DGS Routine Water System Maintenance Program Overview

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

What Is It?

The Maryland Department of General Services – Office of Facilities Management (OFM) is committed to providing clean, safe, and reliable water to all our facilities. Our Routine Water System Maintenance Program ensures water quality through regular testing, sterilization, and adherence to strict safety standards. This program is designed to protect the health and well-being of all tenants and visitors.

What Do We Test?

DGS conducts comprehensive testing for a range of water quality indicators, including:

- **Legionella Pneumophila**
- **Lead and Copper:** To ensure levels are below EPA action levels.
- **Total Coliform and *E. coli*:** To detect bacterial contamination.
- **Chlorine Residual:** To verify adequate disinfection.
- **pH Levels:** To maintain proper water balance.
- **Turbidity:** To measure water clarity.

Testing Schedule

Our annual testing schedule is organized by region to ensure consistent monitoring across all facilities. Specific dates vary, but all 2025 testing is typically conducted according to the following schedule:

- **Baltimore Region:** July - December
- **Multi-Service Centers:** August - October
- **Annapolis Region:** October - December

What Is Sterilization?

Sterilization is the process of disinfecting the water system to eliminate harmful bacteria and ensure the safety of the water. This involves flushing the system with a chlorine solution, followed by thorough rinsing to remove any residual chlorine. Sterilization is performed as a preventative measure and after any maintenance or repairs to the water system.

How Are Results Used?

All testing results are meticulously reviewed to ensure compliance with the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) and EPA standards. Any exceedances or anomalies above defined thresholds trigger immediate corrective action, including re-testing, system flushing, and further investigation. Results are also used for ongoing reporting and continuous improvement of our water quality management practices.

What This Means for You?

The Routine Water System Maintenance Program offers several key benefits for tenants:

- **Safe Drinking Water:** Reduced risk of waterborne illnesses.
- **Improved Water Quality:** Enhanced taste and clarity of water.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Assurance that our facilities meet all state and federal water quality standards.
- **Proactive Maintenance:** Prevents potential water system issues before they arise.

Contact Info

For questions or more information about the Routine Water System Maintenance Program, please contact the Maryland Department of General Services – Office of Facilities Management:

- Email: dgs.ofm-assistantsecretary@maryland.gov
- OFM 24/7 Customer Service: 410-767-1400