Mount Laurel Township Municipal Utilities Authority
Drinking Water Quality - Frequently Asked Questions

The following information provides answers to frequently asked questions including is a brief summary of commonly requested water quality parameters. For a complete report, please refer to the current Water Quality Report at http://www.mltmua.com/ccr/MLTMUA-ccr-2016.pdf

Where Does My Water Come From? - Your drinking water comes from a blend of sources.

- **Mount Laurel MUA** (MLTMUA) pumps water from three deep (600-700') wells within the lower Potomac-Raritan-Magothy (PRM) aquifer. This water is treated at our water treatment facility on Elbo Lane using a mixed media filter system with pH adjustment, chlorine disinfection and fluoridation. In 2004 a fourth MLTMUA well was converted from a supply source to an underground storage source using aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) technology.

- **Willingboro MUA** (WMUA) obtains all of its water from the PRM aquifer and operates several water treatment facilities.

- **NJ American Water Company** (NJAWC) supplies water from three sources: Surface water from the Delaware River Delran Plant (majority of our purchase from NJAWC), and ground water from the PRM and Mount Laurel-Wenonah aquifers.

All water is distributed to our customers via MLTMUA's 200+ mile underground piping network. Due to the number of water supply source locations, interconnectivity of our distribution piping network and relative complexity of our purchase agreements, we are unable to definitively determine from which supply source you receive your water. You should assume that your water comes from a mixture of the sources listed above (MLTMUA, WMUA, NJAWC).

How much water do Mount Laurel MUA customers use? - On average, we deliver 4 million gallons per day to our customers, with historical peaks as high as 10 million gallons per day. Individual customer use varies based on personal habits, but average monthly use is around 6,000 gallons with increased use in the summer months.

Water Quality Compliance - The water in our system is tested year-round which includes daily operations sampling through compliance monitoring dictated by both state and federal regulation. In all cases our water consistently meets all regulated parameters, confirming that the water as delivered to our customers is safe for use as potable water. We will continue to be, as in the past, knowledgeable and vigilant to changes in water quality issues and regulatory compliance which protects all who use our water.

Why is there chlorine in my drinking water? - Without appropriate disinfection, your water could become harmful. According to the USEPA and health agencies, chlorine is currently one of the most effective disinfectants to kill harmful microorganisms. Chlorination has been named as one of the great modern medical advances of the 20th century. Gaseous chlorine and/or sodium hypochlorite is added at the optimal level in order to comply with all state and federal disinfection standards.

Do I need a water softener to reduce hardness? - The most apparent effect of hardness is seen in your water's ability to create soap foam. The optimal level for hardness in drinking water is 80 to 100 mg/L. The hardness of our water is within this range; therefore, a water softener should not be necessary.

Is there fluoride in my drinking water? - Water supplied by MLTMUA and WMUA wells is fluoridated to the optimal level of 0.70 mg/L. NJAWC does not fluoridate their water supply. Consult your pediatrician or dentist to determine if fluoride supplements are recommended.

Frequently Requested Water Quality Sampling Results

Parameter	Average or Range	Comments
Fluoride	ND-0.798 mg/L	Naturally occurring from erosion of natural deposits MCL = 4.0 mg/L
Sodium	27.3-29.1 mg/L	Naturally occurring, byproduct of some types of disinfection Secondary Standard Limit = 50 mg/L
Iron	ND-0.02 mg/L	Naturally occurring in ground water Secondary Standard Limit = 0.3 mg/L
Manganese	ND	Naturally occurring in ground water Secondary Standard Limit =0.05 mg/L
pH	7.6-7.8	pH is a measure of the acid/base properties of water Secondary Standard Limit (Optimum range) 6.5-8.5
Total Hardness (as $CaCO_3$)	80-100 mg/L	Naturally occurring calcium/magnesium content in water Secondary Standard limit = 250 mg/L
Chlorine Residual	0.71mg/L	Recommended water additive Residual Disinfectant Level in Distribution System Minimum 0.2 mg/L – Maximum 4.0 mg/L
Lead (90^{th} percentile result)	5 µg/L	Corrosion of household plumbing Action Level >15 µg/L
Copper (90^{th} percentile result)	0.552 mg/L	Corrosion of household plumbing Action Level >1.3 mg/L
Nitrate	ND	Erosion of natural deposits, fertilizers, human & animal wastes MCL = 10 mg/L
Arsenic	0.2-0.23 µg/L	Erosion of natural deposits, industrial or agricultural pollution MCL = 5 µg/L
Chromium-6	ND-0.79 µg/L	Chromium-6 is not currently regulated as an individual contaminant. For more information, please follow link; http://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water

Definitions

- mg/L – milligrams per liter; one milligram per liter is equal to one part per miller (ppm), which is approximately the same as 1 second in 11.6 days
- µg/L– micrograms per liter; one microgram per liter is equal to one part per billion (ppb), which is approximately the same as 1 second in 31.7 years
- ND – not detected
- MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level – the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water under State and Federal Regulations (Primary Standards)
- Secondary Standard – non-mandatory State or Federal guidelines regarding contaminates that may cause cosmetic or aesthetic effects and are considered a nuisance by the USEPA