

## Timberlake Water System | pwsid#2501812

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### Franklin County Board of Commissioners

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### Department of Sanitary Engineering

Stephen A. Renner, Director

### Franklin County's Commitment to Service

The Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering is committed to making necessary investments to ensure safe, clean drinking water while providing the most efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable service to Franklin County's residents and businesses.

The continuing modernization of Franklin County's water and sewer service is a top priority, as these investments both improve the quality of life for our residents and position Franklin County to compete for jobs and economic development.

### Timberlake Water Plant | pwsid#2501812

The Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering is responsible for providing a safe and dependable supply of drinking water to your community. This report covers January 1 through December 31st, 2014. The County Sanitary Engineer's Timberlake drinking water supply surpasses the strict regulations of both the State of Ohio and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA), which requires all water suppliers to prepare reports like this annually. Franklin County maintains a current, unconditional license to operate our water system.

In 2014, our water department distributed 20.58 million gallons of water to Timberlake Water Plant customers, including residents of the Timberlake and Harrisburg communities.

If you have questions about this report or your water utility service, please contact us by calling 614-525-3940 or by writing to 280 East Broad Street, 2nd Floor, Room 201, Columbus, OH 43215-4562.

## Franklin County Sanitary Engineers - Timberlake Water System

### 2014 Monitoring Results for Contaminates in Drinking Water

Contaminant	Unit	MCLG Health Goal	MCL EPA Limits	High Levels	Range Detected	Violation (Yes-No)	Year Sampled	Potential Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium	ppm	2	2	.026	N/A	NO	2014	Discharge of drilling wastes and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	1.24	N/A	NO	2014	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	<0.10	N/A	NO	2014	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks. Erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Compounds and Disinfection By Products								
Alachlor	ppb	0	2	0.2	0-0.2	NO	2012	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Atrazine	ppb	3	3	0.3	0-0.3	NO	2012	
Simazine	ppb	4	4	0.35	0-0.35	NO	2012	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	NA	60	<6.0	N/A	NO	2014	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	ppb	0	80	11.8	N/A	NO	2014	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Disinfectants								
Total Chlorine	ppm	4 (MRDLG)	4 (MRDL)	1.51	0.7-3.23	NO	2014	Water additive to control microbes
Lead & Copper Monitoring Performed at Home Tap								
Lead	ppm	0	15 = AL	<5 (90th percentile) 10 Sites Sampled	All sites were below action level	NO	2014	Corrosion of household plumbing. Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3 = AL	0.568 (90th percentile) 10 Sites Sampled	All sites were below action level	NO	2014	Corrosion of household plumbing. Erosion of natural deposits

### How to read this report

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Franklin County Sanitary Engineers – Timberlake Water System conducted sampling for bacteria; inorganics; and disinfectants during 2014. Samples were collected for a total of 5 different categories of contaminants, some of which were not detected in the Franklin County Sanitary Engineers – Timberlake Water System 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.

### 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).

## The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants you to know:

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 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.

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).

### Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife;
- 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;
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;
- 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;
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## Violation Notification:

In September, 2014 the Timberlake Water System experienced a positive sample result during a routine bacteriological test. Repeat samples were collected and results were all returned negative. However, we failed to sample source water during the repeat samples as required by the Ground Water Rule monitoring requirements. Once we were notified of the violation we sampled the source water and results were returned negative. This violation was due to a deficiency in the sampling and testing procedures. These procedures have been updated to meet current requirements and we do not expect any further monitoring violations. The following is a notice required as a result of the failure to sample violation:

### DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Source Monitoring requirements were not met for  
Timberlake Water System  
Violation Date: 9-13-2014

Our water system failed to collect well water samples for fecal indicators following a routine total coliform positive result in our distribution system. Although this incident is not an emergency, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

### What Should I Do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours. We will announce any emergencies on local radio and television stations.

### What Is Being Done?

Upon being notified of this situation, we are required to post this public notice to inform our customers. Timberlake Water System has taken steps to ensure that adequate monitoring will be performed in the future.

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.

The Franklin County Sanitary Engineers – Timberlake Water System incurred zero water quality Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) in 2014.

## Understanding the Dangers of Lead in 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 Franklin County Sanitary Engineers – Timberlake Water System 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>.

### Understanding Important Abbreviations, Terms and Definitions:

**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.

**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.

**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 a 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.

## **Water Conservation: When you start saving water, you start saving money**

Being water and energy efficient provides a wide range of benefits for consumers, businesses and the community as a whole. Using less water means moving and treating less water which helps to reduce the strain on our drinking water supplies and wastewater infrastructure.

Delivering water and wastewater services is also an energy-intensive effort as the water is treated, pumped to homes and businesses, then pumped to wastewater facilities to be treated again. Pursuing energy efficiency in our water systems can significantly reduce operating costs, while mitigating the effects of climate change.

Whether through simple daily tasks or the installation of water-efficient products, there are many ways to decrease water and energy use in our homes. You can cut your water usage by changing a few habits.

Consider following some of these steps throughout your house:

### **Make sure your home is leak-free**

Check your water meter over a period of time when you are certain that no water is being used. If the meter reading changes, you have a leak. And repair leaks as soon as they are discovered. A seemingly small leak can waste 70-100 gallons of water a day.

### **Check your toilet tank**

Lower the rise of toilet tank water by adjusting the tank float. Another option is to put a small plastic jug filled with water and some weights into the tank to displace water. You could save up to half a gallon with every flush. If you are remodeling your bathroom, replace your old inefficient 3-5 gallon-per-flush toilet with a new low volume 1.6 gallon-per-flush model.

Leaks may be difficult to see, so check your toilet tank by adding a few drops of food coloring into the tank. Wait 20 minutes and then look in the bowl for traces of the dye. If you see dye in the bowl, you have a leak. If the color in the tank is lighter or you don't see the dye any longer, this is another indication that you have a leak. Call a plumber if you can't fix the problem yourself.

### **Install low-flow devices**

Installing a low-flow showerhead or fitting a flow restrictor into your current shower-head can reduce water usage by 50%. A low-flow sink faucet aerator can save up to 280 gallons per year. These devices also save on hot water costs and increase water pressure.

### **Cut down on marathon showers**

A shower almost always uses less water than a bath. Even a five-minute shower can use about 35 gallons of water, so keep it short! Shorter showers save hot water costs and air conditioning bills.

### **Turn off the water while brushing teeth or shaving**

Only turning on the water to rinse can save up to 10 gallons of water per day.

### **Defrost food in the refrigerator**

Don't use running water to thaw food; it wastes water. Defrosting in the refrigerator also helps prevent bacterial contamination.

### **Don't over-wash clothes**

By eliminating the pre-soak and second rinse cycles when you use your washing machine, you can save as much as 19 gallons of water per load.

### **Put the hose away**

Washing your car with a bucket and sponge instead of a hose saves a lot of water. A hose can waste 6 gallons per minute if you leave it running, but using a bucket and sponge only uses a few gallons. Where possible, consider putting your car in the grass to allow the water to soak back into the ground instead of the sewer.

### **Beat the heat**

The best time to water your yard is in the early morning or late evening when it's cool outside. Watering when it's hot and sunny is wasteful because most of the water evaporates before the plants have time to drink it. Also, when watering the yard, make sure not to water the plants too much. Remember that a little sprinkle goes a long way.

### **Remember, water can be recycled**

Don't pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it. For example, when meals are prepared and vegetables or other fresh produce are washed, collect that water and use it to water the plants.