



2019 Annual Water Quality Report for the City of Ecorse

Water Supply Serial Number: 02050

The purpose of this report is to provide you with information about your drinking water. The report explains to you where your water comes from and the treatment it receives before it reaches your tap. The report also lists all the contaminants detected in your water and an explanation of all violations in the past year.

This report covers the drinking water quality for the City of Ecorse for the 2019 calendar year. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2019. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and state standards.

The City of Ecorse receives its drinking water from the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), Southwest Treatment Plant, located in Allen Park. Water treated at the plant is drawn from the Detroit River. The water flows to the plants by gravity through a large water tunnel.

The treatment process begins with disinfecting the source water with chlorine to kill harmful microorganisms that can cause illness. Next, a chemical called Alum is mixed with the water to remove the fine particles that make the water cloudy or turbid. Alum causes the particles to clump together and settle to the bottom. Fluoride is also added to protect our teeth from cavities.

The water then flows through several sand filters to remove even more particles and certain microorganisms that are resistant to chlorine. Finally, a small amount of phosphoric acid and chlorine are added. The phosphoric acid helps control the lead that may dissolve in the water from household plumbing systems. The chlorine keeps the water disinfected as it travels through the mains to your home.

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 from the presences of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants and their presence in water:

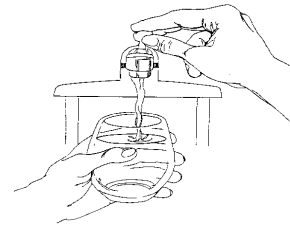
Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Vulnerability of sub-populations: 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 systems 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. U.S. EPA/Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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 stormwater 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 and residential uses.

- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.



In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the levels of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Federal Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water quality is important to our community and the region. The City of Ecorse and the 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. Ecorse operates the system of water mains that carry this water to your home's service line. This year's Water Quality Report highlights the performance of GLWA and Ecorse water professionals in delivering some of the nation's best drinking water.

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2019 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2019. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

Terms and abbreviations used below:

- **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 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 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.
- **N/A**: Not applicable
- **ppb**: parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- **ppm**: parts per million or milligrams per liter
- **pCi/l**: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).
- **Action Level (AL)**: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

2019 Inorganic Chemicals – Monitoring at the Plant Finished Water Tap							
Regulated Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detection	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.01	n/a	5-16-17	no	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge of metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	.99	n/a	6-11-19	no	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.74	n/a	6-11-19	no	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
2019 Disinfection By-Products – Monitoring in Distribution System, Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products							
Regulated Contaminant	Allowed Level MCL	MCLG	Highest LRAA	Range of Detection	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	17	0.50-80	2019	no	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	9.5	0.50-60	2019	no	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
2019 Disinfectant Residuals – Monitoring in Distribution System by Treatment Plant							
Regulated Contaminant	Allowed Level MCL	MRDLG	Highest RAA	Quarterly Range of Detection	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	0.60	0.49-0.69	Jan-Dec 2019	no	Water additive used to control microbes
2019 Turbidity – Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water							
Highest Single Measurement Cannot Exceed 1NTU	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)				Violation Yes/No		Typical Source of Contaminant
0.18 NTU	100%				no		Soil Runoff
Turbidity is the measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.							
2019 lead and Copper Monitoring at Customers' Tap							
Regulated Contaminant	MCLG	Action Level AL	90 th Percentile Value*	Number of Samples over AL	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	0	15	8.075	0	2019	no	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.189	0	2019	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.

Regulated Contaminant	Treatment Technique 2019					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 quarter and because the level was low, there is no TOC removal requirement					Erosion of natural deposits
Radionuclides 2014						
Regulated Contaminant	MCLG	Allowed Level	Level Detected	Test Date	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Combined Radium 226 and 228 (pCi/L)	0	5	0.65 + or – 0.54	5-13-14	no	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected 2019			Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	7.25			Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps the U.S. EPA determine where certain contaminants occur and whether regulation of those contaminants is needed. Before EPA regulates a contaminant, it considers adverse health effects, the occurrence of the contaminant in the drinking water, and whether the regulation will reduce health risk. The Great Lakes Water Authority monitored for 20 unregulated contaminants quarterly in 2019. The following table list the unregulated substance detected during the calendar year 2019.

Unregulated Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	SMCL	Range of Detection	Test Date	Noticeable Effects above the SMCL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Manganese (ppb)	0.48	50	0.0-0.48	2019	Back to brown color; black staining; bitter metallic taste	Erosion of natural deposits and corrosion of iron pipes

These tables are based on tests conducted by GLWA in the year 2019 or the most recent testing done within the last five calendar years. GLWA conducts tests throughout the year that show the presence of a substance or require special monitoring are presented in these tables.

Detroit River Intakes

Your source water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, Ecorse River, watersheds 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 and Sewerage Department, and the Michigan Public Health Institute performed a source water assessment in 2004 to determine the susceptibility of GLWA's Detroit River source water for the potential contamination.

The susceptibility rating is based on a seven-tiered scale and ranges from very low to very high determined primarily using geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and potential contaminant sources. The report described GLWA's Detroit River intakes as highly susceptible to potential contamination. However, all four GLWA water treatment plants that service the city of Detroit and draw water from the Detroit River have historically provided satisfactory treatment and meet drinking water standards.

GLWA has initiated source-water protection activities that include chemical containment, spill response, and a mercury reduction program. GLWA participates in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit discharge program and has an emergency response management plan. In 2016, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality approved the GLWA Surface Water Intake Protection Program plan. The programs include seven elements that include the following: roles and duties of government units and water supply agencies, delineation of a source water protection areas, identification of potential sources of contamination, management approaches for protection, contingency plans, siting of new water sources, public participation and public education activities. If you would like to know more information about the Source Water Assessment report, please contact GLWA at (313) 926-8102.

Information about 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. The City of Ecorse 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 have a lead service line it is recommended that you run your water for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Our water supply has 655 lead service lines and 652 service lines of unknown material out of a total of 6,490 service lines.

Monitoring and Reporting to the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Requirements: The State of Michigan and the U.S. EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We met all the monitoring and reporting requirements for 2019.

We will update this report annually and will keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen. Copies are available at Ecorse City Hall, 3869 W. Jefferson Ave., Ecorse, Michigan 48229. **This report will not be sent to you.**

Public Participation

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. Each and every month the GLWA Board meet at the Water Board Building at 735 Randolph Street, Detroit, Michigan 48226. These meetings as well as public hearings are open to the public. To confirm dates and times of the GLWA meetings residents are encouraged to visit the GLWA website at www.glwater.org.

For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact Kevin Lawrence, DPW Superintendent, klawrence@ecorsemi.gov. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. EPA at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater>.

City of Ecorse and GLWA Fun Facts

- The City of Ecorse is the third oldest community water system that receives their water from the City of Detroit/GLWA. Ecorse has been a customer since 1904. Only the communities of River Rouge and Hamtramck have been customers longer than the City of Ecorse.
- The largest user of water in the City of Ecorse is that of U.S. Steel Great Lakes Works located at West Jefferson and Quality Drive.
- GLWA uses the Great Lakes, the worlds largest concentration of fresh water as their water source.
- GLWA is the largest water system in Michigan.
- GLWA supplies water to four million people.
- GLWA is the 3rd largest provider of high-quality drinking water in the United States.
- GLWA rates have consistently been among the lowest in the nation's twenty largest municipalities.