

2025 Mount St. Mary’s Treated Water Quality Report

We’re pleased to present to you this year’s Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable 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. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is three (3) potable groundwater wells: Well 3 (identifier FR738096), Well 5 (non-permitted with no identifier), and Well 6 (identifier FR738105), all of which are located in Emmitsburg. I’m pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements.

The following report shows our water quality and what it means

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor differences. These types of problems are not necessarily cause for health concerns. 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).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jack Bradshaw, Vice President and Chief of Operations for Prostart at 443-903-4758. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

Mount Saint Mary’s University management contracted Prostart to be its water treatment plant operations firm. Prostart routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table below shows the results of monitoring over the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025. 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 land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals, pesticides and herbicides, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amounts 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained at the Frederick County Library or by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. We’re proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels. In this table, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we’ve provided the following definitions:

- 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 (ug/l) - 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) – one part per trillion is equivalent to one single drop of food coloring in 18 million gallons of water, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
- 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.
- 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.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink two 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. Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer and kidney toxicity.

Informational Statement from the EPA about Lead

Mount Saint Mary’s University water is sampled for lead and copper every three years, most recently in 2024 under the previous operations firm. 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. Mount Saint Mary’s University is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family’s risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your

tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Prostart VP and Chief of Operations, Jack Bradshaw, at 443-903-4758. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. An initial inventory of service line pipe materials located within our service area was required to be submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) by October 16, 2024. Our initial inventory was submitted to MDE on time and is available upon request. Source water assessment has been performed by the Maryland Department of the Environment and is accessible on their website at: https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx.

What is PFAS?

PFAS - short for 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 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in April 2024. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The MCLs for HFPO-DA (GenX), PFNA and PFHxS are 10 ppt. PFAS mixtures containing at least two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS use a Hazard Index of 1.0 (unitless) to determine if the combined and co-occurring levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action. Public water systems have three years (by 2029) to implement solutions that reduce these PFAS if monitoring shows that drinking water levels exceed these MCLs. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a PFAS monitoring program for Community Water Systems from 2020 to 2022. Mount Saint Mary’s University’s results are available on MDE’s website at: https://marylanddepartmentoftheenvironment.shinyapps.io/MDE_PFAS_PublicWaterSystemStudyMap/

Total Coliform Bacteria and Chlorine Guidance

In addition to the contaminants listed below and in accordance with the revised Total Coliform Rule, Prostart also samples the water at the Mount Saint Mary’s University twice monthly for microbiological contaminants. I am pleased to report that throughout 2025 the results were completely negative for coliform and e. coli. With the microbiological samples collected, the water system collects disinfectant residuals to ensure control of microbial growth. Some people who use water containing chlorine in amounts far exceeding the MRDL could experience irritation effects to their eyes and nose or experience stomach discomfort. The water at Mount Saint Mary’s University is well below the MRDL.

Disinfectant	Date	Highest RAA	Unit	Range	MRDL	MRDLG	Typical Source
Chlorine	2024	.09	ppm	-	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

REGULATED CONTAMINAT TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Highest Value	Range	Unit Measurement	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination		
Radiological Contaminants								
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 & -228) (5/29/2025)	1	0-1	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits		
COMBINED URANIUM (10/15/2025)	0.761	0.761	pCi/L	20.1	0	Erosion of natural deposits		
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. RADON & U (7/23/2025)	12.8	9.27-12.8	pCi/L	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits		
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. RADON & U (10/15/2025)	10.03	10.03	pCi/L	15	0	Decay of natural deposits		
RADIUM-226 (5/29/2025)	1	0-1	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits		
Regulated Contaminants								
Arsenic (1/14/2025)	7	4-7	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes		
Barium (1/14/2025)	0.577	<0.4-.0577	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits		
Chromium (1/14/2025)	<0.02	<0.02	ppm	0.1	0.1	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits		
Fluoride (1/14/2025)	<0.5	<0.5	ppm	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories		
Nitrate + Nitrite (1/14/2025)	1.8	1.2-1.8	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits		
Antimony (1/14/2025)	<1	<1	ppb	6	6	Natural weathering of rocks and minerals, industrial discharges from mining, metallurgical operations, and the manufacturing of batteries, ammunition, and plastics.		
Beryllium (1/14/2025)	<0.5	<0.5	ppb	4	4	Natural weathering of rocks and minerals or from metal processing plants, coal-burning power plants, and chemical manufacturing facilities.		
Cadmium (1/14/2025)	<1	<1	ppb	5	5	Industrial discharges, plumbing corrosion, agricultural runoff, waste disposal, or natural deposits.		
Mercury (1/14/2025)	<0.4	<0.4	ppb	2	2	Atmospheric deposition from coal-fired power plants and industrial waste incinerators.		
Nickel (1/14/2025)	<5	<5	ppb	NA	NA	Leaching of internal plumbing fittings, industrial wastewater runoff, and natural weathering.		
Selenium (1/14/2025)	<10	<10	ppb	50	50	Mining activities, agricultural runoff, coal-fired power plant emissions, or petroleum refining.		
Thallium (1/14/2025)	<1	<1	ppb	5	0.5	Industrial discharge predominantly from ore processing sites, metal smelting, coal-burning power plants, and cement factories.		
Regulated Contaminants								
Contaminant	Range of Sampled Results (low – high)	90th Percentile: 90% of your water utility levels were less than:		Unit	AL	Sites over AL	Typical Sources	
Copper, free (Period: 2022-2024)	0.036-0.52	0.17		ppm	1.3	0	Erosion of Natural Deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems.	
Lead (Period: 2022-2024)	<2	<2		ppd	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.	
Disinfection Byproducts								
	Sample Point	Period	Highest LRAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	HAA5 @ ARCC	2025	3.92	2	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	THM @ WALDRON STADIUM	2025	34.6	34.6-34.6	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer and kidney toxicity.

While your drinking water meets EPA’s standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA’s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations, and is linked to other

health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

The Mount Saint Mary’s University water treatment plant operated continuously in 2025. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing you with clean, quality water this year. To maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all our customers. We are dedicated to providing reliable service to our users and facilitating quick repairs and maintenance. Thank you in advance for your attention to this water quality Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for 2025.