

2012 Water Quality Report Otterbein Portage Valley



Otterbein-Portage Valley

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Source Water Information

Otterbein Portage Valley is supplied drinking water as ground water from two, 8-in wells, located on the property. These wells are located approximately 1630 feet south of our north boundary, State Route 582. The east well is approximately 300 feet west of Pemberville Road and the west well is approximately 800 feet west of Pemberville Road. Both are 300 feet from our Water Treatment Plant, northeast and northwest respectively. Each well is approximately 180 feet deep, and the water is pumped from a depth of 47 feet.

All of our water flows through our Water Softening System, treated by our chlorinator and stored in a 25,000-gallon fiberglass tank. From there, it is alternatively pumped by two high-speed pumps into two 528-gallon steel pneumatic tanks. From there it is pressurized & maintained between 45-62 psi as it is delivered into the distribution system for your use.

Information about Nitrates

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Otterbein Portage Valley has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, about 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.

We have a current, unconditional license to operate our water system.

From the Ohio EPA

We received a Drinking Water Assessment Report for Otterbein-Portage Valley, which provided a map of the protection area of our source water, aquifer and wells; the potential contaminant sources within the area and how susceptible our drinking water is to contamination. This report is based on available information and the on-site potential contaminant source inventory that the Ohio EPA staff had conducted at our facility. This report may be posted on Ohio EPA's Source Water Protection website and may be available for viewing if you pass the security test at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/pdu/swap.html>, which will take a few days. We do have our copy of the report including maps, which we could have available for you to view, from the Environmental Services Office, as listed below.

From the Assessment Report it has been determined that the aquifer that supplies the drinking water to Otterbein-Portage Valley has a high susceptibility to contamination because:

The wells are located in a sensitive Karst area; The wells are open between approximately 50 and 180 feet in the fractured limestone and the depth of the water is less than 25 feet below the ground surface; Potential contaminant sources exist within the protected area. This does not mean that the aquifer will become contaminated, only that under certain conditions ground water could become impacted by potential contaminant sources.

Ohio's potential karst regions are carbonate aquifers that are covered by less than 25 feet of glacial material and typically exhibit surficial karst features, such as sinkholes.

Future contamination may be avoided as we implement and continue with protective measures, some of which are mentioned in the Protective Strategies Checklist we received with the report. More information is available by contacting Mike Coyle (Environmental Services Director) You may call 419-833-7000

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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

The source of drinking water and bottled water includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up substances from the presence of animals or 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 chemicals, 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. It's important to remember that the presence of certain contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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. Otterbein Portage Valley 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 tap 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, test methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**, or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

