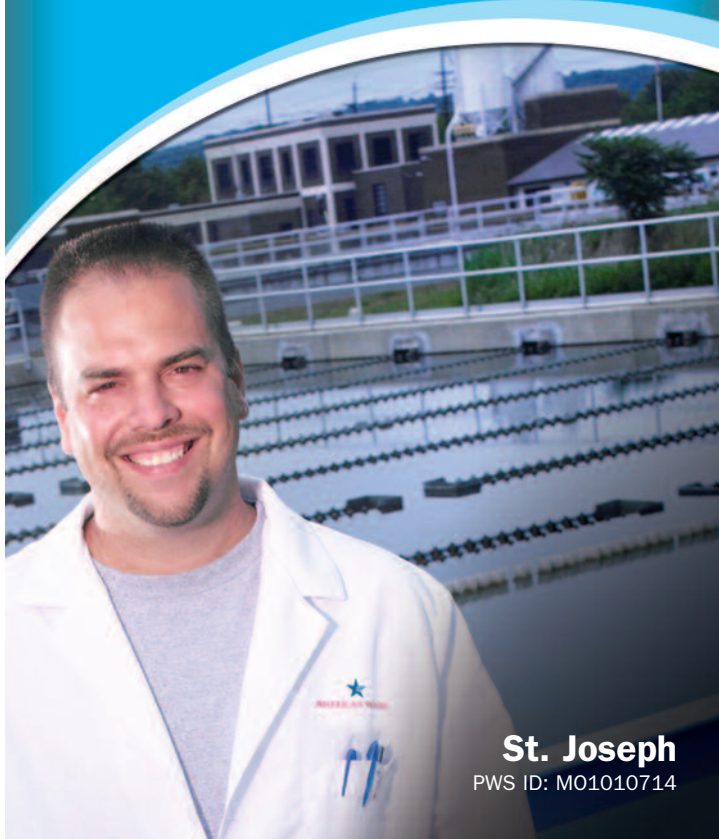


# 2008 Annual Water Quality Report



**St. Joseph**

PWS ID: M01010714

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## Dear Missouri American Water Customer,

*As a trusted leader in the industry, Missouri American Water places a strong emphasis on sharing information with our customers about the quality of the water service we provide.*

*One way we do this is by reporting to you annually the results of various tests that we conduct. Please review this Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), which outlines information applicable to your local water system for testing completed through December 2008. You'll find that we provide water service that surpasses or meets all federal and state water quality regulations. In fact, we often address regulations well before they go into effect.*

*Just as important, Missouri American Water makes the necessary investments to maintain and upgrade its facilities so that we can provide quality water service to your home 24 hours a day, seven days a week.*

*Our customers are our top priority. We are committed to providing the highest quality drinking water service possible now and in the years to come. In addition to this written report, you can view information about Missouri American Water and your water system on the website <http://www.missouriamwater.com>. For more information or for any questions about this report relating to your drinking water service, please contact us at (866) 430-0820.*

*Sincerely,  
Terry Gloriod  
President  
Missouri American Water*

## What is a Water Quality Report?

To comply with state and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, Missouri American Water 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 drinking water sources. In 2008, we conducted tests for hundreds of contaminants, all of which were below state and federal maximum allowable levels. This report provides an overview of last year's (2008) 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 our Customer Service Center at (toll-free) 1-866-430-0820.

## About Missouri American Water

Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest investor-owned U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs more than 7,000 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to approximately 15 million people in 32 states and Ontario, Canada. More information can be found by visiting [www.missouriamwater.com](http://www.missouriamwater.com).

At Missouri American Water, and all of American Water, we work hard every day to provide our customers with water they can enjoy and use with confidence.

## Source Water Information

Missouri American Water supplies quality drinking water to more than 32,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in the City of St. Joseph. The St. Joseph District also supplies water to four water districts and the neighboring cities of Elwood and Wathena, Kansas. The new St. Joseph water treatment plant uses groundwater taken from numerous vertical wells and a horizontal collector well.

## How to Contact Us

For more information regarding this report or any of the other services provided by Missouri American Water, please call our Customer Service Center at (toll-free) 1-866-430-0820, or you may visit us at [www.missouriamwater.com](http://www.missouriamwater.com).

## Water Information Sources

- **Missouri American Water**  
[www.missouriamwater.com](http://www.missouriamwater.com)
- **Missouri Department of Natural Resources**  
[www.dnr.mo.gov](http://www.dnr.mo.gov)
- **United States Environmental Protection Agency**  
[www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)
- **Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) 426-4791**
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- **American Water Works Association**  
[www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)
- **Water Quality Association**  
[www.wqa.org](http://www.wqa.org)
- **National Library of Medicine/  
National Institute of Health**  
[www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus)

## 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 groundwater 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.

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.

### 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 may 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about the contaminants and potential health effects, call the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## St. Joseph Water Treatment Facility Earns Special Recognition

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources honored Missouri American Water's St. Joseph Treatment Facility for successful completion of the Missouri Environmental Management Partnership Program (MEMP). The partnership encourages organizations to improve their environmental performance by developing and implementing an environmental management system (EMS). Missouri American Water is the first company in Missouri to receive this distinction. Environmental management is an integral part of Missouri American Water's operations. Achieving Advanced Partner status in the MEMP Program has allowed us to increase environmental awareness, enhance our working relationship with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the community, and reduce environmental risks. Missouri American Water's participation in this program is an example of the company's dedication to making environmental management a fundamental part of the business. As providers of high quality, affordable water service, our responsibility is to not only protect one of our most precious resources but to improve the environment.

## Special Health Information

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 may 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 microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

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. Missouri American Water 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>.

To ensure that tap water is of high quality, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain substances in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Missouri American Water's advanced water treatment processes are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern.

## How to Read This Table

Missouri American Water conducts extensive monitoring to ensure that your water meets all water quality standards. The results of our monitoring are reported in the following tables. While most monitoring was conducted in 2008, certain substances are monitored less than once per year because the levels do not change frequently. For help with interpreting this table, see the "Table Definitions" section.

Starting with a **Substance**, read across. **Year Sampled** is usually in 2008 or year prior. **MCL** shows the highest level of substance (contaminant) allowed. **MCLG** is the goal level for that substance (this may be lower than what is allowed). **Results** represents the measured amount (less is better). **Range** tells the highest and lowest amounts measured. A **Yes** under **Compliance Achieved** means the amount of the substance met government requirements. **Typical Source** tells where the substance usually originates.

Unregulated substances are measured, but maximum contaminant levels have not been established by the government.

### **Definitions of Terms Used in This Report**

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

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of 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):** 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 contamination.

**mrem/year:** Millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body).

**NA:** Not applicable

**ND:** Not detected

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of the water.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** Measurement of the natural rate of disintegration of radioactive contaminants in water (also beta particles).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water, or milligrams per liter.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water, or micrograms per liter.

### **Water Quality Statement**

We are pleased to report that during the past year, the water delivered to your home or business complied with all state and federal drinking water requirements. For your information, we have compiled a list in the table, showing what substances were detected in your drinking water during 2008. Although all of the substances listed below are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water.

Monitoring was also done during 2003 and 2008 under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) and Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 2 (UCMR2) respectively. No compounds were detected. Data is available on the EPA's web site ([www.epa.gov/safewater/data/ucmrgetdata.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/data/ucmrgetdata.html)).

There are many unforeseen and unpredictable factors that may cause a source water to be contaminated. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources routinely monitors all public water supplies to ensure public health is protected. Source Water Assessments have been assembled by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to evaluate the susceptibility of contamination to our drinking water sources. For more information about these assessments call the Missouri Department of Natural Resources at (800) 361-4827.

## Water Quality Results

### Regulated Substances (Measured on the Water Leaving the Treatment Facility)

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Results	Range Low-High	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	2008	15	0	2.4	1.5 - 3.9	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	2004	50**	0**	4.6	4.6 - 4.6	Yes	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Barium (ppm)	2008	2	2	0.12	0.10 - 0.13	Yes	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chloramines (ppm)	2008	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	3.0	2.6 - 3.4	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2008	4	4	0.7	0.7 - 0.8	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as N) (ppm)	2008	10	10	0.19	0.11 - 0.27	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (as N) (ppm)	2008	1	1	0.008	0.007 - 0.008	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2008	50	50	0.5	ND - 2	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

\*\* The MCL for Beta/photon emitters is written as 4 millirem/year (measure of rate of radioactive decay). EPA considers 50 pCi/L as the level of concern for beta emitters.

### Bacterial Results (from the Distribution System)

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Highest Percentage or Number Detected	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Total Coliform Bacteria	2008	5% Positive Samples	0	1.0%	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform	2008	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform	0	1	Yes	Human and animal fecal waste
Number of fecal coliform positive repeat	2008		0	0	Yes	Human and animal fecal waste

### Other Compounds (Measured in the Distribution System)

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Results	Range Low-High	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
THMs [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2008	80	NA	4.4	3.5 - 5.8	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids] (ppb)	2008	60	NA	2.4	ND - 9.4	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection

### Unregulated Substances (Measured on the Water Leaving the Treatment Facility)

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	Results	Range Low-High	Typical Source
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2008	1.1	0.8 - 1.6	By-product of disinfection
Chloroform (ppb)	2008	3.4	2.7 - 4.0	By-product of disinfection
Sulfate (ppm)	2008	102.6	93.5 - 109.6	Erosion of natural deposits

### Tap Water Samples: Lead and Copper Results

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	Action Level	MCLG	Number of Samples	90th Percentile	Number of Samples Above Action Level	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	2007	AL = 1.3	1.3	30	0.163	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2007	AL = 15	0	30	4.0	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits