.

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**Definitions**

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.

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.

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

The < symbol: A symbol which means less than. A result of < 5 means that the lowest level obtained in 5 consecutive tests was less than the stated contaminant in that sample test was not detected.

**Abbreviations**

ppb parts per billion or micrograms per liter

ppm parts per million or milligrams per liter

ns not applicable

NTU Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in drinking water

ad not detectable at testing limits

nt not regulated

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**Data and Analyses**

Further information is available on the water source assessment for GCWW at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/leadpdf/USGS20121121.pdf