

2013 Annual Water Quality Report

A Tradition of Personal Service & Quality Water

Dear Customers:

The Village of Gilberts places a strong emphasis on educating our customers on the quality of our drinking water. Please review this 2013 Annual Water Quality Report, which outlines information applicable to your local water system. You'll find that we provide water that meets or surpasses all federal and state water quality regulations. Just as important, the Village of Gilberts makes the necessary investments to maintain and upgrade its facilities so that we can deliver quality water directly to your tap 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As regulations and drinking water standards change, it is our ongoing commitment to you to incorporate these changes in our water system in a prompt and cost-effective manner. Our customers are our top priority, and we are committed to providing them with the highest quality drinking water and service possible now and in the years to come.

Quality Control Every day, By Water Experts

We have a responsibility to help protect the health of our customers, and it's a responsibility we take very seriously. At the Village of Gilberts treatment facility, water quality is sampled and tested daily with comprehensive, state-of-the-art laboratory testing equipment. Water is monitored at every stage, from the raw water supply, through the treatment process and finally through the many miles of pipeline which bring water to your homes and businesses.

This is a Water Quality Report

To comply with state and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulation, the Village of Gilberts issues a report annually describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect your drinking water sources. This report provides an overview of last year's (2013) water quality. It includes details about where your water comes from and what it contains. If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please call John J. Castillo, Utility Superintendant at: 847-428-4167. ***Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua usted bebe. Tradúscalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*** ("This report contains very important information. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.")

Source of Water Information

The source of drinking water used by Gilberts is ground water. Two wells, #3 and #4, each over 1,000 feet deep, draw from a deep bedrock aquifer, an aquifer is a porous underground formation (such as sand, gravel, or fractured bedrock) that is saturated with water. Two new wells and an ion exchange treatment system were placed in service in January of 2002. The Illinois EPA has completed a source water assessment for the Gilberts system. The Gilberts wells are not considered geologically sensitive by Illinois EPA, and no potential sources of contamination were identified in the source water assessment. If you would like a summary of the information contained in this report, contact John J. Castillo at 847-428-4167 or email at jcastillo@villageofgilberts.com.

To learn more about water quality, please contact:

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Water Information Sources

villageofgilberts.com

United States Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.gov/safewater

Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 800-426-4791

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.state.il.us

Envirofacts

Access to U.S. environmental data.

www.epa.gov/enviro

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.state.il.us

Locate your watershed and a host of information.

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>

How to Read The Data Tables

The Village of Gilberts conducts extensive sampling and testing to ensure that your water meets all water quality standards. The test results are reported in the data tables. While most sampling was conducted in 2013, certain substances are monitored less than once per year because the levels do not change frequently. For help with interpreting these tables, see the "Table Definitions" section and footnotes.

Table Definitions and Abbreviations

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.

Treatment Technique (TT)*

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Action Level (AL)*

The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other required actions by the water supply.

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)

The highest level of a drinking water disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

ND: Not detectable at testing limits

N/A: Not Applicable

MFL: Million fibers per liter

TT: Treatment Technique

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units

mrem/year: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

ppq: parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

Substances Expected to be in 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 can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and radioactive materials, and pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Possible contaminants consist of:

- 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 may 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, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses;
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems; and
- Radioactive contaminants, which may 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, USEPA prescribes regulations that 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.

Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly sample.	1		0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Lead and Copper

Definitions:

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.

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

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	09/28/2010	1.3	1.3	0.594	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2013	1.3	1.3	.574	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching preservatives; Corrosion of household systems;

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	12/31/2013	1	0.6614 – 1.3	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Trihalomethanes (TThm)*	07/11/2012	3.9	3.9 - 3.9	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	04/05/2011	0.57	0.57 – 0.57	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	04/05/2011	0.65	0.65 – 0.65	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Iron	04/05/2011	0.022	0.022 – 0.022		1.0	ppm	N	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	04/05/2011	140	140 - 140			ppm	N	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits: Used in water softener regeneration.
Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	02/19/2008	1.42	1.42 - 1.42	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	02/19/2008	0.45	0.45 - 0.45	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Note: Not all testing is required on an annual frequency, the results above reflect the most recent required analyses by the EPA.

Gilberts public water supply was tested for unregulated contaminant monitoring (UCMR2) as part of a small systems screening survey in January of 2008. All results were less than the Minimum Reporting Level (MRL)

1. The MCL for Beta/photon emitters is often written as 4 millirem/year (measure of rate of radiation absorbed by the body). Laboratory results are reported in pC/L as we have on the table above. EPA considers 50 pC/L as the level of concern for beta emitters.
2. Fluoride is added to the water supply to help promote strong teeth. The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends an optimal fluoride level of 0.9 mg/l to 1.2 mg/l. Gilberts achieved perfect compliance in 2011 for maintaining the fluoride concentration within this range.
3. Compliance with the Lead and copper Rule (LCR) is determined by the levels of lead and copper found in samples taken from customers' taps. LCR requirements are met if the 90th percentile of all samples taken does not exceed the action level of 15 ppb for lead or 1,300 ppm for copper. The "amount detected" reported in the data table refers to the level at the 90th percentile sample. If lead does not appear in the table, then none was detected in the 90th percentile tap water sample.
4. Iron is currently not regulated by USEPA. However, the state has set an MCL for iron for supplies serving a population of 1000 or more. Iron is not a health concern but can cause staining of plumbing and fixtures.
5. There is no state or federal MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials that are concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you area on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult a physician about this level of sodium in the water.

Important Health Information

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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 Village of Gilberts 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>.