

2015 Water Quality Report for St. Johns

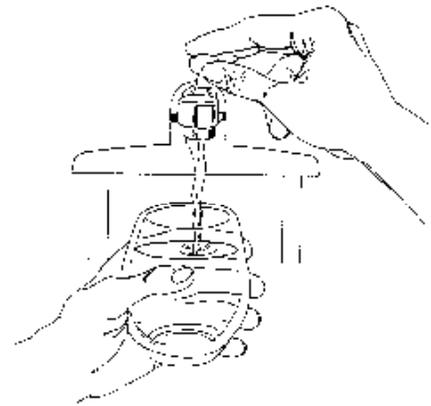
This report covers the drinking water quality for City of St. Johns, for the calendar year 2015. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2015. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

Your water comes from five active groundwater wells located at 832 W. Gibbs, 834 W Gibbs, and (3) 815 N. Ottawa St. The State performed our evaluation of our source water on September 18, 2015. You can get a copy of it by calling 989 224 8944 Ext 282 or 235

- **Contaminants and their presence in 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 **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.
- **Vulnerability of sub-populations:** 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 systems 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).
- **Sources of drinking water:** The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from 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:
 - T **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
 - T **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.

- T **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
- T **Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- T **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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which provide the same protection for Public of Health.



Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2015 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2015. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All of the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

Terms and abbreviations used below:

- **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.
- **N/A:** Not applicable **ND:** not detectable at testing limit **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter **pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).
- **Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Arsenic Level:** Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations? The State and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety.

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. The City of St. Johns City Commission meets every second and fourth Monday nights of each month at 100 E. State St. starting at 7:00 p.m.

For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact [Justin Smith](mailto:jsmith@ci.saint-johns.mi.us) 224-8944 ext. 235 between 8:00 am and 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday or E- mail jsmith@ci.saint-johns.mi.us or visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/safewater/.

Regulated Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Our Water	Sample Date	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic *** (ppb)	10	0	Not Detected	08/14/2012	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.12	05/14/2009	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge of metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.93	03/13/2014	N	Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Radioactive Contaminant						
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	4.34	10/07/2013	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminant **						
Sodium (ppm)	Not regulated		39	03/13/2014	N	Natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	“		43	03/13/2014	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform -ppb	“		Not Detected	07/08/2013	N	“
Chloroform-ppb	“		Not Detected	07/08/2013	N	“
Dichlorobromomethane (ppb)	“		Not Detected	08/26/10	N	“
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	“		0.0025	07/12/2013	N	“
Contaminant Subject to AL	Action Level	90% of Samples ≤ This Level			Number of Samples Above AL	
Lead (ppb)	15	3	09/10/2015	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.57	09/10/2015	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives	

* EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be level of concern for beta particles.

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

Microbial Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Number of Detections	Violation Y/N	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	0 positive monthly sample (Positive \geq 5% of samples)	0	0	N	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and <i>E. coli</i>	Routine and repeat sample total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or <i>E. coli</i> positive	0	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste

:

Information about lead: 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. City of St Johns 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 about lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize your exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. 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. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

We met all the monitoring and reporting requirements for 2015 and are committed to providing you safe, reliable, and healthy water. We are pleased to provide you with this information to keep you fully informed about your water. We will be updating this report annually, and will also keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen.

We invited public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality.

For more information about your water, or the contents of this reports, contact Justin Smith Drinking Water Division Supervisor at 989-224-8944 ext 235. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/safewater/.

Date: _____ Signature of Water System Supervisor _____