

Village of Sycamore

Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report For 2020

The **Village of Sycamore** has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts. In 2020 the Village of Sycamore had an unconditional license to operate.

Source Water Information

The **Village of Sycamore** receives its drinking water from three wells. All three wells are located just east of the water treatment plant.

The Ohio EPA has recently completed a study of the Village of Sycamore's source of drinking water, to identify potential contaminant sources and provide guidance of protecting the drinking water source. According to this study the aquifer (water rich zone) that supplies water to the Village of Sycamore has low susceptibility to contamination. The determination is based on the following.

- Presence of moderately thick protective layer of clay overlying the aquifer.
- No evidence that suggest that the ground water has been impacted by any significant chemical contaminants from human activities.
- Significant depth (over 85 feet below ground surface) of the aquifer.

The susceptibility means that under currently existing conditions, the likelihood of the aquifer becoming contaminated is relatively low. For more information, or for a copy of our assessment contact Sycamore Utilities at 419-927-4262.

What are the sources of contamination to drinking water?

The sources of drinking water both tap water and bottled water includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of 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 system, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife; (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from the urban storm water 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 agricultural, urban storm runoff, and residential uses; (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum productions, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm 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, USEPA 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.

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 (1-800-426-4791)**.

Who needs to take special precautions?

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 infection. 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 (1-800-426-4791)**.

About your drinking water

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Village of Sycamore conducted sampling for (VOC, TTHM, Haa5, bacteria, and nitrate) during 2020. All bacteria samples were negative (safe). Samples were collected for many different contaminants most of which were not detected in the Village of Sycamore's water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

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 home plumbing. The Village of Sycamore 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 and cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. A list of laboratories certified in the State of Ohio to test for lead may be found at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw> or by calling **614-644-2752**. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the **Safe Drinking water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791** or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

In 2020, our PWS was sampled as part of the State of Ohio's Drinking Water Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Sampling Initiative. Six PFAS compounds were sampled, and none were detected in our finished drinking water. For more information about PFAS, please visit pfas.ohio.gov.

Table of Contaminants

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detection	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL = 1.3	0.119	NA	NO	2018	Corrosion of household plumbing system
	Zero out of eleven samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the copper action level 1.3 ppm						
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.43	NA	NO	2019	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which supports strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	0	AL=15	<2.0	NA	NO	2018	Corrosion of household plumbing system; erosion of natural deposits
	Zero out of eleven samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level 15 ppb						
Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	35.2	34.3-35.2	NO	2020	By product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAAS) (ppb)	NA	60	8.8	8.7-8.8	NO	2020	By product of drinking water chlorination
Residual Disinfectants							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.4	0.7 - 1.7	NO	2020	Water additives used to control microbes

Violations

The **Village of Sycamore PWS** had no violations in 2020.

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comments are encouraged at regular meetings of the Village Council which meets second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Meetings are held at 7:00 pm in the village office.

For more information on your drinking water, contact Mikah Ames, Water Superintendent at 419-927-4262.

Definitions of some terms contained within this report.

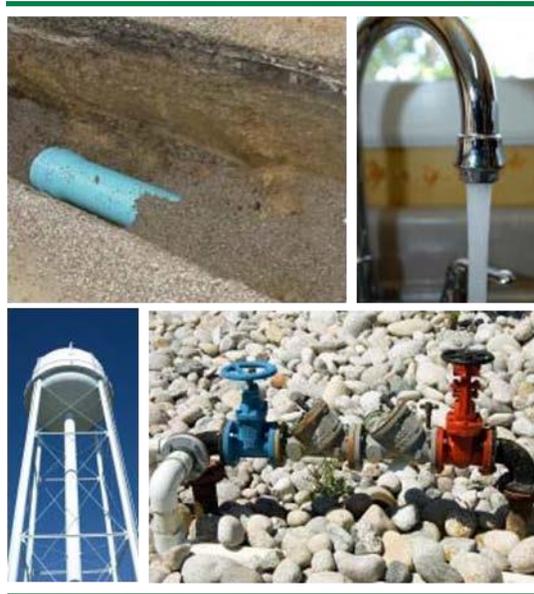
- **Maximum contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.
- **Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of 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.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant level (MRDL):** The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **<:** A symbol which means less than.



Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control

Protecting our Public Water System

August 2015



Division of Drinking and Ground Waters
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049
(614) 644-2752
www.epa.ohio.gov

What is a cross-connection?

Any physical connection created between a possible source of contamination and any drinking water system piping.

What is backflow?

It is the flow through a cross-connection from a possible source of contamination back into the drinking water system. It occurs when a crossconnection is created and a pressure reversal, either as backsiphonage or backpressure, occurs in the water supply piping.

Why be concerned?

- ALL cross-connections pose a potential health risk.
- Backflow can be a health hazard for your family or other consumers if contaminated water enters your water supply plumbing system and is used for drinking, cooking or bathing. Chemical burns, fires, explosions, poisonings, illness and death have all been caused by backflow through crossconnections.
- Backflow occurs more often than you think.
- You are legally responsible for protecting your water supply plumbing from backflow that may contaminate drinking water, either your own or someone else's. This includes complying with the plumbing code and not creating cross-connections.

What causes backsiphonage?

Backsiphonage occurs when there is a loss of pressure in a piping system. This can occur if the water supply pressure is lost or falls to a level lower than the source of contamination. This condition, which is similar to drinking from a glass with a straw, allows liquids to be siphoned back into the distribution system.

What causes backpressure?

Backpressure occurs when a higher opposing pressure is applied against the public water system's pressure. This condition allows undesirable gases or liquids from another system to enter the drinking water supply. Any pumping system (such as a well pump) or pressurized system (such as steam or hot water boilers) can exert backpressure when cross-connected with the public water system.

What can I do?

- Be aware of and eliminate cross-connections.
- Maintain air gaps. Do not submerge hoses or place them where they could become submerged.
- Use hose bib vacuum breakers on fixtures (hose connections in the basement, laundry room and outside).
- Install approved, testable backflow preventers on lawn irrigation systems.
- Do not create a connection between an auxiliary water system (well, cistern, body of water) and the water supply plumbing.

What are some common backflow hazards that threaten the homeowner and other consumers?

- Hose connections to chemical solution aspirators to feed lawn and shrub herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers.
- Lawn irrigation systems.
- Chemically treated heating systems.
- Hose connections to a water outlet or laundry tub.
- Swimming pools, hot tubs, spas.
- Private and/or non-potable water supplies located on the property.
- Water-operated sump drain devices.
- Feed lots/livestock holding areas or barnyards fed through pipes or hoses from your water supply plumbing.

What are examples of cross-connection and backflow scenarios?

- Soapy water or other cleaning compounds backsiphon into the water supply plumbing through a faucet or hose submerged in a bucket or laundry basin.
- Pool water backsiphons into the water supply plumbing through a hose submerged in a swimming pool.
- Fertilizers/pesticides backsiphon into the water supply plumbing through a garden hose attached to a fertilizer/pesticide sprayer.
- Chemicals/pesticides and animal feces drawn into the water supply plumbing from a lawn irrigation system with submerged nozzles.
- Bacteria/chemicals/additives in a boiler system backsiphon into the water supply plumbing.
- Unsafe water pumped from a private well applies backpressure and contaminates the public water supply through a connection between the private well discharge and the potable water supply plumbing.

What must be done to protect the public water system?

The public water supplier must determine potential and actual hazards. If a hazard exists at a customer's public water supply service connection, the customer will be required to install and maintain an appropriate backflow preventer* at the meter and/or at the source of the hazard.

*Check with your water supplier to verify which backflow preventer is required before purchase or installation.

Who is responsible?

In Ohio, the responsibility for preventing backflow is divided. In general, state and local plumbing inspectors have authority over plumbing systems within buildings while Ohio EPA and water suppliers regulate protection of the distribution system at each service connection.

Water customers have the ultimate responsibility for properly maintaining their plumbing systems. It is the homeowner's or other customer's responsibility to ensure that cross-connections are not created and that any required backflow preventers are tested yearly and are in operable condition.

What is the law?

Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3745-95 requires the public water supplier to protect the public water system from cross-connections and prevent backflow situations. The public water supplier must conduct cross-connection control inspections of their water customers' property to evaluate hazards. Local ordinances or water department regulations may also exist and must be followed in addition to state regulations.

If a potential or actual cross-connection contamination hazard is identified, the customer will be required to eliminate the hazard and/or install an appropriate backflow preventer at the service connection and/or at the hazard.

Special Conditions

Auxiliary Water Systems

What is an auxiliary water system?

It is any water system on or available to your property other than the public water system. Used water or water from wells, cisterns or open reservoirs that are equipped with pumps or other sources of pressure, including gravity are examples.

What protection is required?

- The auxiliary water system must be completely separated from water supply plumbing served by a public water system; and
- An approved backflow preventer must be installed at the service connection (where the public water system connects to the customer's plumbing system).

OR

- The auxiliary water system must be eliminated.

Are there exceptions?

At their discretion, the water supplier may waive the requirement for a backflow preventer at the service connection if all the following conditions are met:

- All components of the auxiliary water system, including, pumps, pressure tanks and piping, are removed from the premises, which are defined as all buildings, dwellings, structures or areas with water supply plumbing connected to the public water system.
- The possibility of connecting the auxiliary water system to the water supply plumbing is determined by the water supplier to be extremely low.
- No other hazards exist.
- The customer enters into a contract with the water supplier, as described below.

The contract will require the customer:

- To understand the potential hazard of a crossconnection.
- To never create a cross-connection between the auxiliary water system and the public water system.
- To allow an inspector to survey their property for hazards as long as the contract is in effect.
- To face loss of service and other penalties if the contract is violated.

The water supplier must perform an annual inspection of the customer's contract-regulated property to verify the conditions have not changed, which would warrant installation of a backflow preventer. The water supplier must, by law, do everything reasonably possible to protect the water system from contamination.

Booster Pumps

What is the concern?

Booster pumps connected to plumbing systems or water mains can cause backsiphonage by reducing the water mains. The following requirements are in place to help prevent backsiphonage:

- Booster pumps, not used for fire suppression, must be equipped with a low suction cut-off switch that is tested and certified every year;
- Alternately, when a booster pump is necessary for one-, two- and three-family dwellings, it is preferred that the booster pump draw from a surge tank filled through an air gap; and
- Booster pumps, used in a fire suppression system, must be equipped with either a low suction throttling valve on the discharge side or be equipped with a variable speed suction limiting control system. Low-pressure cut-off devices will suffice for fire pumps installed prior to August 8, 2008, until a significant modification is warranted, at which point the minimum pressure sustaining method must be updated. Each of these methods must be tested and certified each year.

Need more information?

Questions concerning backflow prevention and cross-connection control may be directed to **Sycamore Utilities** at **(419) 927-4262** or to your local Ohio EPA District Office at the following numbers:

Northwest District (419) 352-8461

Northeast District (330) 963-1200

Southwest District (937) 285-6357

Southeast District (740) 385-8501

Central District (614) 728-3778

Questions regarding internal plumbing in the home may be directed to your local plumbing authority or to the Ohio Department of Commerce, Plumbing Administrator, at (614) 644-3153.