

Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our source water but can also save you money by reducing your water bill. Here are a few suggestions:

Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Replace old fixtures; install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers.
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Soak dishes before washing.
- Run the dishwasher only when full.

You can conserve outdoors as well:

- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.
- Use water-saving nozzles.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.

Information on other ways that you can help conserve water can be found at www.epa.gov/safewater/publicoutreach/index.html.

Village of Oak Park
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, IL 60302

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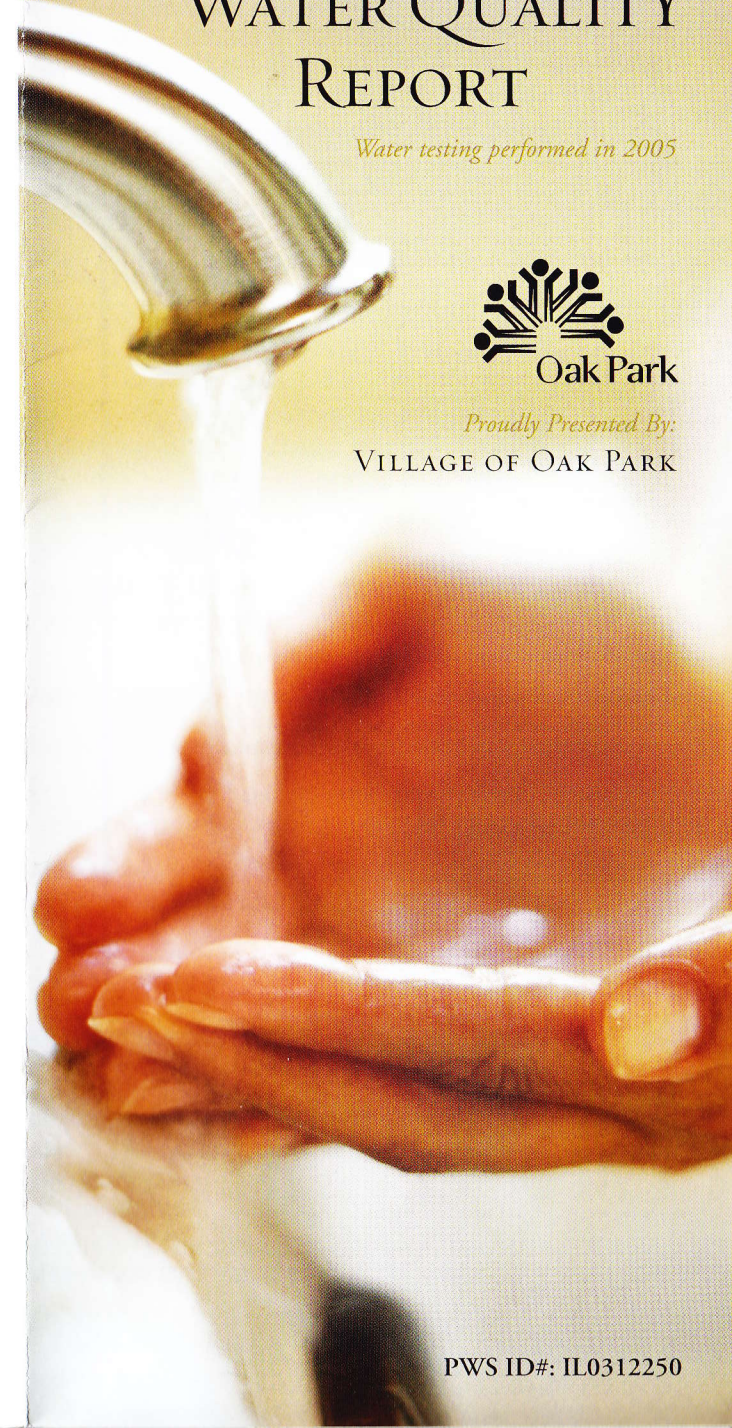
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2005 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Water testing performed in 2005



Proudly Presented By:
VILLAGE OF OAK PARK



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What's in My Water?

We are pleased to report that during the past year, the water delivered to your home and business complied with or did better than, all state and federal drinking water requirements. For your information, we have compiled the tables below to show what substances were detected in our water for the period of January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005. Although all of the substances listed are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by the U.S. EPA, we feel that it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES		Village of Oak Park				City of Chicago			
SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL (MRDL)	MCLG (MRDLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2005	2	2	NA	NA	0.021	0.020-0.022	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L) ¹	2001	50	0	NA	NA	2.000	ND-2.000	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2005	(4)	(4)	0.831	0.685-0.831	0.6961	0.6468-0.6961	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2005	4	4	NA	NA	0.959	0.92-1.03	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
HAA's [Haloacetic Acids] (ppb)	2005	60	NA	15.9	6.9-15.9	8.350	5.5-10.7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate & Nitrite (ppm)	2005	10	10	NA	NA	0.340	ND-0.34	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2005	80	NA	37.5	12.4-37.5	16.100	10-22.5	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU) ²	2005	TT	NA	NA	NA	0.12	0.08-0.12	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly % samples meeting limit)	2005	TT	NA	NA	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

STATE REGULATED (City of Chicago Results)							
SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL (MRDL)	MCLG (MRDLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Sodium (ppm)	2005	NA	NA	7.500	7.3-7.5	No	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Used as water softener

¹ The MCL for Beta/photon emitters is written as 4 mrem/year. The U.S. EPA considers 50 pCi/L as the level of concern for beta emitters.

² Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

Substances That Might Be in Drinking Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

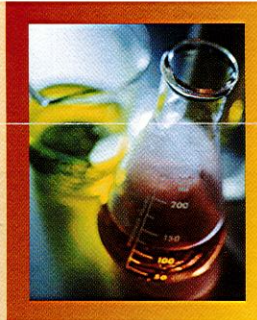
Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



Is It Safe to Drink Water From a Garden Hose?

No. Substances used in vinyl garden hoses to keep them flexible can get into the water as it passes through the hose. These chemicals are not good for you nor are they good for your pets. Allow the water to run for a short time in order to flush the hose before drinking or filling your pets' drinking containers. There are hoses made with food-grade plastic that will not contaminate the water. Check your local hardware store for this type of hose.

Naturally Occurring Bacteria

The simple fact is, bacteria and other microorganisms inhabit our world. They can be found all around us: in our food; on our skin; in our bodies; and, in the air, soil and water. Some are harmful to us and some are not. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease. Throughout the year, we tested over 720 samples (over 60 samples every month) for coliform bacteria. In that time, none of the samples came back positive for the bacteria. Federal regulations now require that public water that tests positive for coliform bacteria must be further analyzed for fecal coliform bacteria. Fecal coliform are present only in human and animal waste. Because these bacteria can cause illness, it is unacceptable for fecal coliform to be present in water at any concentration. Our tests indicate no fecal coliform is present in our water.



Table Definitions

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

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

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

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NA: Not applicable

ND: Not detected

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Cryptosporidium in Drinking Water

Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. The monitoring of source water and/or finished water indicates the presence of these organisms. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immunocompromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immunocompromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

Since April 1993, the Chicago Department of Water Management has conducted monthly *Cryptosporidium* analyses on the source water. *Cryptosporidium* has not been detected in these samples. Treatment processes have been optimized to ensure that if *Cryptosporidium* oocysts exist in the source water, they will be removed during the treatment process. By maintaining low turbidity and thereby removing the particles from the water, the possibility of *Cryptosporidium* organisms getting into the drinking water system is greatly reduced.



About this Report

The Village of Oak Park is proud to provide residents with this annual water quality report. As a snapshot of last year's water quality, this report identifies the source of our water, what it contains and the treatment process. As the report indicates, Oak Park's water quality has remained well within the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) guidelines for municipal water quality. For more information on this report, or for answers to any questions concerning Oak Park's drinking water, please contact Brian M. Jack, Superintendent of the Water and Sewer Division, at (708) 358-5700, or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Community Participation

Village board meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Village Hall, 123 Madison Street. For information on the agendas, call the Village Manager's Office at (708) 358-5770, or visit our Web page at www.oak-park.us.

Special Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other

microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



Source Water Assessment

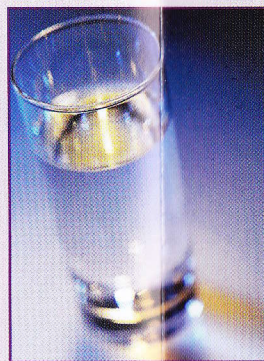
The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intake with no protection other than dilution. This is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Chicago's offshore intakes are located at a distance great enough that shoreline impacts are not usually considered a factor on water quality. At certain times of the year, however, wet-weather flows and river reversals can potentially contaminate offshore intakes. In addition, the placement of the crib structures may serve to attract waterfowl, gulls and terns that frequent the Great Lakes area, thereby concentrating fecal deposits at the intake and thus compromising the source water quality. Conversely, the shore intakes are highly susceptible to stormwater runoff, marinas, and shoreline point sources due to the influx of groundwater to the lake. Chicago has taken extraordinary steps to ensure a safe source of drinking water in the area, from the building of the offshore cribs and the introduction of interceptor sewers to the lock-and-dam system of Chicago's waterways and the city's Lakefront Zoning Ordinance. The city now looks to the recently created Department of Water Management, the Department of Environment and the MWRDGC to ensure the safety of the city's water supply. Also, Lake Michigan has a variety of organizations and associations that are currently working to either maintain or improve water quality.

Finally, one of the best ways to ensure a safe source of drinking water is to develop a program designed to protect the source water against potential contamination on the local level. Since the predominant land use within the Illinois boundary of the Lake Michigan watershed is urban, a majority of the watershed protection activities in this document are aimed at this purpose. Citizens should be aware that everyday activities in an urban setting might have a negative impact on their source water. Efforts should be made to improve awareness of stormwater drains and their direct link to the lake within the identified local source water area. A proven best management is necessary to keep the lake a safe and reliable source of drinking water.

Further information on our community water supply's Source Water Assessment Program is available by calling the City of Chicago, Department of Water Management, at (312)744-6635.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Lake Michigan is Oak Park's sole source of drinking water. Our water arrives pretreated via pipelines from the City of Chicago. Only a small amount of chlorine needs to be added by Oak Park before pumping it into our system. To ensure purity, water samples are routinely gathered throughout the water system, from the source right to your home. A state-certified lab tests the samples using equipment that can measure substances down to one part in a billion! In addition, the Village's treatment facility is constantly maintained, evaluated, and upgraded to incorporate the latest in technology, health sciences, and environmental regulations.



Keeping Your Water Flowing

The Water Division of the Public Works Department operates three pumping facilities each one linked to separate underground reservoirs. Oak Park currently stores a total of 12.5 million gallons of water in four underground reservoirs. Water is pumped from the reservoirs into the Village's distribution system of 105 miles of water mains ranging in size from six inches to twenty inches in diameter. More than two billion gallons of water are pumped through the town yearly, or nearly six million gallons each day. The average daily per capita water consumption is about 105 gallons per day. The Water Division also maintains more than 13,500 water service connections and meters, as well as more than 1,200 fire hydrants.