

## **Understanding EPA National Primary Drinking Water Standards**

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The maximum level of a drinking water Primary Contaminant (health related) below which there is no known or expected health risk. The MCLG is usually zero. The MCLG is a non-enforceable public health goal that is often easily accomplished for home owners and business owners through Point-of-Entry (POE) and/or Point-of-Use (POU) EPA “Best Available Technologies” (BAT).

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The maximum level of a Primary Contaminant (health related), usually expressed in milligrams per liter (mg/L) (parts per million (PPM) that is allowed by the EPA in drinking water. An enforceable standard for public water utilities, but not for home owners or businesses with private wells. If you have a private well the responsibility of your water quality rests with you alone.

A Certified water treatment vendor should know which of the several BATs is correct for your particular municipal water or well water chemistry. Whether your concern is **Primary Contaminants** (health related) or **Secondary Contaminants** (economic and aesthetic related ) or both, a water analysis is necessary. As to well water, a “Secondary Parameter Group” water analysis should be performed, preferably by a State Certified analytical laboratory. Your water treatment vendor can help.