

# CITY OF LAKEWOOD

## 2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT

**Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, each community water system is required to provide its customers with an annual report regarding the quality of their drinking water. In compliance with this Federal regulation, the City of Lakewood Division of Water has produced the following report. Included in this report are details about the source of your drinking water, water quality test results (indicating how your drinking water compares to standards set by regulatory agencies), as well as general health information.**

### **Introduction**

The City of Lakewood 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.

The City of Lakewood owns and operates its water distribution system. This system consists of approximately 112 miles of water main pipelines. The Lakewood Division of Water is responsible for all system maintenance and improvements. To ensure our systems ability to supply the citizens of Lakewood with drinking water of the highest quality, the Division of Water has been involved in an ongoing system improvements program. Since 1960, approximately 75 miles of water mains have been replaced. All system improvements are funded by water system user fees. We have a current **“unconditional license to operate and maintain a Public Water System”** issued by the Ohio EPA .

### **Source Water Information**

The City of Lakewood purchases its drinking water in treated form from the City of Cleveland Division of Water. It is introduced into our distribution system through 18 entry points located near the perimeters of our city. The City of Lakewood does not adjust pressure or perform any additional water treatment.

Cleveland draws source water from four intakes located far offshore in Lake Erie’s Central Basin. These intakes are spread out over 15 miles and are 3 to 5 miles offshore where the water is cleaner and has been minimally impacted from tributary runoff activities. Lake Erie is considered to be a surface water source.

Water enters Lake Erie from precipitation over the lake and watershed. Precipitation on land runs off and flows down streams and rivers into our source water. About 90% of the water entering Lake Erie flows down the Detroit River from Lake St. Clair; another 4% drains from the Maumee River. Both rivers flow into the lake’s shallow Western Basin. The remaining runoff drains through dozens of rivers and streams into the lake or off the land along the shore directly into the water. The actions of people on land in Lake Erie’s 30,149 square mile watershed can impact the quality of water in Lake Erie. Protecting our drinking water source from contaminants is the responsibility of all area residents.

The state of Ohio performed an assessment of Cleveland’s four source water intakes in the late 1990’s. An updated Drinking Water Source Assessment Report was completed in 2021. For the purposes of source water assessments, all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature, surface waters are accessible and can be easily contaminated by chemicals and pathogens from an

upstream spill. Because Cleveland Water's intakes are located a considerable distance offshore, potential contamination from the Cuyahoga River and nearshore sources is minimized to a great degree. As a result, Ohio EPA considers Cleveland's source water (Lake Erie) to have a low susceptibility to contamination due to the location of our intakes.

Cleveland Water public water system treats our water to meet water quality standards, but no single treatment technique can address all potential contaminants. To address this, Cleveland Water uses the multiple barrier approach for protecting and treating our source water. Protection of source water is one of the barriers they use. The potential for water quality impacts can be further decreased by implementing measures to protect Lake Erie. More detailed information is provided in the Cleveland Water Drinking Source Assessment Report which can be obtained by calling their Water Quality Section (216) 664-2639

### **What are sources of contamination to drinking water?**

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 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 systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife; (B) 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; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) 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; (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 Federal 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 **City of Lakewood and Cleveland Water** conducted sampling for **bacteria; inorganic; synthetic organic; volatile organic contaminants** during **2024**. Samples were collected for different contaminants, most of which were not detected in the City of Lakewood 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.

### **Public Notice:**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for corrosion control indicators. During the July-December 2024 monitoring period, Lakewood City PWS failed to collect the appropriate number of water quality parameters required by the Ohio EPA.

What Should I do? This notice is to inform you that Lakewood City PWS did not monitor and/or report results for corrosion control indicators as required by Ohio EPA during the July-December 2024 monitoring period. You do not need to take any actions in response to this notice.

What is being done? Lakewood City PWS will take steps to ensure that adequate monitoring will be performed in the future. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Bill Hunter at 216-529-1867.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

### **Definitions of some terms contained within this report:**

- **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 contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.
- **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.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **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 (µg/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

- **The “<” symbol:** A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

**Turbidity** is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the samples analyzed each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, the CLEVELAND WATER SYSTEM’S highest recorded turbidity result for 2024 was 0.09 NTU and Cleveland met the limit 100% of the time.

**TOC values:** The value reported under “level found” for the Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is the lowest running annual average ratio between the percent of TOC actually removed to the percent of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than one (1) indicates compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value less than 1 indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements. The values reported under the “range of detections” for TOC is the lowest monthly ratio to the highest monthly ratio.

**Lead Educational Information**

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 Lakewood 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 on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Per the Lead and Copper Rules, Public Water Systems were required to develop and maintain a Service Line Inventory. A Service line is the underground pipe that supplies your home or building with water. To view the Service Line Inventory, which lists the material types for your location, you can visit: <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/accordions/what-is-my-water-service-line-material/>

City of Cleveland Water Department Water Quality:

Contaminants (Units)	Sample Year	MCLG	MCL	Table of Detected Contaminants				Violation
				Crown Water Plant		Morgan Water Plant		
				Level Found	Range	Level Found	Range	
Turbidity (NTU) * (Soil Runoff)	2024	n/a	TT * (<1 NTU)	0.08	0.02-0.08	0.09	0.05-0.09	No
Total Organic Carbon (naturally present in the environment)	2024	n/a	TT **	1.36	1.32-1.63	1.49	1.47-1.86	No
Total Chlorine (mg/L) (Water additive used to control microbes)	2024	4 (MRDLG)	4 (MRDL)	1.08	0.85-1.20	1.1	0.90-1.29	No
Fluoride (mg/L) (Water additive which promotes strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories)	2024	4	4	0.95	0.81-1.12	0.99	0.80-1.24	No
Nitrate as Nitrogen (mg/L) (Run off from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits)	2024	10	10	0.83	ND - 0.83	0.69	ND - 0.69	No
Cyanide (µg/L) (Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories)	2024	200	200	ND	n/a	40	ND - 40	No

Cyanide result: The reported value for Cyanide is 40 µg/L, which is barely above the ability for the laboratory to measure it (10 µg/L) . The MCL is 200 µg/L or 5 times higher than what was measured. None of the other three facilities had a detection. While the result is legitimate, we believe it to be an anomaly with no apparent cause. Future monitoring will determine if this result requires further investigation by Cleveland Water.

Listed below is information on detected contaminants that were found in the City of Lakewood drinking water:

Disinfection Byproducts City of Lakewood							
Contaminant (units)	Sample Year	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ug/L)	2024	n/a	80	24.75	11.63-24.75	No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ug/L)	2024	n/a	60	12.77	6.63-12.77	No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Chlorine (mg/L)	2024	4 (MRDL)	4 (MRDL)	1.16	0.94-1.34	No	Water additive used to control microbes

City of Lakewood’s Lead and Copper Monitoring:

Lead and Copper City of Lakewood						
Contaminants	Action Level (AL)	Individual Results over AL	90% of tests were less than	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical source of Contaminants
Lead (ppb)	15 ppb	0	1.66	No	2024	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
	0 out of 32 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb					
Copper (ppm)	1.3 ppm	0	0.053	No	2024	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
	0 out of 32 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the copper action level of 1.3 ppm					

**Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring**

Unregulated contaminants are those for which US 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. In 2024 Lakewood PWS participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). For a copy of the results please call 216-529-5941.

**Public Participation and Contact Information**

**How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?**

Public participation and comments are encouraged at regular meetings of Lakewood City Council  
 Get involved: General Meetings of City Council are held the first and third Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at Lakewood City Hall – 12650 Detroit Ave. Committee meetings are held on Monday evenings as needed. All meetings are open to the public and live-streamed. Public comments are welcome at all meetings. City Council also accepts written public comment, called eComment, in advance of public meetings.

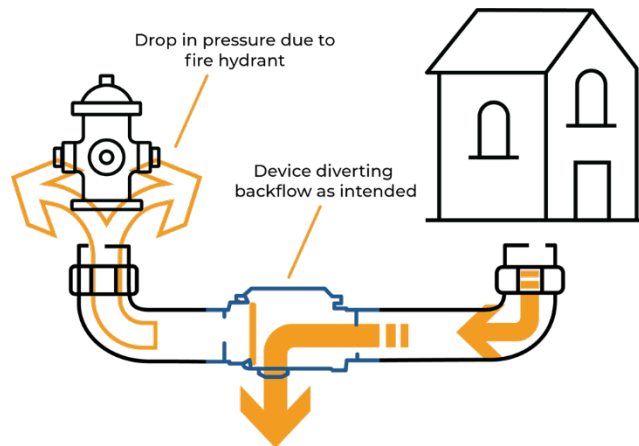
Contact City Council: Click on the Council Members page to email or call Council members directly or call 216-529-6055 to reach the Clerk of Council’s Office.

Additional Information: To learn more about our supplier, Cleveland Water visit [clevelandwater.com](http://clevelandwater.com)

For more information on your drinking water contact **Bill Hunter, Division Manager at 216-529-5941.**

## City of Lakewood Backflow Prevention Program

The Lakewood Water Department has a backflow prevention program to ensure water quality to all customers, and this requires an on-site survey of individual service connections and public education.



A cross-connection is a physical connection between a possible source of contamination and the drinking water system piping. Backflow occurs when a loss in water pressure causes the water in your pipes to flow in the opposite direction. Pressure drops in the public water system caused by water main breaks and high usage events such as firefighting can cause a backflow situation. A backflow device is designed to prevent this from occurring. If a backflow device is required, it must be tested annually by a tester you hire who is certified for performing such tests.

Homes with underground irrigation systems and most non-residential buildings are required by the City of Lakewood Water Department to have a backflow prevention device. These backflow devices protect the public water system from any potentially contaminated water flowing into the public system from a customers' plumbing. Some examples requiring backflow systems include: swimming pools, restaurants, medical facilities, laboratories, car washes, auto shops, and industrial sites.

The City of Lakewood teams with BSI Online for recordkeeping and assistance with mailings of notices. BSI Online now has a customer portal available to the City of Lakewood water customers. The portal can help you find a licensed backflow tester in our area, can provide answers to frequently asked questions regarding backflow prevention, and you can check the status of your device testing. You can find this information at: [www.bsionline.com](http://www.bsionline.com) To contact the City of Lakewood's Backflow Inspector, please call 216-529-6623 or email: [David.Kinder@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:David.Kinder@lakewoodoh.net).

See a Problem? If you are aware of any illegal cross connections/water safety hazards, you can inform our Backflow Inspector at 216-529-6623, the Division Manager at 216-529-5941, or use the Report-A-Problem tool on our website anonymously at: <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/report-a-problem-concern/>