Norwood Department of Public Service

2012 Safe Drinking Water Report

Important facts about the safety of your water:

- How it compares to national standards
- What’s in it
- Where it comes from
- How it’s treated and tested

While GCWW provides us with treated water, the City of Norwood is responsible for distributing it, metering it, and billing for the water service.

As such, we make our own repairs to the Norwood distribution system. Norwood Health Department works closely with the Public Works Department during water main breaks to maintain high water quality while repairs are being made.

City of Norwood personnel are on the job at all times to bring you the cleanest, safest water available. You are welcome to attend public water meetings held the first Monday of February, May, August, and November from 5-6 pm in the office of Safety-Service Director.

Who are You going to Call?

- If you have a water break, call the Department of Public Works at 458-4615.
- If you have a water quality question, call the Department of Health at 458-4600.
- If you want to establish water service, or have a billing question, call the Water Department at 458-4518.

Thank you for reading this report, which was prepared to meet the EPA’s National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for Consumer Confidence Reports and sent to all Norwood water service customers.

Department of Public Service
Norwood City Hall
4645 Montgomery Road
Norwood, OH 45212
(513) 458-4503

The Treatment Process at the Miller Plant on the Ohio River

The news is Good
The news is Good

Where Your Water comes from

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.

The Treatment Process at the Miller Plant on the Ohio River

- intake
- pH adjusted
- granular activated carbon removes organics
- reserivoir
- sand and gravel filter water
- to distribution system
- furnace cleans carbon for reuse
- pH adjusted again, chlorine and fluoride added
- final settling occurs, water prepared for final treatment
- presettling removes most solids
- further settling occurs in reservoir
- final settling occurs, water prepared for final treatment
- pumps
- settling aids added

The news is Good

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.

If you feel your water has a chemical or chlorine taste, try leaving an open pitcher of it in your refrigerator overnight. The chlorine will be reduced by morning and the taste will improve.

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.

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What can be in 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 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 materials 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 use, 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 gas stations, 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 techniques to remove harmful contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, 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.

The Health Connection

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

1. 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 of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.
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 the community because of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about high lead levels, you may wish to have your water tested. Flushing your tap for up to two minutes before using the water and using only cold water for cooking are also helpful.

**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 MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

Treatment Technique 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 that could be detected was 5.

The symbol: A symbol which means that no detectable lead in water is found.

**Water Quality Data**

<table>
<thead>
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<td>1. Total Coliform bacteria</td>
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<td>2. Vegetable oils</td>
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