

The committed professionals of our Water Works Department produced 1.9 billion gallons of clean drinking water for residents in 2024. On behalf of the City of Salisbury's Department of Water Works, I am pleased to present 2024's Water Quality Report.

Testing is a vital part of our overall water treatment process. Beyond meeting EPA standards, our testing is just one more step in ensuring our water is always safe, clean and satisfying. The City of Salisbury's water currently meets all water quality regulations required by the Maryland Department of the Environment and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

While new EPA regulations have brought increased attention to the existence of PFAS (Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) in drinking water nationwide, the City has been planning for those eminent regulations for years. Our team has been researching and designing solutions for our water system to meet the new standards, which do not go into effect until 2031.

New regulations require public water systems to complete initial monitoring for PFAS by 2027. Public water systems have six years (2031) to implement solutions that reduce PFAS if monitoring shows that drinking water levels exceed new stated maximum contaminant levels. Our Water Works Department is on track to meet both of these deadlines.

Looking toward the future, we have continued upgrades to our water system by completing phase one of the Park Plant raw water line. We have Rehabilitated Paleo Well Two, painted the Paleo Ground Water Storage Tank, advanced design on a new Paleo Plant filter building and PFAS treatment, installed new flow meters on Paleo wells. Current projects under construction include PFAS studies at both the Park and Paleo Water Plants, phase two and three of the Park Plant raw water line replacement, Park and Paleo well rehabilitation.

As it has been for years, Salisbury's water supply remains sustainable, dependably-delivered and in superb supply, due to our position above the Paleochannel.

Please contact me with any questions you may have about Salisbury's water.

Yours in Service,



Randolph J. Taylor  
Mayor of Salisbury, MD

THE CITY OF SALISBURY  
WATER TREATMENT PLANT  
2322 SCENIC DRIVE  
SALISBURY, MD 21801

# WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID 0220004



THE CITY OF  
**SALISBURY**  
MARYLAND

We are pleased to present you with our 2024 Quality Water Report. This report is designed to educate and inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide the consumer with a consistent and reliable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. The following report is provided in compliance with federal regulations and will be provided annually. This report shows the quality of our finished drinking water and what that quality means.

The source of Salisbury's water supply is a shallow unconfined Coastal Plain aquifer, known as the Quaternary System. The city currently uses 11 wells from two Water Plants to obtain our drinking water. The two northernmost wells draw water from the deeper and highly productive paleochannel sediments within the Quaternary System. An aquifer is a sort of underground reservoir, which is tapped by drilling wells and pumping the water to the surface for distribution. The earth between surface sources of contamination and these underground reservoirs help to purify the water before it actually reaches the aquifer, making it easier for us to treat before we pump it into the water distribution system. The water treatment process includes aeration, pre-chlorination, filtration, iron removal, disinfection, corrosion control and fluoride addition. The water storage towers are routinely removed from service to be cleaned and inspected. Our hydrant-flushing program operates on a routine basis to assist in providing a clear and clean product to our consumers.

Reliable drinking water is collected, treated, tested and delivered to your home and business 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The operations staff consists of one Water Treatment Class T4 Maryland certified Superintendent, six Water Treatment Class T4 Maryland certified Operators, two Water Treatment Class T4 Maryland temporary Operators, and one Water Distribution Operator. The operations staff are members and attend meetings and training seminars of the American Water Works Association (Chesapeake Section), Water and Wastewater Operators Association and the Maryland Rural Water Association.

The Maryland Department of the Environment's Water Supply Program has conducted a Source Water Assessment for the City of Salisbury. The susceptibility analysis for Salisbury's water supply is based on a review of the water quality data, potential sources of contamination, aquifer characteristics, and well integrity. It was determined that all of Salisbury's wells are susceptible to contamination by volatile organic compounds, and synthetic organic compounds. In addition, Salisbury's Park well field is susceptible to contamination by nitrate. The water supply is not susceptible to other regulated inorganic compounds, and radiological or microbiological contaminants.

Everyone needs to help prevent contaminants from entering source waters in the first place. Protection of the watershed goes hand-in-hand with ensuring the appropriate treatment is provided by your utility. For more information, the Wicomico County Public Library has a copy of Salisbury's Source Water Assessment.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man-made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including **bottled drinking water**, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does **not necessarily** pose a health risk. Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791**.

The City of Salisbury Water Plants routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table, entitled "Annual Contaminants Monitoring Report", shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024. In this table, you will find many terms and abbreviations you may not find familiar. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

*Avg* - Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

*Maximum Contaminant Level* - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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. MCLs are enforceable standards.

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal* - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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 and are non-enforceable public health goals.

*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 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.

*Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)* - a standard unit used to measure the number of asbestos fibers present in one liter of water.

*Na* - Not applicable.

*Non-Detects (ND)* - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present or not detectable with best available technology.

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

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

*Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (ng/l)* - is equal to one drop in one trillion gallons of water.

*Picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L)* which is one of the preferred measurements for the speed of decay in radon, is equal to one trillionth of a curie.

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

*Unregulated Contaminants* - (UNREG CONT.) are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.



| ANNUAL CONTAMINANTS MONITORING REPORT CITY OF SALISBURY POTABLE WATER SYSTEM |       |                                       |                |                                          |                           |           |           |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Water Quality Data                                                           |       |                                       |                |                                          |                           |           |           |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                          |
| DETECTED REGULATED CONTAMINANTS                                              |       |                                       |                |                                          |                           |           |           |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                          |
| SUBSTANCE                                                                    | UNITS | LEVEL FOUND                           |                | DATE                                     | MCL                       | MCLG      |           | VIOLATION                                                                                              | LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION                                                                                           |
| RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS                                                     |       |                                       |                |                                          |                           |           |           |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                          |
| Beta/photon emitters                                                         | pCi/L | Range 4.9 – 6.9                       |                | 2021                                     | 50                        | Zero      |           | NO                                                                                                     | Decay of natural and man-made deposits.                                                                                  |
| INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS                                                       |       |                                       |                |                                          |                           |           |           |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                          |
| Barium                                                                       | ppm   | 0.164 ppm                             |                | 2024                                     | 2 ppm                     | 2 ppm     |           | NO                                                                                                     | Discharge of drilling wastes; metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.                                             |
| Fluoride                                                                     | ppm   | 0.4 ppm                               |                | 2024                                     | 4 ppm                     | 4 ppm     |           | NO                                                                                                     | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories. |
| Nitrate (as Nitrogen)                                                        | ppm   | 6 ppm (Annual Range 5.1 - 6.7)        |                | 2024                                     | 10 ppm                    | 10 ppm    |           | NO                                                                                                     | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits.                             |
| Asbestos                                                                     | mfl   | 0.19                                  |                | 2024                                     | 7                         | 7         |           | NO                                                                                                     | Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits                                                        |
| Dibromochloromethane                                                         | mg/l  | 0.00062 mg/l                          |                | 2023                                     | 0.1 mg/l                  | 0.06 mg/l |           | NO                                                                                                     | Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, pineapples, and orchards.                                   |
|                                                                              |       |                                       |                |                                          |                           |           |           |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                          |
| DETECTED UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS                                            |       |                                       |                |                                          |                           |           |           |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                          |
| PFOS                                                                         | ppt   | Avg: 6.875 ng/L<br>Range ND-20 ng/L   |                | 2023                                     | 4 ppt                     | zero      |           | NO                                                                                                     | Human made chemical.                                                                                                     |
| PFOA                                                                         | ppt   | Avg: 1.475 ng/L<br>Range: ND-5.9 ng/L |                | 2023                                     | 4 ppt                     | zero      |           | NO                                                                                                     | Human made chemical.                                                                                                     |
| PFHxS                                                                        | ppt   | Avg: 2.35 ng/L<br>Range: ND-6.2 ng/L  |                | 2023                                     | 10 ppt                    | 10 ppt    |           | NO                                                                                                     | Human made chemical.                                                                                                     |
| PFBS                                                                         | ppt   | Avg: 2.575 ng/L<br>Range: ND-6.2 ng/L |                | 2023                                     | 10 ppt                    | 10 ppt    |           | NO                                                                                                     | Human made chemical.                                                                                                     |
| PFHxA                                                                        | ppt   | Avg: 2.0 ng/L<br>Range: ND-4.1 ng/L   |                | 2023                                     | 10 ppt                    | 10 ppt    |           | NO                                                                                                     | Human made chemical.                                                                                                     |
| PFPPeA                                                                       | ppt   | Avg: 1.9 ng/L<br>Range: ND-3.8 ng/    |                | 2023                                     | 10 ppt                    | 10 ppt    |           | NO                                                                                                     | Human made chemical.                                                                                                     |
| SUBSTANCE                                                                    | UNITS | DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM                   |                |                                          | MCL                       | MCLG      | VIOLATION | LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION                                                                         |                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                              |       | LEVEL FOUND                           | DATE           | Locational Annual Running Average (LRAA) |                           |           |           |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                          |
| INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS                                                       |       |                                       |                |                                          |                           |           |           |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                          |
| Cu 90 Copper 90th %                                                          | ppm   | .10 ppm                               | 7/16/2024      | N/A                                      | TT Action Level = 1.3 ppm | 1.3 ppm   | NO        | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |                                                                                                                          |
| PB90 Lead 90th %                                                             | ppm   | Zero                                  | 7/16/2024      | N/A                                      | TT Action Level = 15 ppb  | Zero      | NO        | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.                                  |                                                                                                                          |
| DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS                                    |       |                                       |                |                                          |                           |           |           |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                          |
| Chlorine                                                                     | ppm   | 1.0 - 1.0                             | 2024           | 1.0 ppm                                  | MRDL = 4.0                | MRDLG = 4 | NO        | Water additive used to control microbes.                                                               |                                                                                                                          |
| TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes)                                                 | ppb   | Range 0 - 3.7                         | Quarterly/2024 | 3.0 ppb                                  | 80 ppb                    | Zero      | NO        | By-product of drinking water disinfection.                                                             |                                                                                                                          |
| HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids)                                                      | ppb   | Range 0 - 3.8                         | Quarterly/2024 | 3.0 ppb                                  | 60 ppb                    | Zero      | NO        | By-product of drinking water disinfection.                                                             |                                                                                                                          |

**PFAS** – or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a PFAS monitoring program for Community Water Systems from 2020 to 2022. The results are available on MDE’s website: <https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx>.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in March 2023. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are proposed to be 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The proposal for HFPO-DA (GenX), PFBS, PFNA and PFHxS is to use a Hazard Index of 1.0 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

The 5th Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) began testing for 29 PFAS compounds and lithium in 2023, and testing will run through 2025. The UCMR5 should test all community water systems with populations of at least 3300 people. Three randomly selected systems in Maryland with populations less than 3300 people will also be tested under the UCMR5. Detections greater than the minimum reporting levels for each constituent should be reported in the CCR."

Our system monitoring detected Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM), considerably **below the MCL**. It is important to understand that the detection of this substance in the drinking water **does not** constitute a known health threat because it was found only at a level less than the MCL and below the level, that EPA currently feels may constitute a health threat. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have increased risk of getting cancer

Our system had no problems with Total Coliform Bacteria this year. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Our city lab runs 31 total coliform samples per month. We have not experienced any problems in 2024 and we do not anticipate any problems with coliform bacteria.

Nitrates were detected in our groundwater **below the MCL**. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

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 Salisbury 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 drinking 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Specific to lead, the EPA issued the Lead and Copper Rule, which requires corrosion control treatment at the plant. **Houses built before 1986, have an increased risk of lead in the plumbing. You may want to test your water if your home has lead pipes (lead is a dull gray metal that is soft enough to be easily scratched with a house key) or your non plastic plumbing was installed before 1986. Please call our office if you would like to participate in our tri-annual lead and copper sampling program.**

On October 16, 2024, the City submitted their initial inventory of service lines to the Maryland Department of Environment and Environmental Protection Agency. The service line inventory identified 4,044 non-lead service lines, 1 lead, 15 galvanized, and 7,528 unknown service line materials. On November 16, 2024, the City notified residents that were found to have lead, galvanized, or an unknown service line material via U.S. Postal Service. Over the next ten years, the City plans to identify and replace any and all lead or galvanized service lines. If you have questions or would like more information on the City’s service line inventory, please contact our office.

The table shows that all of the contaminants, which were monitored in accordance with State and Federal laws, were of levels less than the MCL and below the level, that EPA currently feels may constitute a health threat. EPA believes the water is safe at these levels. Over 100 additional contaminants were analyzed in our drinking water and all were Non-Detected Contaminants.

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don’t yet have a drinking water standard set by

EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that these data are available. The unregulated contaminants detected in our water are shown on the Contaminants Monitoring Chart. A complete list of all unregulated contaminants that were tested for are listed on the EPA website [EPA.gov/drink/contaminants](http://EPA.gov/drink/contaminants). If you are interested in examining the City of Salisbury results, please contact the City of Salisbury Water Plant.

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

You may see our staff at local events around town promoting water conservation. Take time to visit our booth and ask questions. Make conserving water a daily part of your life. And remember when you save water, you save energy and money! If you would like to receive a water conservation packet with water saving tips in the home, garden, or for children, please contact the water plant at 410-548-3199 and one can be mailed to your home.

We are committed to continuing to provide an excellent service that our customers can take for granted. Help us to provide your family with clean, quality water by participating in official City of Salisbury water sampling programs. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact **Ronald Clapper at the City of Salisbury Water Plant at 410-548-3199**.