

## Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are contaminants for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. Below are the unregulated contaminants that were detected in your water in 2019.

Contaminants	Average Level Found	Range of Detections
Manganese (ppb)	1.6	NA
Haloacetic Acids (HAA6Br) (ppb)	3.8	2.8-5.7
Haloacetic Acids (HAA9) (ppb)	34.2	25.3-51.7

## Should I be concerned about lead in my drinking water?

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 Lynchburg 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 1 to 2 minutes or until it becomes cold** or reaches a steady temperature before using it 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 (**1-800-426-4791**) or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Who makes decisions about my drinking water?

Decisions addressing any changes to the Department of Water Resources' infrastructure or rate changes may be discussed during a Lynchburg City Council meeting. Council meetings are held every month on the second and fourth Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. in City Council Chamber, City Hall, First Floor, 900 Church Street and broadcast live on Comcast cable LTV Channel 15, including video-streamed on the City's website at [www.lyncburgva.gov](http://www.lyncburgva.gov). Agendas for upcoming meetings, archived videos and minutes to previous meetings are also available online.

## Our Source Water

The City of Lynchburg is fortunate to have two water sources: 125-acre Pedlar Reservoir in Amherst County and the James River. The water from Pedlar flows 22 miles by gravity to the City's two filtration plants and at certain times, water is also drawn from the James River.

The sources for drinking water (i.e., 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. It can also pick up substances resulting from human activity and the presence of animals.

### Contaminants may include the following:

- 1** Microbial Contaminants – viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- 2** Inorganic Contaminants – 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.
- 3** Pesticides & Herbicides – chemical substances resulting from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
- 4** Organic Chemical Contaminants – substances 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.
- 5** Radioactive Contaminants – substances that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Water Assessment Program: The Virginia Department of Health conducted a source water assessment of our system in 2002 in accordance with the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act. Based upon the criteria developed by the State in its Source Water Assessment Program, both of our surface water sources were classified as highly susceptible to contamination as a result of land use activities and potential sources of contamination in the assessment areas. However, this does not mean that our sources have or will be impacted. It does mean that if there were to be a release of pollutants in the assessment area, the source water could be impacted.

The assessment report consists of maps showing the source water assessment area, an inventory of known land use activities of concern, and documentation of any known contamination within the last five years. For copies of the report contact Leslie Morris in the Department of Water Resources at **455-4263**.

## Frequently asked questions FAQ's:

***Is it okay to use hot tap water for cooking and drinking?***  
You should use cold water for cooking and drinking. Hot water is more likely to dissolve substances from your hot water heater or household plumbing.

***What causes water to be discolored?***  
Red water: A sudden surge or change in the direction of the water can cause normal oxidation particles present in the pipes to become mixed in the water. This may occur when there is a water main break, or when a fire hydrant is opened by the Fire Department or Water Resources personnel for the purpose of flushing water lines. The City of Lynchburg does not recommend drinking red discolored water or using it for laundry. Please notify the Department of Water Resources at 455-4250 if your water is discolored.



### *Why is my water cloudy/milky:*

This is usually due to air dissolved in water. Water is under pressure in the pipes which keeps dissolved air in the water. When you turn on the faucet this pressure is relieved and the air comes as bubbles which make the water look cloudy. This is more common in the winter when the water is cold. After a few seconds of standing the bubbles rise to the top of the water and disappear. The water is perfectly safe to drink.

## What if I have questions?

If you have any questions or comments concerning information within this water quality report, please contact Leslie Morris, Chemist at **455-4263**.

For water or sewer emergencies, general inquiries and tours, please contact the Department of Water Resources directly at **455-4250**.

NOTE: Organized tours of the College Hill or Abert Water filtration plants are available upon request to school, civic, neighborhood, and other groups. The Department of Water Resources personnel are available for group presentations about water supply, treatment and quality.



# WATER QUALITY REPORT 2020





More than 100,000 citizens in Lynchburg and the surrounding communities depend on clean, safe drinking water every day. The City's abundant water supply is a critical asset for the economic growth and development of the region. In accordance with federal and state regulations, information on the quality of your drinking water must be shared with citizens annually through the distribution of a water quality report. The Lynchburg Department of Water Resources is proud to present you with specific information about your drinking water from this past year. The results shown within this report reveal that your drinking water is better than the federal and state standards for safety and purity and is in compliance with regulations governing the quality of your water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. 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. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA's) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (**1-800-426-4791**).

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 can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA and U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (**1-800-426-4791**).



# WHAT IS IN THE WATER?

## CONTAMINANTS DETECTED JANUARY 2019 THROUGH DECEMBER 2019

CONTAMINANTS	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	RANGE Low   High		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
DISINFECTANTS & DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS: (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	1.42	0.13	2.14	2019	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	41	10	46	2019	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	NA	80	49	9	85*	2019	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	NA	TT	0.76	0.48	1.32	2019	No	Naturally present in the environment

\*TTHM single reading, compliance is based on a four quarter average

<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS:</b>								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.68	0.42	0.90	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate + Nitrite (as nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	0.13	0.13	0.13	2019	No	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits

<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS:</b>								
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	At least 95% below 0.3 NTU	100% below 0.3, Highest value 0.17	NA	NA	2019	No	Soil runoff

<b>RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS:</b>								
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	NA	5	0.3	0	0.6	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits

CONTAMINANTS	MCLG	AL	Your Water	# Samples Exceeding AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS:</b>							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.027	0	2018	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	2.0	0	2018	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits



## Terms & Abbreviations

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** Highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** Level of a contaminant in drinking water which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL):** Maximum level of disinfectant allowed in the water distribution system. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG):** Level of disinfectant in drinking water 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.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** Measure of water clarity. Turbidity in excess of five NTUs is barely noticeable to the average person.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** Equivalent to milligrams per liter. One ppm corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter:** Equivalent to micrograms per liter. One ppb corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/l):** Measures radioactivity.

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