



WATTS BAR UTILITY DISTRICT

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 you'll see in the chart on the back, we only detected 11 of these contaminants.

What is the source of my water?

Your water is groundwater and purchased surface water. 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 Watts Bar Utility District sources 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 the Water System 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. 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).

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

For more information about your drinking water, please call Wesley Barger at 800.882.5099.

How can I get involved?

Our Water Board meets on the third Thursday of each month at 5:00 pm at 4535 Watts Bar Hwy. Please feel free to participate in these meetings. The Commissioners of Watts Bar Utility District serve four year terms. Vacancies on the Board of Commissioners are filled by appointment by the Rhea Co. Mayor from a list of three nominees. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners on customer complaints brought before the Board of Commissioners under the District's customer complaint policy may be reviewed by the Utility Management Review Board of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation pursuant to Section 7-82-702(7) of Tennessee Code Annotated.

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. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

Other Information

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water:

- 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 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 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. Watts Bar Utility District's 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 in home plumbing. Watts Bar Utility District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in 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. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or 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 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 Watts Bar Utility District at 800-882-5099.

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>.

Lead Service Line Inventory

A Lead Service Line Inventory has been completed for our system and is accessible by contacting our office during regular business hours.

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 800-882-5099.

Pharmaceuticals In Drinking Water Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Learn more about disposing of unused medicines at <https://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/>

Watts Bar Utility – 2025 Water Quality Data

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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **RTCR** – Revised Total Coliform Rule. This rule went into effect on April 1, 2016 and replaces the MCL for total coliform with a Treatment Technique Trigger for a system assessment.

Water Quality Data for 2025

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Found	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (RTCR)	No	0		2025			0	TT Trigger	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity ¹	No	0.3	0.1 - 0.3	2025	NTU		N/A	TT	Soil runoff
Copper ²	No	90 th %= 0.069	0.003-0.218	2024	ppm		1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead ²	No	90 th %= < 2.0	< 2.0 – 4.89	2024	ppb		0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	No	6.21*	6.21*	2023	ppm		N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	No	22.88	9.05-29.30	2025	ppb		N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	3.16	3.16-15.10	2025	ppb		N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total organic carbon (TOC) ³	No			2025	ppm		TT	TT	Naturally present in the environment
Nitrate	No	0.40*	0.40*	2025	ppm		10.0	10.0	Fertilizer use, septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Found	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement		MRDL	MRDLG	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	No	1.80 Avg.	1.40-2.20	2025	ppm		4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.

¹ 99% of our samples were below the turbidity limit of 0.3 NTU. Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of water. We measure turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our treatment process.

² During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, 0 out of 30 households sampled for lead contained concentrations exceeding the action level, and 0 out of 30 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the copper action level. 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 and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems. The lead level is the lowest the lab can detect accurately.

³ The treatment technique for TOC was met for 2023.

⁴ Tetrachloroethylene. Some people who drink water containing tetrachloroethylene in excess of the MCL over many years could have problems with their liver, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer ³Alpha emitters. Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over

Athens Utilities Board – 2025 Water Quality Data

Athens Utilities Board – 2025 Water Quality Table

Parameter	Units	Year Performed	AUB Result	HUC Result	Regulatory Limit MCL	Goal MCLG	Source
REGULATED AT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT							
Turbidity	NTU	2025	0.20	0.33	TT	TT	Soil Runoff. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
Range			0.02 - 0.20	0.02 - 0.33			
Fluoride	ppm	2025	0.45 avg	<0.15	4.0	4.0	Additive that promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits
Range	ppm		0.42 - 0.47	<0.15 - <0.15			
Nitrate	ppm	2025	1.51	0.332	10.0	10.0	Fertilizer use, septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	2025	<0.05	1.13	TT	TT	Naturally present in the environment. We met the Treatment Technique requirements for Total Organic Carbon in 2025.
Range			<0.5 - <0.05	0.72-1.05			
Sodium	ppm	2025	4.8	6.95	-	-	Erosion of natural deposits
REGULATED IN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND CUSTOMER TAP							
Total Coliform Bacteria (# positive samples)		2025	0	0	5	n/a	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	2025	42.91	36.3	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Range	ppb		23.2 - 69.1	33.0-36.3			
Haloacetic Acids -5	ppb	2025	36.93	30.7	60	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Range	ppb		20.3 – 68.6	26.9-30.7			
Chlorine	ppm	2025	1.23 avg.	1.9	MRDL=4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes
Range	ppm		0.5 - 2.2	1.6-2.0			
Lead (90%)	ppb	2024	<2.0	<2.0	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing. 0 of the 30 samples tested were above EPA's action level (see special note below)
Range	ppb		All Sites <2.0	All Sites <2.0			
Copper (90%)	ppm	2024	0.27900	0.00422	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing. 0 of the 30 samples tested was above EPA's action level
Range	ppm		0.00303 – 0.51300	<0.001 – 0.00422			
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING							
PFBS	ppb	2024	0.00453	0.0029			Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. For additional information call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.
Range			<0.001 - 0.0116	<0.001 - 0.0041			
PFBA	ppb	2024	0.0011				
Range			<0.001 - 0.0011				
PFHxS	ppb	2024	0.0011				
Range			<0.001 - 0.0011				
HFPO-DA	ppb	2024	0.002				
Range			<0.001 – 0.002				

The following definitions and explanations may help you understand more fully the data in this table:

- **MCL** – “Maximum Contaminant Level.” The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **MCLG** – “Maximum Contaminant Level Goal.” The level of a contaminant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **MRDL** – “Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.” 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.
- **ppb** = parts per billion **ppm** = parts per million **pCi/L**=Picocuries per liter.
- **TT** – “Treatment Technique.” A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **NTU** – This stands for “Nephelometric Turbidity Units” and measures the clarity of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The EPA has two requirements: (1) The maximum level found must be less than 1 NTU; and (2) The level must be under 0.3

Special Note: If present, elevated levels of 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. Athens Utilities Board is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in home plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Special Note: 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 systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Feel free to share this information with others who drink AUB water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can post this notice in a public place or distribute copies by hand or mail.

Loudon Utilities Board – 2025 Water Quality Data

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	1.87	1.63–2.02	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	4	4	0.43	0.20–0.50	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5s] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	33.43	11.00–30.30	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	10	10	0.32	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2025	TT	NA	0.97	0.78–1.03	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	55.28	17.60–47.60	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity ¹ (NTU)	2025	TT	NA	0.11	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2025	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100%	NA	No	Soil runoff

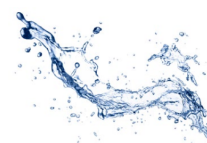
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2024	1.3	1.3	0.03	ND–0.04	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2024	15	0	ND	ND–ND	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Iron (ppb)	2025	300	NA	9.13	ND–90.00	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2025	50	NA	8.48	ND–66.00	No	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (Units)	2025	6.5–8.5	NA	7.55	7.30–7.90	No	Naturally occurring

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES					
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE	
Alkalinity (ppm)	2025	65.04	46.00–91.00	NA	
Hardness, Total [as CaCO ₃] (ppm)	2025	63.62	44.00–85.00	NA	
Sodium (ppm)	2025	8.56	NA	NA	

¹Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.



Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

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

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

Removal ratio: A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

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