



# Newport Utilities Water Quality Report 2025

## Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. As detailed in the chart on page 2, we only detected 10 of these contaminants. We found all of these contaminants to be at safe levels.

## What is the source of my water?

Your water, which is surface water, comes from the French Broad River. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water source to **potential** contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water sources serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to **potential** contamination. To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible or slightly susceptible based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The Newport Utilities source rated as reasonably susceptible to potential contamination.

An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed online at <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html> or you may contact Newport Utilities to obtain copies of specific assessments.

## Why are there contaminants in my water?

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. The public can obtain more information about contaminants and potential health effects by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

**For more information about your drinking water, please call Mark Arrowood at (423)625-2850.**

## How can I get involved?

Our Utility Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the utility office at 170 Cope Blvd. Visit our website at <http://newportutilities.com/in-our-community> for more information.

**Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?** The State and EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements. Results of unregulated contaminant analysis are available upon request.

## Other Information

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and 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. 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 result from urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants, include 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. 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 and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Newport Utilities' water treatment processes are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## Do I Need To Take Special Precautions?

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 under-gone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Lead in Drinking Water

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants both formula fed and breastfed and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and home plumbing. Newport Utilities is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing of your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized line requiring replacement service line you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested contact Newport Utilities at (423)625-2852. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Water System Security

Following the events of September 2001, we realize that our customers are concerned about the security of their drinking water. We urge the public to report any suspicious activities at any utility facilities, including treatment plants, pumping stations, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to (423)625-2850



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## What does this chart mean?

- **MCLG** - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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.
- **MCL** - Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.
- **MRDL**: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG**: Maximum residual disinfectant level goal. The level of a 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 contaminants.
- **AL** - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** – explained as a relation to time and money as one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter** - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **TT** - Treatment Technique or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	NO	0		2025		0	TT Trigger	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	NO	0.06	.02-.06	2025	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Copper	NO	90 <sup>th</sup> %= 0.116	.0046-.145	2024	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	NO	0.548	0.47-0.77	2025	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead <sup>2</sup>	NO	90 <sup>th</sup> %= 1.0	1.0 – 2.98	2024	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	NO	7.38		2025	ppm	n/a	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
THM [Total trihalomethanes] <sup>4</sup>	NO	65	12.2-77.3	2025	ppb	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	NO	26	7.2-23.0	2025	ppb	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Organic Carbon <sup>5</sup>	NO	49% removal	49 -63% removal	2025	ppm	TT	TT 35% removal	Naturally present in the environment.
Chlorine	NO	1.9	0.8-2.5	2025	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.

1. 100 % of our samples were below the turbidity limit. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration process.
2. During the most recent round of 2024 lead and copper testing, 0 out of 30 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level. 1.0 ppb is the lowest the lab can detect accurately. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning or behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have an increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.
3. Newport Utilities completed the Lead Service Line Inventory in 2024. To obtain a copy please call customer service at (423)625-2800 or (423)625-2852.
4. While your drinking water meets EPA’s standard for trihalomethanes, it does contain low levels. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
5. We met the Treatment Technique for Total Organic Carbon in 2025.

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**Cryptosporidium** is a microbial parasite which is found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although *Cryptosporidium* can be removed by filtration, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Monitoring of our source water indicated the presence of *cryptosporidium* in 3 out of 24 samples tested. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals are able to overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people have more difficulty and are at greater risk of developing severe, life threatening illness. Immuno-compromised individuals are encouraged to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to prevent infection. For more information on *Cryptosporidium*, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)

### Drug Disposal Program - Think before you flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of Tennessee's waterways by disposing in one of our permanent pharmaceutical take back bins. There are over 340 take back bins located across the state in all 95 counties, to find a convenient location please visit: <http://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/>.

