2025
ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

BOROUGH OF WEST READING

PWS ID# PA3060078

If you have any questions concerning this report or require more information, please contact Borough Hall at 610-374-8273.

2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information to keep you informed.

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you or speak with someone who understands it.)

Source of Drinking Water Contaminants

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the land surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from animal presence or 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 salt and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Where Does Our Drinking Water Come From?

We purchase our water from Western Berks Water Authority. They draw water from an intake at Blue Marsh Dam or from one along Tulpehocken Creek. The watershed comprises approximately 175 square miles of agricultural, wooded, and suburban areas. The watershed extends north to the southern slope of the Blue Mountains beyond Strausstown and Shartlesville and west to the Myerstown area.

A *Source Water Assessment,* completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), has found that our source is potentially most susceptible to agricultural runoff. Our source has little risk of significant contamination. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the Source Water Assessment Summary Reports eLibrary web page, in the Source Water Assessment Folder. Reports were distributed to municipalities, water suppliers, local planning agencies, and PA DEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the PA DEP Southcentral Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (717)-705-4732.

Drinking Water May Contain Contaminants

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA and DEP set regulations that limit levels of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and DEP regulations establish limits on contaminants in bottled water to ensure the same level of public health protection.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that 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 (800-426-4791).*

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone 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 from their healthcare providers about drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate measures to reduce the risk of infection from *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the *Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).*

2025 Test Results

We routinely monitor your drinking water for contaminants in accordance with federal and state laws. The following tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025. The State allows us to monitor some contaminants less than once per year because their concentrations do not change frequently. Some of our data is from prior years in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The data has been noted in the sampling result tables.

Chemical Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chloramine	MRDL=4	MRDL=4	3.14	2.40 – 3.14	ppm	2025	N	Water additives used to control microbes.
Fluoride	2*	4	0.41	0.41	ppm	2025	N	A water additive that promotes strong teeth.
Nitrate	10	10	3.83	2.25 – 3.83	ppm	2025	N	Runoff from fertilizer use.
HAA5	60	N/A	46.5	14.2 – 46.5	ppb	2025	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
TTHM	80	N/A	42.2	14.3 – 42.2	ppb	2025	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Barium	2	2	0.04	0.04	ppm	2025	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide	0.2	0.2	0.05	0.05	ppm	2025	N	Discharge from steel/metal and plastic/fertilizer factories.
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (PFBS)**			3.93	3.37 – 3.93	ppt	2025	N	Discharge from manufacturing facilities and runoff from land use activities.
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid (PFHPA)**			2.03	0 – 2.03	ppt	2023	N	Discharge from manufacturing facilities and runoff from land use activities.
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS)	18	14	1.82	0 – 1.82	ppt	2025	N	Discharge from manufacturing facilities and runoff from land use activities.
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)	14	8	3.69	2.80 – 3.69	ppt	2025	N	Discharge from manufacturing facilities and runoff from land use activities.
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHXA)**			2.98	2.33 – 2.98	ppt	2023	N	Discharge from manufacturing facilities and runoff from land use activities.

*EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

**Contaminants that are not currently regulated by the EPA or PA DEP.

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chloramine	0.20	1.22	1.22 – 3.56	ppm	2025	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Lead and Copper								
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Range of tap sampling results	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	2.0	0 – 3	ppb	0 of 5	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.126	0.04 – 0.52	ppm	0 of 5	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

**Please see information about Lead and Copper testing below.*

Turbidity						
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Turbidity	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.98	2025	N	Soil runoff.
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples ≤0.3 NTU		100%	2025	N	

Total Organic Carbon (TOC)					
Contaminant	Range of % Removal Required	Range of % Removal Achieved	Number of Quarters Out of Compliance	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
TOC	15% - 25%	19.5% – 68.9%	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Western Berks Water Authority detected no other contaminants above the MCL and had no violations in 2025.

Definitions

pCi/L = Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppb = Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppm = Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppq = Parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

ppt = Parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

Mrem/year = Millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body).

Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) – 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – 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 disinfectant use in controlling microbial contaminants.

More Definitions

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL) – The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

Level 1 Assessment – A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment – A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Lead and Copper Testing

Lead and copper testing must be completed every 3 years. Testing was completed in 2025 and will be tested again in 2028. Should you wish to view the 2025 test results, please contact our office at 610-374-8273.

Information about Lead

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. In July 2021, the Lead Service Line Replacement Law was enacted, requiring community water systems to identify and replace all lead service lines within 10 years. Information, including a video on how to check your service lines, can be found on the borough's website www.westreadingborough.com under "Help Us Protect Your Drinking Water". Once you've identified your service line material(s), please contact our office.

The Borough of West Reading is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but it cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead-containing materials in your home plumbing and by taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Western Berks Water Authority at 610-678-4400. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Western Berks Water Authority prepared a service line inventory of its distribution system, including the types of materials in each service line. This inventory can be accessed by contacting their office at 610-678-4400.

How can I get involved?

We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. Our Infrastructure Committee meets at 6:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month at Borough Hall.