Village of Sebring, Ohio

2024

Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

Section 1: Title

SEBRING, VILLAGE OF

Drinking Water Consumer Confidence
Report For 2024

Section 2: Introduction

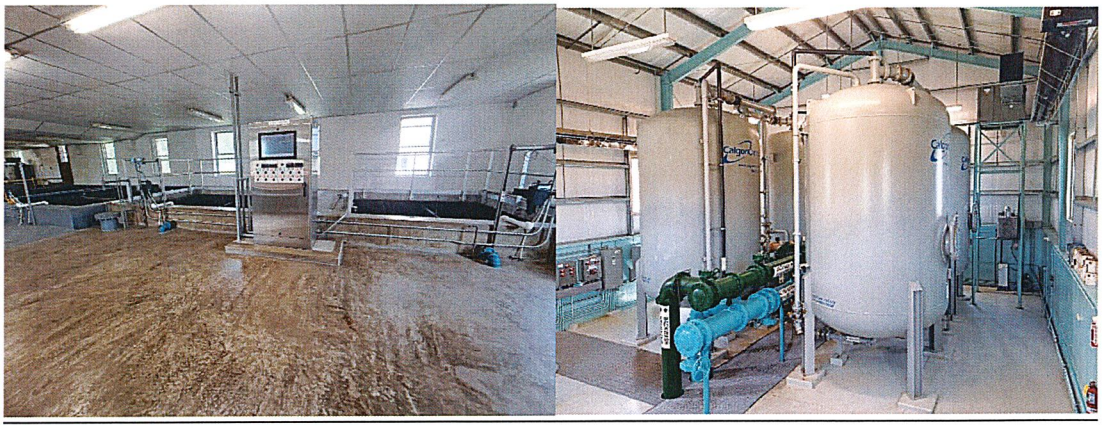
The Sebring water system has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

Section 3: Source Water Information

The Sebring water system receives its drinking water from the Mahoning River in Knox Township, Columbiana County, Ohio.

The Ohio EPA has determined the Village of Sebring's water system to have high susceptibility to contamination. For the purposes of source water assessment and protection planning, all surface water systems are considered highly susceptible to contamination. Surface water is generally much easier to access than groundwater and the time of travel from spill source to intake is relatively short. Additionally, points of access are more widespread in many surface water systems.

Copies of the source water assessment report prepared for Sebring are available by contacting Tim Gabrelcik, Village Manager at 330-938-9340.



Section 4: 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 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 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 Federal Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Section 5: Who needs to take special precautions?

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 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 (1-800-426-4791).

Section 6: About your drinking water

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Sebring water system conducted sampling for bacteria; inorganic; synthetic organic; and volatile organic during 2024. Samples were collected for a total of 55 different contaminants most of which were not detected in the Sebring water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

Section 8: Table of Detected Contaminants

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

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant (units)	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation?	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminants
Radioactive Contaminants							
Combined Radium 226/228	0	5	1.56 pCi/l	1.56	No	2021	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	0	15	4.34 pCi/l	4.34	No	2021	Erosion of natural deposits.
Inorganic Contaminants							

Barium	2	2	0.044 ppm	0.044	No	2024	Discharge of drilling wastes and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	4	4.0	1.06 ppm	1.06	No	2024	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	10	10	2.79 ppm	0.21-2.79	No	2024	Fertilizer runoff; septic tank leaching; Erosion of natural deposits.
Residual Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts							
Chlorine	4	4	1.63 ppm	1.4-2.0	No	2024	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	None	60	29.48 ppb	7.83-29.48	No	2024	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes	None	80	66.15 ppb	23.1-66.15	No	2024	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Lead and Copper							
Contaminant (units)	**Action Level (AL)**	**MCLG**	**Individual Results over the AL**	**90% of the test levels were less than**	**Violation?**	**Year Sampled**	**Typical Source of Contaminants**
Lead (ppb)	15 ppb	0 ppb	0	0 ppb	No	2024	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
	__0_ out of _40__ samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb.						
Copper (ppm)	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0	0.061 ppm	No	2024	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching of wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
	__0_ out of _40__ samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the lead action level of 1.3 ppm.						

Section 9: Turbidity

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the samples analyzed each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, the Sebring Water System's highest recorded turbidity result for 2024 was 0.15 NTU and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100 %.

Section 13: 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. Sebring 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 water plant to view the SLIM map. Contact 330-938-9340 to schedule an appointment. An online resource will be available soon.

Section 18: License to Operate (LTO) Status Information

In 2024, the Sebring water system had an unconditioned license to operate our water system.

Backflow Prevention Education

What is the Backflow Department?

Also known as the Cross-Connection Control Program (CCCP); the village service department is responsible for the prevention of actual or potential connections between the public water supply and a source of contamination or pollution.

Staff are responsible for:

- Inspecting the installation of backflow assemblies
- Creating and Enforcing policies related to the CCCP
- Tracking all the backflow assemblies in the system, and ensuring they are tested annually by NC certified backflow testers.
- Assisting customers, testers and installers with any questions pertaining to compliance or backflow assembly information.
- Meeting current state and federal guidelines for drinking water.

What is a backflow assembly?

A backflow assembly is a testable one-way valve that prevents water from a business or residence from flowing back into the main drinking supply.

Why is a backflow assembly necessary?

In the event that pressure is lost on the main line feeding your meter, water from a private line could potentially be siphoned back into the mainline unless a properly working backflow assembly is in place. This is known as back siphonage. If a hazard is directly connected to a customer's waterline, then contaminants and pollutants could potentially be siphoned back into the main drinking supply as well.

Another concern is backpressure, and this occurs when pressure is created on the private side of the meter by a pump or a heat source. This could include a pump used to increase water pressure for a Fireline or a boiler, which increases the pressure in the water line through heat (thermal expansion). Backpressure doesn't require a drop in pressure on the public side of the meter to cause a backflow issue, making it harder to track.

What could cause a backflow occurrence?

- If a mainline break it will cause immediate pressure loss.
- If anyone uses a hydrant nearby it may cause significant pressure loss.
- If a boiler causes the pressure on a customer's private line to be greater than the pressure on the public side.
- If a pump is used on the private side of the meter. This can increase the pressure to a point where it is higher on the private side than on the public side causing backpressure. This could be to feed fire lines or buildings and homes when the pressure at the meter is not high enough for the customer's needs.
- ANY situation in which the pressure on the private water line is greater than the pressure on the mainline could potentially cause a backflow incident unless a backflow assembly is installed.

Who needs to install a backflow assembly?

- All commercial and Industrial water account holders.
- Any customer with an irrigation system hooked up to their water line.
- Any customer with a water meter that serves two or more households. (Multi-family)
- Any customer with a pool that does not have a hard piped air gap installed to fill their pool.
- Any customer hooked up to a secondary water system such as a well water hook-up.
- Any customer with a residential or commercial fire line.
- Any customer with a boiler system.
- Any customer with a yard hydrant.
- Any customer that presents a hazard of any type that could contaminate or pollute the water system.
- Any customer who recently installed a well or water storage tank.

Where in the City's Code of Ordinances does it say that I am required to install and maintain a backflow assembly?

Chapter 931, Section 72

No arrangement shall be allowed whereby there may be any possibility of rain, well, or any other water of any source flowing into the Municipal mains or service lines.

No service pipe connected with the Municipal mains shall be connected with the pipes supplied with water from any other source except upon written permission by the Ohio EPA, which permit shall be revocable at any time.

Every service so connected shall be equipped with a Backflow Prevention valve to be installed in accordance with the requirements of the Ohio EPA.

Do I already have a backflow Assembly?

If you are being asked to install a backflow assembly, then the village is currently not tracking an assembly for your home or business. This does not mean that an assembly has not been installed by a previous owner. It is always a good idea to check right behind the meter, where the water enters the building and near specific hazards (such as a boiler or commercial dishwasher) to see if a backflow assembly has been installed. If you would like to set up a meeting with a backflow inspector, call us at 330-938-6922 and an inspector will come to help you look for a backflow assembly if the Village is not already tracking one at your address. This service is free of charge.

What qualifies as a backflow assembly?

The Village of Sebring requires that all assemblies are testable, lead free and meet industry standards. This means that the dual check valve attached to the back of the meter is only acceptable as a backflow assembly for single family homes on a domestic line with no other apparent hazards. This also means that the "backflow device" or check valve that comes with many commercial dishwashers and soda fountain machines are not accepted because they are not testable using the accepted methods and assemblies set forth by the Village of Sebring.

Who can I call to schedule a backflow test?

The inspectors for the Village of Sebring do not perform backflow tests. Backflow inspectors only perform backflow installation inspections. To schedule a backflow test you must contact a certified backflow tester.

How often does my backflow need to be tested?

Each backflow assembly must be tested annually at a set date. That date is going to be based on when the backflow was originally inspected, and the Village of Sebring began tracking that particular assembly. The due date does not reset based on the last time a test was turned in. For example, if a

backflow assembly test is due in April and it doesn't get tested until June; another test will have to be performed the following year in April.

Can I test my assemblies early?

The Village of Sebring allows tests to be submitted up to 60 days prior to their due date and still meet the compliance requirements for that year.

I have multiple assemblies and multiple due dates. Can these be consolidated and tested at the same time?

If you have multiple backflow assemblies that need to be tested at different times throughout the year, the backflow department can work with you to get all dates consolidated. This will require that all assemblies are tested at once and that no assembly has gone more than one year without being tested. For example, if it's August and you paid to have three assemblies tested in February and you have two more assemblies to test in September; then all five could be tested in September and the new due date for all five assemblies could be set to September. This must be approved by a member of the backflow department beforehand.

What happens if I don't turn in my test on time?

Your water account may be subject to temporary service interruption if you haven't submitted your test by the due date. If your water service has been shut off due to backflow non-compliance, then you need to speak to a member of the backflow department by calling 330-938-6922

What happens if my backflow assembly fails its test?

Notify the backflow department and call your chosen plumber to repair the backflow assembly. Once the assembly is repaired or a new assembly is installed, it needs to be tested, and the installation has to be inspected.

I didn't receive courtesy notices from the village this year, what can I do?

If you didn't receive the notices that the village sends out every month as a courtesy reminder then please call 330-938-6922. Your mailing address may need to be updated. The addresses in the backflow departments database are not updated automatically when customer service updates an address in their database, so please make sure you notify the village when your mailing address changes.

Section 20: Public Participation and Contact Information

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of Sebring Village Council which meets on the second and fourth Monday each month. For more information on your drinking water contact Tim Gabrelcik, Village Manager at 330-938-9340.

Section 21: Definitions of some terms contained within this report.

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of 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.

Definitions Required if term is used within the CCR.

- **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.

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

- **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.

- **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.

- **The "<" 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.

- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A common measure of radioactivity.