# CITY OF MARTINS FERRY WATER DEPARTMENT

# DRINKING WATER CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT FOR 2025

Dear Customer:

This is the annual water quality report published by the Martins Ferry Water Department. We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for your support. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act communities are required to publish an annual Water Quality (Consumer Confidence) Report.

The Martins Ferry Water Department has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. included within this report is general health information. water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water systems contacts. We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. The Water Department currently has an unconditioned license to operate our water system.

## What is the source of your drinking water?

The source of Martins Ferry drinking water is ground water received from eight wells located at the north end of First Street, between the Ohio River and State Route 7. The Martins Ferry Water Department also has an emergency connection with the Village of Bridgeport. During 2025 we used no water from this connection. This report does not contain information on the water quality from the Village of Bridgeport but a copy of their Consumer Confidence Report can be obtained by contacting them at 740-635-2424.

## What are sources of contamination to drinking water?

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

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 (I -800-426-4791).

License to Operate(LTO) Status Information:

In 2025 Martins Ferry had an unconditional license to operate our water system.

### Source Water Susceptibility Report

The Ohio EPA completed a study of the Martins Ferry Public Water Supply's source of drinking water to identify potential contaminant sources and provide guidance on protecting the drinking water source. According to this study, the aquifer (water rich zone) that supplies water to Martins Ferry has a high susceptibility to contamination. This determination is based on the following:

- The lack of a protective layer of clay or shale overlying the aquifer.
- A relatively shallow depth (approximately 30 feet below ground surface) of the aquifer.
- The presence of significant potential contaminant sources in the protection area due to the proximity of businesses within our aquifer boundaries.

This susceptibility means that under currently existing conditions, the likelihood of this aquifer becoming contaminated is relatively high. This likelihood can be minimized by implementing appropriate protective measures. The City will do everything that they can do to minimize any contamination, and properly test the water to detect any contamination that would occur. More information about the source water assessment or what consumers can do to help protect the aquifer is available by calling Donnie Neavin at the Martins Ferry Water Plant at (740) 633-1378.

## Who needs to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone 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 (800) 426-4791 .

### About your drinking water

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Martins Ferry Water Department conducted sampling for bacteria, radiological, synthetic organic. and volatile organic contaminants in 2025. Samples were collected for a total of 75 different contaminants most of which were not detected in the Martins Ferry water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

Some individuals are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. 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 Martins Ferry Water Department 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 thirty seconds to two 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) 426-4719 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

## How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comments are encouraged at regular meetings of City Council which meets the first and third Wednesday of each month. For more information on your drinking water contact Donnie Neavin at (740) 633-1378.

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the Martins Ferry drinking water.

| CONTAMINANTS (Units) | MCLG | MCL | Found | Range of Detections | Violation | Year Sampled | Typical Source of Contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RESIDUAL DISINFECTS | | | | | | | |
| Total Chlorine (ppm) | MRDLG=4 | MRDL=4 | 0.88ppm | 0.81—0.96 ppm | NO | 2025 | Water additive used to control microbes |
| INORGANIC COMPOUNDS | | | | | | | |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 1.083 ppm | 1.0 -1.2 ppm | NO | 2025 | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Nitrate (ppm) | 10 | 10 | < .100 ppm | <.100ppm - <.100ppm | NO | 2025 | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Bromate (ppb) | | 10 | <.008 ppb | <.008ppb - <.008ppb | NO | 2025 | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Lead (ppb) Action Level (AL) | | AL-15 ppb | 90th % 1.80 ug/L | | NO | 2025 | Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Copper (ppm) Action Level (AL) ppb | | ppb | 90th % .183 ppb | | NO | 2025 | Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives. |
| Barium (mg/L) | 2 | 2 | 0.0518 (mg/L | .05-. I (mg/L) | No | 2020 | Discharge of drilling wastes: Discharge from metal refinery Erosion of natural deposits |
| VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS | | | | | | | |
| TTHMs, (ppb) Total Trihalomethanes | | 80 | 13.8ug/L | 8.82-13.8 ug/L | NO | 2025 | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Haloacetic Acids (ppb) | | 60 | 8.82 ug/L | 7.07 -8.82ug/L | NO | 2025 | By product of drinking water chlorination |

Definitions of some terms coniained in this report:

MRDL: 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.

MRDLG: 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 Contaminant Level (MGLG): The level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Containment Level (MCI): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best, best available treatment techno'ogy.

Pans per million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) are units of measure for concentration as a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over I I .5 days.

Parts er billion b or Micro rams er Liter u L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

The "<" symbol: A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means thal the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

## Monitoring & Reporting Violations & Enforcement Actions:

In 2025 Martins Ferry Water received a violation for using expired MMO-MUG reagent for Microbiological Analysis for the months of November and December. In order to return to compliance Martins Ferry Water Lab ordered new MMO-MUG reagent and followed all steps from OhioEPA to ensure this does not happen again. Also issued a public notice which you will find below in the CCR.

## Lead Educational Information:

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. Martins Ferry PWS 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*.

Per the Lead and Copper Rules, Public Water Systems were required to develop and maintain a Service Line Inventory. A service line is the underground pipe that supplies your home or building with water. To view the Service Line Inventory, which lists the material type(s) for your location, you can visit the Martins Ferry Water Treatment Plant to view a copy of our Service Line Inventory.

| **Lead and Copper** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Contaminant (units)** | **Action Level (AL)** | **MCLG** | **Individual Results over AL** | **90TH Percentile Value** | **Violation?** | **Year Sampled** | **Typical Source of Contaminants** |
| Lead (ppb) | 15ppb | | | 1.80ppb | No | 2025 | Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| | __1 out of __20 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb. | | | | | | |
| Copper (ppm) | 1.3ppm | | | .183ppm | No | 2025 | Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits |
| | _0_ out of __20 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the lead action level of 1.3 ppm. | | | | | | |

**Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS):**

As part of the federal 2024 PFAS drinking water rule, Public Water Systems were required to monitor finished drinking water for PFAS by April 26, 2027. We completed this monitoring by participating in the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR 5) program, which monitored multiple contaminants, including the six regulated PFAS: PFOA, PFOS, HFPO-DA, PFBS, PFHxS, and PFNA.

| **Contaminant (units)** | **Sample Date** | **Result** |
|---|---|---|
| PFOA (ng/L) | 5/14/2025 | 6.1 |
| PFOA (ng/L) | 11/12/2025 | 5.6 |
| | | |

- **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.
- **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 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.

**Definitions Required if term is used within the CCR.**

- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Contact Time (CT)** means the mathematical product of a "residual disinfectant concentration" (C), which is determined before or at the first customer, and the corresponding "disinfectant contact time" (T).
- **Cyanobacteria:** Photosynthesizing bacteria, also called blue-green algae, which naturally occur in marine and freshwater ecosystems, and may produce cyanotoxins, which at sufficiently high concentrations can pose a risk to public health.
- **Cyanotoxin:** Toxin produced by cyanobacteria. These toxins include liver toxins, nerve toxins, and skin toxins. Also sometimes referred to as "algal toxin".
- **Less Than "<" symbol:** A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.
- **Level 1 Assessment** is a study of the water system to identify the potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- **Level 2 Assessment** is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
- **Master Meter (MM):** A master meter is one that connects a wholesale public water system to consecutive public water system(s). This type of meter monitors the amount of water being sent to the consecutive system(s) and can also be used to determine the quality of water being delivered to the consecutive system(s).
- **Microcystins:** Liver toxins produced by a number of cyanobacteria. Total microcystins are the sum of all the variants/congeners (forms) of the cyanotoxin microcystin.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measurement of the clarity of water. It is used to assess water quality by indicating the cloudiness of the water, which can be an indicator of the presence of contaminants.
- **Not Applicable (N/A)** – Abbreviation meaning that this does not apply to our report.
- **Not Detected (ND)** – Abbreviation meaning a contaminant was not detected in drinking water sample(s).
- **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.

- **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.
- **PFAS:** Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals applied to many industrial, commercial and consumer products to make them waterproof, stain resistant, or nonstick. PFAS are also used in products like cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam called aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) which are used mainly on large spills of flammable liquids, such as jet fuel. PFAS are classified as contaminants of emerging concern, meaning that research into the harm they may cause to human health is still ongoing.
- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A common measure of radioactivity.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.