

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 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.
- E. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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 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 (800-426-4791).

**Health Information:**

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, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. 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 (800-426-4791)**.

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The City of Conneaut Water Department conducted sampling for bacteria, inorganic, radiological, and volatile organic contaminants during 2015. Samples were collected for a total of 62 different contaminants most of which were not detected in the City of Conneaut Water Supply.

**In 2015, the City of Conneaut maintained an unconditional license to operate our water system.**

## Contaminants Table

The contaminants table is a summary of the water quality characteristics for Conneaut for the year 2015. **It shows the levels of detected contaminants and their allowable ranges.** For example, turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU or less in 95% of the daily samples taken each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported below, the Conneaut Water System highest recorded turbidity result for 2015 was 0.29 NTU and the monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits in all months was 100%.

Contaminants (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Total Organic Carbon	N/A	TT	0.92	0.76 – 1.63	No	2015	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	0	TT = 1 ntu	0.29	0.03 - 0.29	No	2015	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (% of samples <0.3 ntu)	0	TT with minimum 95%	100%	100 %	No	2015	Soil Runoff
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.54	<0.1 – 0.54	No	2015	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.07	0.82 – 1.07	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL=1.3	0.53 (90%)	N/A	No	2014	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Two out of 30 samples was found to have Copper levels in excess of the Action Level of 1.3 ppm							
Lead (ppb)	0	AL=15	4.1 (90%)	N/A	No	2014	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
One out of 30 samples was found to have Lead levels in excess of the Action Level of 15 ppb							
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOCs)*</b>							
TTHM (ppb)	N/A	80	37.03	12.6 – 54.6	No	2015	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	N/A	60	22.1	9.1 – 28.8	No	2015	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Residual Disinfectants</b>							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDL = 4	1.46	0.4 – 2.3	No	2015	Water additive used to control microbes

<b>Unregulated Contaminants (UCs)*</b>			
	Bromodichloromethane	Chloroform	Dibromochloromethane
Distribution system			
Average value	7.2	14.55	3.8
Range of values	4.5 – 13.2	6.8 – 35.3	2.2 – 5.1

\*As required, the City of Conneaut sampled quarterly for VOCs and UCs at four distribution system sites. Conneaut tested for many other possible contaminants, but found none other than those listed in the table.

**Key**

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

ppb: Parts per billion or micrograms per Liter (µg/L) are units of measure for concentrations of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

ppm: Parts per million or milligrams per Liter (mg/L) are units of measure for concentrations of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in 11.5 days.

TTHMs: Trihalomethanes

HAA5: Haloacetic Acids

90%: 90<sup>th</sup> percentile

N/A: Not applicable

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Limit

TT: Treatment Technique

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

AL: Action Level

<symbol: means results were less than number shown

**City of Conneaut Water Department  
2015 Drinking Water Report  
Consumer Confidence Report**

**City of Conneaut  
294 Main Street  
Conneaut, OH 44030**

**Unregulated contaminants** are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether further regulation is warranted.

**Disinfection by-products** are the result of providing continuous disinfection of your drinking water and form when disinfectants combine with the organic matter naturally occurring in the source water. Disinfection by-products are grouped into two categories: total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids. USEPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfectants and disinfection by-products in drinking water, including both TTHMs and HAA5s.

**Lead information** – 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 Conneaut water system 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 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**For more information contact the  
Conneaut Water Treatment Plant at  
(440)-593-7437.**

**Definitions:**

**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 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 technique.** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Action level.** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

**Variance and exemption.** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**Maximum residual disinfectant level goal:** The level of drinking water disinfectant of below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits to use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL):** The highest level of the disinfectant that is allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Picocuries per liter (PCI/L):** a common measure of radioactivity.

The City of Conneaut Water Department makes it a priority to supply residents with quality drinking water that is both safe and reliable. The water is tested using advanced equipment and sophisticated methods to ensure that it meets State and Federal standards for appearance and safety. This report, which is required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, includes source water description, General Health information, water quality testing results, and other helpful information.

**Water Source**

The City of Conneaut water system uses surface water drawn from one intake in Lake Erie. Surface water by its nature is accessible, and can be readily contaminated by chemicals and pathogens and with relatively short travel times from source to intake. Although Conneaut's surface water intake is located offshore in Lake Erie, the proximity of several onshore sources makes the source water more vulnerable to a possible contamination. These contamination sources include: leaking underground storage tanks, municipal wastewater treatment discharges, industrial wastewater discharges, oil and gas production and transportation, and accidental releases and spills for rail and vehicular traffic, as well as from commercial shipping operations and recreational boating.

The City of Conneaut public water system treats the water to meet drinking water quality standards, but no single treatment technique can address all potential contaminants. The potential for water quality impacts can be further decreased by implementing measures to protect Lake Erie. More detailed information is provided in the City of Conneaut's water system drinking water source assessment report, which can be obtained from the City by calling Richard Neubauer at 440-593-7437.