

## **Parts Per Million?**

Many consumers find water regulations and drinking water quality reports difficult to understand. MCL stands for 'maximum contaminant level' and defines the maximum allowable amount of certain contaminants that can be detected in some drinking water supplies. Most often, MCLs are defined in parts per million or parts per billion. What does this mean? Listed below are comparisons of these measurements:

One part per million equals:

- One inch in 16 miles
- One minute in two years
- One cent in \$10,000

One part per billion equals:

- One inch in 16,000 miles
- One second in 32 years
- One cent in \$10 million

## **Bottled Water vs Tap Water**

Bottled water has been in the news a lot lately, as people debate its costs, benefits and everything in between.

In our mobile world, many people turn to bottled water as a convenience. Others keep some on hand in case of emergencies or interruption in their water supplies. Some people say they prefer the taste of some types of bottled water.

However, many people mistakenly believe bottled water to be safer than the community water supply, just because it's in a bottle.

In the vast majority of cases, both bottled water and tap water are safe, healthy choices. If your tap water meets all the regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act, you can have a high degree of confidence in its safety. Bottled water is regulated through the FDA, and it's supposed to meet the same high standards as tap water.

It's important to remember, though, that only tap water delivers public health protection, fire protection, support for the economy and the overall quality of life we enjoy. So as the conversation about bottled water and tap water continues, it's a good time to think about the importance of investing in those critical systems that keep our tap water service strong and reliable.

Your water utility can tell you what's in your tap water, and it's required to deliver a consumer confidence report to you each year.