



The Charter Township of Van Buren 2015 Water Quality Report

The Charter Township of Van Buren is proud to present the 2015 Water Quality Report. In complying with Federal legislative requirements, this report has been developed to provide you with valuable information about your drinking water. State and Federal regulations require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We met all the monitoring and reporting requirements for 2015. You will see as you review this report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all government standards set for water quality and safety.

This report will explain where your water comes from, lists the results of testing conducted at the water treatment plant and in the water distribution system, and contains important information about water and health. The report also provides information on how you can minimize contaminants in our source water.

Please help us to preserve the quality of our drinking water supply. If at any time you notice a change in the look, smell or taste of your drinking water, please contact the Van Buren Township Department of Public Services—Water & Sewer Division at (734) 699-8925.

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 at (800) 426-4791.

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:

- **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 organics, 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

If the amount of a contaminant exceeds a predetermined safe level in your drinking water (MCL, Action Level, etc.) the Van Buren Township Department of Public Services will notify you via newspapers, radio, TV and other means within 24 hours. With the notification, you will be instructed on what appropriate actions you can take to protect you and your family's health.

SAFE DRINKING WATER IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Where Does My Water Come From?

Van Buren Township contracts with the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), formerly the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) to purchase about 1.2 Billion gallons of water every year. The GLWA provides drinking water to approximately 4.2 million people in 126 Southeastern Michigan communities. Your source water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, Ecorse River, in the U.S. and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek and Sydenham watersheds in Canada. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department, and the Michigan Public Health Institute performed a source water assessment in 2004 to determine the susceptibility of potential contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very low" to "very high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our Detroit River source water intakes were determined to be highly susceptible to potential contamination. However, all four Detroit water treatment plants that use source water from Detroit River have historically provided satisfactory treatment of this source water to meet drinking water standards. DWSD (now GLWA) has initiated source-water protection activities that include chemical containment, spill response, and a mercury reduction program. GLWA participates in a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit discharge program and has an emergency response management plan. The treatment plant that provides water to Van Buren Township customers is the Southwest Treatment Plant in Allen Park. For more information contact the Van Buren Township Public Services Department at (734) 699-8925.

What's In My Water?

We are pleased to report that during the past year, the water delivered to your homes or businesses complied with, or did better than, all State and Federal drinking water requirements. For your information, we have compiled a list in the following tables showing what substances were detected in our drinking water and the last year in which the test was conducted. Although all of the substances listed are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by the U.S. EPA, and therefore not expected to cause any health risk, we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substances were present in the water.

What About Lead?

The water that GLWA delivers to our community does not contain lead. Lead can leach into drinking water through home plumbing fixtures, and in some cases, customer service lines. Corrosion control reduces the risk of lead and copper from leaching into your water. Orthophosphates are added during the treatment process as a corrosion control method to create a protective coating in service pipes throughout the system, including in your home or business. The Charter Township of Van Buren performs required lead and copper sampling and testing in our community. Water consumers also have a responsibility to maintain the plumbing in their homes and businesses, and can take steps to limit their exposure to lead.

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. Van Buren Township 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

What If I Have Special Health Concerns?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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. 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 at (800) 426-4791.

SAFE DRINKING WATER IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

**Southwest Water Treatment Plant
2015 Regulated Detected Contaminants Tables**

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Inorganic Chemicals – Annual Monitoring at Plant Finished Water Tap								
Fluoride	5/11/2015	ppm	4	4	0.54	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	5/11/2015	ppm	10	10	0.43	N/A	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfection By-Products- Monitoring in Distribution System Stage 2								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest LRAA	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2015	ppb	N/A	80	46	13-71	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2015	ppb	N/A	60	17	10-27	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Disinfection – Monitoring in Distribution System								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal	Allowed Level	Highest LRAA	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Disinfectant (Total Chlorine Residual)	Jan-Dec 2015	ppm	MRDGL 4	MRDL 4	0.67	0.56-0.79	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.

2015 Turbidity – Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water Tap			
Highest Single Measurement Cannot exceed 1 NTU	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
0.44 NTU	100%	NO	Soil Runoff
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.			

2015 Microbiological Contaminants – Monthly Monitoring in Distribution System					
Regulated Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Highest Number Detected	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform bacteria	0	Presence of Coliform bacteria > 5% of monthly samples	0 in one month	NO	Naturally present in the environment.
E.coli or fecal coliform bacteria	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or E.coli positive.	0 entire year	NO	Human waste and animal fecal waste.

2014 Lead and Copper Monitoring at Customers' Tap								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90 th Percentile Value*	Number of Samples Over AL	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	2014	ppb	0	15	0 ppb	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2014	ppb	1300	1300	109 ppb	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
*The 90th percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90th percentile value. If the 90th percentile value is above the AL additional requirements must be met.								

Contaminant	Treatment Technique	Running annual average	Monthly Ratio Range	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	The Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC was measured each month and because the level was low, there is no requirement for TOC removal.				Erosion of natural deposits

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Level Detected	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Combined Radium Radium 226 and 228	5/13/2014	pCi/L	0	5	0.65 + or - 0.54	no	Erosion of natural deposits

2015 Special Monitoring

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Source of Contamination
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	5.41	Erosion of natural deposits

SAFE DRINKING WATER IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

For More Information

For more information about this report, to obtain extra copies of this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call the Van Buren Township Public Services Department at (734) 699-8925 or the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or visit the EPA web site at www.usepa.gov/safewater/. You are also invited to attend the monthly meetings of the Water and Sewer Commission held at 7:00 pm on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road. We are also on the web at www.vanburen-mi.org.

Irrigation

Please limit your outside watering to the hours of
5 p.m. to 7 a.m.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING
SEWER BACKUP
OR BASEMENT FLOODING CLAIMS**

Michigan statute, Act 222 Public Acts of 2001*, clarifies municipal liability for sewer backups. A key provision of the statute requires that a person seeking compensation for property damage or physical injury must file a written claim within 45 days of the event.

If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system, you must file a written claim with the Van Buren Township Water & Sewer Division within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered. Notice must be mailed to Van Buren Township Water & Sewer Division, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, MI 48111. Failure to provide the required notice will prevent recovery of damages.

Contact the Van Buren Department of Public Services at (734) 699-8925 immediately upon discovery of an overflow or backup. Like you, the Department of Public Services considers a sewer backup or basement flooding an emergency, and will respond to your call day or night, holidays and weekends.

***the full text of P.A. 222 of 2001 is available on our web site: www.vanburen-mi.org under Departments, Public Services.**

Key to Detected Contaminants Tables

Symbol	Abbreviation for	Definition/Explanation
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level	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.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	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.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	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.
ppb	Parts per billion (one in one billion)	The ppb is equivalent to micrograms per liter. A microgram = 1/1000 milligram.
ppm	Parts per million (one in one million)	The ppm is equivalent to milligrams per liter. A milligram = 1/1000 gram.
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units	Measures the cloudiness of water.
TT	Treatment Technique	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
HAA5	Haloacetic acids	HAA5 is the total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, dibromoacetic, dichloroacetic, and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.
TTHM	Total Trihalomethanes	Total Trihalomethanes is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform. Compliance is based on the total.
n/a	Not applicable	
>	Greater than	
pCi/L	Picocuries Per Liter	A measure of radioactivity. Picocurie (pCi) means the quantity of radioactive material producing 2.22 nuclear transformations per minute.
Mg/L	Milligrams per liter	A milligram = 1/1000 gram 1 milligrams per liter is equal to 1 ppm
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average	
RAA	Running Annual Average	

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How often are water bills sent out?

- The Township bills most customers on a quarterly basis.

If I have a question about my water bill, who do I call?

- You can call the Water & Sewer Billing Office at (734) 699-8925 to get answers about your water bill.
- You can visit the Water & Sewer Billing Office at 46425 Tyler Road, Monday through Friday, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.



Where can I pay my bill?

- Payments can be mailed to :
The Charter Township of Van Buren, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, MI. 48111.
- They can be paid at the Treasurer's Office at Township Hall.
- They can be put in the drop box located in front of the Township Hall or the one in the lobby of the Public Safety.
- Automatic withdrawal forms can be obtained on line or at our Township Hall office.
- Credit card payments can be facilitated by Point & Pay. In cooperation with Van Buren Township, Point & Pay offers the opportunity to pay property taxes by the telephone (866) 296-7819 or over the internet . Point & Pay does charge a 3% convenience fee for this service. For more information, please call the Treasurer's Office (734) 699-8903.

How are water and sewer rates calculated?

- Water and sewer rates are reviewed annually by department staff, the Township Water and Sewer Commission and the Township Board of Trustees. Rates are calculated to cover the cost of department staff wages and benefits, system operations and maintenance, operating supplies, utilities, equipment operation and maintenance, capital improvements to the systems and the cost to purchase water from GLWA and the treatment of wastewater at one of the four wastewater treatments plants that serve Van Buren Township.



Did you know?

Approximately 5 to 10 percent of American homes have water leaks that drip away 90 gallons a day or more! Many of these leaks reside in old fixtures such as leaky toilets and faucets. In fact, water lost by these leaky residences could be reduced by more than 30,000 gallons if new, efficient fixtures were installed. If the 5 percent of American homes that leak the most corrected those leaks – it could save more than 177 billion gallons of water annually!

(From http://www.epa.gov/watersense/about_us/facts.html)

"Working together for a clean and safe environment"

SAFE DRINKING WATER IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

OUR COMMITMENT

Drinking water quality is important to our community and the region. The Charter Township of Van Buren and the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) are committed to meeting state and federal water quality standards including the Lead and Copper Rule. With the Great Lakes as our water source and proven treatment technologies, the GLWA consistently delivers safe drinking water to our community. The Charter Township of Van Buren operates the system of water mains that carry this water to your home's service line. Together, we remain committed to delivering some of the nation's best drinking water, protecting public health and maintaining open communication with the public about our drinking water.

STATEMENT ON FLINT and WATER QUALITY IN THE GLWA SERVED COMMUNITIES

Our thoughts are with those who are struggling without access to safe and reliable water in their homes. The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) is paying close attention to what unfolded in Flint and we are doing what we can to assist. We have restored GLWA service to the city, and are working cooperatively with Flint's environmental consultants and others in assuring high quality water is restored to all properties. Flint underscores that the GLWA's first job is to protect the families we serve. Those of us involved in managing, cleaning and delivering water share a solemn obligation to protect public health.

Several of our customer communities brought to my attention that they are receiving calls from residents concerned that the water quality issues in Flint may be affecting the water quality in their community. I want to clarify the issue and provide assurance that what is in the press daily regarding Flint is an unfortunate circumstance, limited solely to the homes and businesses served by Flint.

The water crisis in Flint began when Flint switched its water supply source. Flint did not take the required steps to manage water chemistry. The new water from the Flint River was more corrosive, and as a result removed protective coatings in the pipes that come with properly treated water. This caused lead to leach from service lines and home plumbing – lead that ended up in water coming out of the taps. Lead did not come from the treatment plant and water mains; it came from lead service lines running between the water main and homes, and from plumbing inside the homes themselves, which contributes to test results varying from home to home. Flint has now switched back to GLWA water and improvement in the quality at the tap is being seen.

As the CEO of GLWA I want to provide you this assurance. GLWA is not content to simply comply with regulations. We observe the letter of the law as well as embrace the spirit of it. We have worked to achieve and maintain optimal corrosion control in our treatment of water. Federal regulations acknowledge that this treatment technique is the best approach to minimize exposure to lead in drinking water – establishing that protective coating – and minimizing the ability of lead or other materials from the service lines or plumbing fixtures in the homes we serve to leach into the water. While Federal regulations consider the path forward for us as individuals and communities to remove lead service lines and plumbing that are the sources of lead, GLWA will continue our commitment to maintain optimal corrosion control.

Testing for lead and copper occurs within the local communities served by GLWA. To our knowledge, no community consistently served water by GLWA, formerly DWSD, has reported any lead issues. I encourage you to share this message with your local constituents, along with your Community's Water Quality Report that contains your lead and copper test results.

**Best regards,
Sue F. McCormick, CEO
Great Lakes Water Authority**

**2015 Water Quality Report
for Van Buren Township**

Charter Township of Van Buren
46425 Tyler Road
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
PERMIT NO. 18

**Van Buren Township Residents
2015 Water Quality Report**

(note to Businesses: Please post in your Van Buren workplace)