



YOUR WATER.



YOUR HEALTH.



OUR PRIORITY. SM

STRAIGHT Talk Your Consumer Confidence Report

By July 1 each year, every drinking water utility issues a water quality report to the community. Often referred to as a Consumer Confidence Report, this document provides each of us with information on our source water, levels of any detected contaminants, and compliance with drinking water rules. Most water systems deliver their Consumer Confidence Report via U.S. Mail. Many also make their reports available on the Internet.

- ▶ There's a lot of information in Consumer Confidence reports. The bottom line is that your water meets all regulations unless a violation is reported. Many reports also contain helpful educational material on water quality issues.
- ▶ The format and appearance of Consumer Confidence reports differs among water suppliers. However, each report contains measurements of the constituents in the water, along with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's maximum contaminant level (MCL) for these constituents. If the level of a substance is higher than the MCL, it represents a violation.
- ▶ If a violation has occurred, the report will include information of the possible health effects that may be associated with that contaminant. Call your water utility or your State regulatory agency if you have additional questions about a reported violation.
- ▶ For some substances – lead for example – instead of an MCL, the report lists a “treatment technique.” This means that in some circumstances EPA may require a utility to employ a particular treatment method to minimize the occurrence of the unwanted substance.
- ▶ If you do not see test results for a substance that interests you, contact your water utility and request the information.
- ▶ The measurements listed in Consumer Confidence reports are unfamiliar to many people. Contaminants and minerals found in the water are usually measured in mg/L (milligrams per liter) or ppm (parts per million), which are extremely small amounts. You may also see µg/L (micrograms per liter) or ppb (parts per billion), which are the same measurement and 1,000 times smaller than mg/L or ppm.
- ▶ Your Consumer Confidence Report also includes a brief section regarding substances that may be in drinking water, including bottled water, but that don't represent a health concern for consumers.

Note: To view your local water system's most recent report, please visit:

www.awwa.org/yourwater Follow the Ask Your Local Utility link to locate your specific water supplier.



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