2025 Annual

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Sequatchie Valley Water Treatment Plant
PWS ID: TN0000749

TENNESSEE
AMERICAN WATER

WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING®

Water Quality Report **Summary**

We are proud to share our annual Water Quality Report – also known as a Consumer Confidence Report or CCR.

This report provides important details about your drinking water – like where it comes from and what we detected when we sampled. It also explains the importance of protecting water sources and the extensive effort required to deliver safe, clean, and reliable drinking water service – reminding us that keeping water clean is everyone's responsibility.

We are pleased to report that in 2025, your water met state and federal drinking water requirements.

There is more to it than just sampling!

Dedicated employees.

Our employees care deeply about providing essential water and wastewater services to the customers they serve. From the people collecting samples to those working in the treatment plant to those that keep water flowing through the pipes, our employees strive to be the best at what they do!

Investing in your water.

At Tennessee American Water, we know how important it is to keep our water system reliable and resilient. Last year, we invested more than $43 million across the state to upgrade water treatment and pipeline systems.

Your Voice Matters.

Tennessee American Water welcomes your feedback about your water. If you would like to share your thoughts, ask questions, or receive a copy of this report, call our Customer Service team Monday–Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., at 1-866-736-6420. You can also visit https://www.amwater.com/tnaw/ and follow us on Facebook, X, Instagram, and YouTube.

IMPORTANT: Please share this information with anyone who drinks this water (or their guardians), especially those who may not have received this report directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this report in a public place or distributing copies by hand, mail, email, or another method.

ENGLISH
This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it at the number listed below.

SPANISH/ESPAÑOL
Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien llamando al número de teléfono que aparece debajo.

TRADITIONAL CHINESE/繁體中文
該報告包含有關您的飲用水的重要資訊。請將其翻譯，或撥打以下電話與理解報告內容之人士溝通。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE (HONG KONG)/繁體中文 (香港地區)
該報告載有關乎閣下飲用水之重要資訊。請將報告內容翻譯，或致電下列號碼，與精通報告內容之人士聯絡。

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE/简体中文
本报告包含关于您的饮用水的重要信息。请将其翻译，或拨打以下电话与理解报告内容的人员沟通。

CREOLE/KREYÒL AYISYEN
Rapò sa a gen ladan enfòmasyon enpòtan sou dlo pou bwè a. Tradui li, oubyen pale ak yon moun ki konprann li nan nimewo ki endike anba a.

CROATIAN/HRVATSKI
Ovo izvješće sadrži važne informacije u vezi vaše pitke vode. Dajte ga prevesti, ili razgovarajte s osobom koja ga razumije, a koju osobu možete kontaktirati na donji broj.

GERMAN/DEUTSCH
Dieser Bericht enthält wichtige Informationen zu Ihrem Trinkwasser. Lassen Sie ihn übersetzen oder rufen Sie die unten angegebene Telefonnummer an, um mit jemandem zu sprechen, der Ihnen den Inhalt erklären kann.

GUJARATI/ગુજરાતી
આ રિપોર્ટમાં તમારા પીવાના પાણી વિશે મહત્વપૂર્ણ માહિતી છે. તેનો અનુવાદ કરો અથવા નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર તેને સમજતા કોઈ વ્યક્તિ સાથે વાત કરો.

HINDI/हिन्दी
इस रिपोर्ट में आपके पीने के पानी के बारे में महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी है। इसका अनुवाद करें, या नीचे दिए गए नंबर पर इसे समझने वाले किसी व्यक्ति से बात करें।

HMONG/HMOOB
Daim ntawv tshaj qhia no muaj cov ntaub ntawv tseem ceeb txog koj cov dej haus. Txhais nws, lossis tham nrog ib tus neeg uas nkag siab txog nws ntawm tus nab npawb xov tooj uas teev tseg hauv qab no.

ITALIAN/ITALIANO
Questo resoconto contiene informazioni importanti sulla sua acqua potabile. Lo traduca oppure ne parli con qualcuno che lo comprende al numero elencato di seguito.

KOREAN/한국어
이 보고서는 귀하가 마시는 물에 관한 중요한 정보를 담고 있습니다. 아래에 기재된 전화번호로 연락하여 번역을 요청하거나, 내용을 이해하는 사람과 상담하십시오.

POLISH/POLSKI
Niniejszy raport zawiera ważne informacje dotyczące wody pitnej. Proszę go przetłumaczyć lub skontaktować się z osobą, która go rozumie, dzwoniąc pod numer podany poniżej.

PORTUGUESE/PORTUGUÊS
Este relatório contém informações importantes sobre sua água potável. Para obter uma tradução ou conversar com alguém que compreenda o conteúdo, ligue para o número fornecido abaixo.

RUSSIAN/РУССКИЙ ЯЗЫК
Этот отчет содержит важную информацию о Вашей питьевой воде. Переведите его или обратитесь к кому-либо, кто его понимает, позвонив по указанному ниже номеру.

TAGALOG
Ang ulat na ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa iyong inuming tubig. Isalin ito, o makipag-usap sa isang taong nakakaunawa nito sa numerong nakalista sa ibaba.

VIETNAMESE/TIẾNG VIỆT
Bản báo cáo này chứa đựng những thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của quý vị. Vui lòng dịch nội dung này hoặc liên hệ với người hiểu được nội dung này tại số điện thoại được liệt kê bên dưới.

العربية/ARABIC
يحتوي هذا التقرير على معلومات مهمة حول مياه الشرب الخاصة بك. يُرجى ترجمته أو التحدث مع شخص يفهمه من خلال الاتصال على الرقم المذكور أدناه.

فارسی/FARSI
این گزارش حاوی اطلاعات مهمی درباره آب آشامیدنی شما است. آن را ترجمه کنید، یا با شخصی که آن را درک می کند از طریق شماره ذکر شده در زیر تماس بگیرید.

1-866-736-6420

About Your **Drinking Water Supply**

Where Your Water Comes From

The Tennessee American Water Sequatchie Valley draws surface water from the Sequatchie River in Whitwell, TN. Our goal is to protect our water from contamination, and we are working with the state to determine the vulnerability of our water source to potential contamination. Learn more about local waterways at https://mywaterway.epa.gov/ . 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.

Protecting Your Drinking Water Supply

To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible (high), moderately susceptible (moderate) or slightly susceptible (low) based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. Tennessee American Water Sequatchie Valley source is rated as moderately susceptible to potential contamination.

An explanation of Tennessee's SWAP, 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 contact TDEC at 1-888-891-8332 (1-888-891-TDEC) to obtain copies of specific assessments. Tennessee American Water can also be contacted at 1-866-736-6420 to obtain a copy of the source water assessment specifically for our company.

What We're Doing

Our priority is to provide reliable, quality drinking water service for customers. The source of supply is an important part of that mission. We work to understand and reduce potential risks to your drinking water supply. We have evaluated our source waters and have developed Source Water Protection Plans as needed with the support of TDEC. This is a program to identify and address potential threats to drinking water supplies. Stakeholder involvement is an important part of the program. **Here are a few of the efforts underway to protect our shared water resources:**

Community Involvement: We have a proactive public outreach program to help spread the word and get people involved. This includes school education, contests, and other community activities.

Environmental Sponsorships: Each year, we fund projects that improve water resources in our local communities.

Pharmaceutical Collection: We sponsor drop box locations across the Commonwealth for residents to safely dispose of unwanted drugs for free. This helps keep pharmaceutical products from entering water supplies.

Quick Facts About the Chattanooga System

Communities served – Whitwell, Powells Crossroads & portions of Sequatchie County.

Average amount of water supplied to customers on a daily basis: 820,000 gallons per day.

What Can You Do?

Quality drinking water starts upstream. Everyone can help maintain and improve drinking water supplies through the following actions:

- Properly dispose of pharmaceuticals, household chemicals, oils and paints.
- Check for leaks from automobiles and heating fuel tanks. Clean up after your pets and limit the use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Take part in watershed activities.

Report any spills, illegal dumping or suspicious activity to TDEC at 1-888-891-8332 or Ask.TDEC@tn.gov

For More Information

To learn more about your water supply and local activities, visit us online at Tennesseeamwater.com or contact the regional Source Water Protection Lead, Thalika Hollingsworth at Thalika.Saintil@amwater.com

We Keep Life Flowing

What are the **Sources of Contaminants?**

To protect public health, the EPA and the Department prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in tap water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by contacting the Environmental Protection Agency by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or visiting the website https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-watersafewater.

Both tap water and bottled water come from 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. The water can also pick up and transport substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. These substances are also called contaminants.

Contaminants are any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water. 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 occur naturally in the soil or groundwater or may 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 occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Definition of Terms

These are terms that may appear in your report.

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

Contaminant: Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water.

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

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average

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. See also Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL).

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 Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): 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.

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 the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NA: Not applicable

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of the water.

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

pH: A measurement of acidity, 7.0 being neutral.

picocuries per liter (pCi/L): Measurement of the natural rate of disintegration of radioactive contaminants in water (also beta particles).

parts per billion (ppb): One part substance per billion parts water; equal to micrograms per liter (µg/L)

parts per million (ppm): One part substance per million parts water; equal to milligrams per liter (mg/L)

RAA: Running Annual Average

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS): An overall indicator of the amount of minerals in water.

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

%: Percent

MEASUREMENTS

Water Quality **Results**

Our team of experts conducts extensive sampling on the quality of your water. The tables below and on the following pages show the substances that were detected. This includes substances with drinking water limits and some that are not currently regulated. Definitions are also provided on the previous page to help you understand key terms and acronyms.

Most results come from samples collected last year. Some results are from previous years because less sampling is required if levels remain consistently low. For more information about the results included in these tables, including lead tap sampling, please contact Lori Stenzel, Manager, Water Quality & Environmental Compliance at lori.stenzel@amwater.com or 1-866-736-6420.

Special Health Information

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 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 about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or on EPA's website https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES - Collected at the Treatment Plant

Substance (with units)	Year Sampled	Compliance Achieved	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result	Range	Typical Source
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	Yes	10	10	0.90	0.67 - 0.90	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Adjusted gross alpha (pCi/L)	2025	Yes	0	15	0.446	0.446[1]	Erosion of natural deposits.

[1] Only one result for 2025

LEAD AND COPPER MONITORING PROGRAM - At least 20 tap water samples collected at customers' taps every 3 years

Substance (with units)	Year Sampled	Compliance Achieved	MCLG	Action Level	90th Percentile	Range	Number of Homes Sampled	Homes Above Action Level	Typical Source
Lead (ppb)	2024	Yes	0	15	<1	<1 to 1	20	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	2024	Yes	1.3	1.3	<0.025	<0.025 to <0.025*	20	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Lead and Copper: Compliance is achieved when at least 90% of samples collected from water standing in contact with plumbing for at least 6 hours are below the Action Level. Complete lead tap sampling data are available for review by contacting Lori Stenzel, Manager, Water Quality & Environmental Compliance at Lori.Stenzel@amwater.com or 1-866-736-6420.

* All copper results were lower than the laboratory method detection level.

TURBIDITY - Monitored at the Treatment Plant								
Substance (with units)	**Year Sampled**	**Compliance Achieved**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Highest Result**	**Range detected**	**Lowest Monthly % of Samples ≤ 0.15 NTU**	**Typical Source**
Turbidity (NTU)	2025	Yes	NA	TT	0.20	0.02-0.20	99.4%	Soil runoff

Turbidity: Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of water. We monitor it as an indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system. Compliance with the turbidity Treatment Technique (TT) for this plant is achieved when 95% of four-hour filtered water readings are 0.15 NTU or lower and no readings are greater than 1 NTU. We met the treatment technique for turbidity with 99.4% of the monthly samples below the lower turbidity limit.

TREATMENT BYPRODUCTS PRECURSOR REMOVAL - Collected at the Treatment Plant							
Substance (with units)	**Year Sampled**	**Compliance Achieved**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**% Removal Required**	**Range of % Removal Achieved**	**Typical Source**
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	2025	Yes	NA	TT	25%	20.1%* to 39.5%	Naturally present in the environment

Total Organic Carbon: The treatment technique requirement for Total Organic Carbon was met 100% of the time in 2025.
*The alternative compliance value was used in place of calculated value in some quarters since source or treated water TOC was less than 2.0 mg/L.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES - Collected in the Distribution System							
Substance (with units)	**Year Sampled**	**Compliance Achieved**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Highest Running Annual Average**	**Range Detected**	**Typical Source**
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2025	Yes	NA	60	41.2	24.0 to 54.4	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2025	Yes	NA	80	49.5	23.7 to 66.8	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	Yes	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	1.73	1.03 to 2.29	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	Yes	4	4	0.57 Avg result	0.51 to 0.62	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.

Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) and Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs): Compliance based on the highest LRAA (locational running annual average) that is calculated quarterly. The highest quarterly LRAA is provided in the table. The range detected includes all the sample values in 2025. 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 cancer.
Chlorine: Data represents the highest quarterly running annual average of chlorine residuals measured in the distribution system of compliance samples with the range representing the individual sample results.
Fluoride: Data represents the average of quarterly distribution sample results.

ADDITIONAL WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS OF INTEREST - Water Leaving the Treatment Facility					
Substance (with units)	**Year Sampled**	**SMCL[1]**	**Range Detected**	**Sequatchie Valley Treatment Plant Average Level**	**Comments**
Aluminum (ppm)	2025	0.2	0.14 *	0.14	Secondary Standard Limit
Calcium (ppm)	2025	NA	40*	40	Hardness compound
Chloride (ppm)	2025	250	10.8*	10.8	Secondary Standard Limit
Iron (ppm)	2025	0.3	<0.10*	<0.10	Secondary Standard Limit
Magnesium (ppm)	2025	NA	7*	7	Hardness compound
Manganese (ppm)	2025	0.05	<0.01*	<0.01	Secondary Standard Limit
pH	2025	6.5 – 8.5	6.9 - 8.1	7.7	pH is a measure of the acid/base properties of water
Sodium[2] (ppm)	2025	NA	4.1 – 5.4	4.8	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits: Used in water softener regeneration.
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	250	11.5*	11.5	Secondary Standard Limit
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2025	500	138*	138	Secondary Standard Limit
Total Hardness (as CaCO3) (ppm)	2025	NA	40 - 162	109	Soft 0 - 60 mg/L Moderately Hard 61 - 120 Hard 121 - 180 Very Hard greater than 180
Total Hardness (grains per gallon)	2025	NA	2.3 – 9.5	6.4	Naturally occurring.
Zinc (ppm)	2025	5.0	<0.050*	<0.050	Secondary Standard Limit

[1]**SMCLs:** EPA has established secondary maximum contaminant levels (SMCLs) as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color, and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health at the SMCL. For more information on secondary drinking water standards: https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/secondary-drinking-water-standards-guidance-nuisance-chemicals#table-of-secondary

[2] For healthy individuals the sodium intake from water is not important because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the recommended upper limit may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

*one result

Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the Agency should consider regulating those contaminants in the future. Every five years, the EPA issues a new list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored. More information is available at https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule or call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

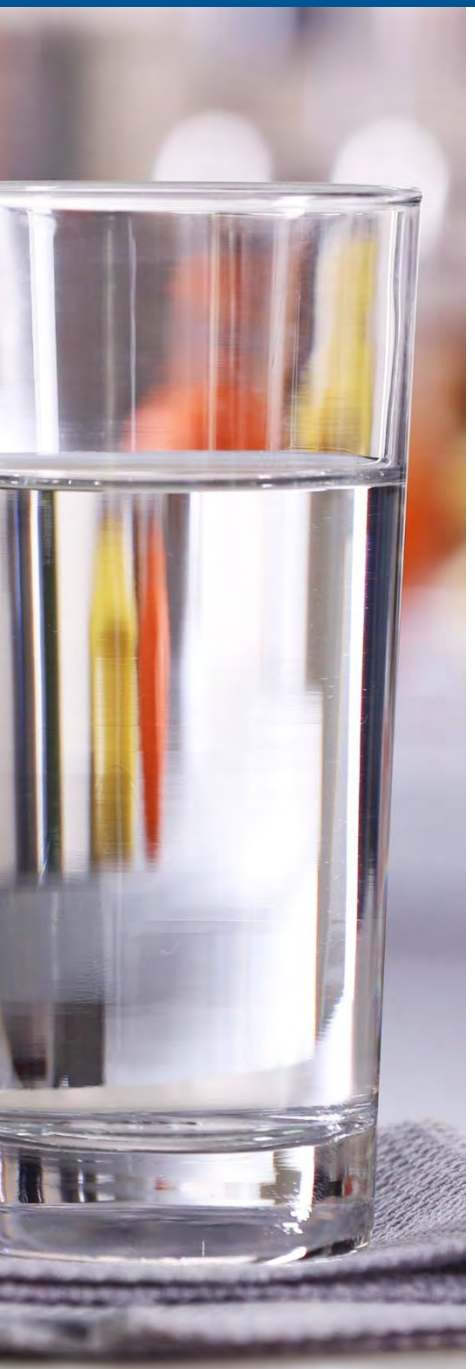
Our system participated the latest round of sampling under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). Sampling took place in 2024 and all the results were less than the laboratory method reporting levels for the UCMR5 unregulated contaminants. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Lori Stenzel, Manager, Water Quality & Environmental Compliance at lori.stenzel@amwater.com or 1-866-736-6420.

Ever Wonder Why or What About Drinking Water?

Below are short YouTube videos about water topics. Click on the links to watch.

Taste and Smell of Water Explained:	https://youtu.be/a4uaaxTOWoE
Sulfur Smell Explained:	https://youtu.be/DX0EYWnB_ek
Chlorine in Drinking Water:	https://youtu.be/QUaldDT7nEg
Cloudy Water Explained:	https://youtu.be/uYkCcW9RE4c
Residue from Water Explained:	https://youtu.be/x7_pwehvgmA
Toilet Leaks:	https://youtu.be/OzIrOftYgzY
Lead in Drinking Water:	https://youtu.be/xNihqfuyhaA
Fluoride in Drinking Water:	https://youtu.be/g-03JCe9AjY
Discolored Water Explained:	https://youtu.be/W21NUWP9oa8
What are PFAS?:	https://youtu.be/vWo0tHOVb_c

Important Information About **Drinking Water**



Chlorine Disinfection

Chlorine is used to destroy disease-causing organisms in water, an essential step in delivering safe drinking water and protecting public health. Chlorination is the most widely used method for disinfecting water supplies in the United States. Chlorine is first applied at the water treatment facility, and a continual residual is maintained as it travels from the source, through the distribution system, and finally to your water tap. Medical centers that perform dialysis are responsible for on-site treatment and removal of chlorine.

Fluoride

Tennessee American Water Sequatchie Valley adds fluoride to the drinking water as required by local law. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends a fluoride concentration in drinking water (also called the Optimal Level) of 0.7 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water. The U.S. EPA limit for fluoride in drinking water is 4.0 mg/L. The U.S. EPA also recommends, as a secondary standard, that drinking water contain no more than 2.0 mg/L of fluoride. This secondary standard is a non-enforceable guideline and is intended to help children avoid dental fluorosis.

Contact Information

This CCR was prepared by our Water Quality Team. If you have questions about this report, want additional information about your drinking water, or want to know how to participate in local activities that may help protect the quality of your drinking water, please contact: Lori Stenzel, Manager, Water Quality & Environmental Compliance, email: lori.stenzel@amwater.com or 1-866-736-6420.

PFAS

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are manufactured chemicals used in many household products including nonstick cookware (e.g., Teflon™), stain repellants (e.g., Scotchgard™), and waterproofing (e.g., GORE-TEX™). They are also used in industrial applications such as in firefighting foams and electronics production. There are thousands of PFAS chemicals, and they persist in the environment. Two well-known PFAS chemicals are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). These were phased out of production in the United States and replaced by hexafluoropropylene oxide-dimer acid (commonly known as GenX), perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) and others.

The science and regulation of PFAS and other contaminants is always evolving, and Tennessee American Water strives to be a leader in research and development. PFAS contamination is one of the most rapidly changing areas in the drinking water field. We have invested in our own independent research, as well as engaging with other experts in the field to understand PFAS occurrence in the environment. We are also actively assessing treatment technologies that can effectively remove PFAS from drinking water, because we believe that investment in research is critically important to addressing this issue.

For more information, contact our Customer Service Organization at 1-866-736-6420, M-F, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

About **Lead**

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. Tennessee American Water 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 tawleadinquiries@amwater.com or Customer Service at 1-866-736-6420. 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.

Check your plumbing and service line.
If you live in an older home, consider having a licensed plumber check your plumbing for lead. If your service line is made of lead, and you're planning to replace it, be sure to contact us at 1-866-736-6420.

The most common source of lead in tap water is from the customer's plumbing and their service line.

The utility-owned water mains are not made of lead; however, the water service line that carries the water from the water main in the street to your home could be. Homeowners' service lines may be made of lead, copper, galvanized steel or plastic. You can assess your service line material where it enters your home, typically in your basement, crawl space or garage, near the inlet valve.

Steps to Reduce Your Potential Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water

Steps we are taking:

Corrosion of pipes, plumbing fittings and fixtures may cause lead and copper to enter drinking water. To assess corrosion of lead and copper, Tennessee American Water Sequatchie Valley conducts tap sampling for lead and copper at selected sites every three years with 2024 being our most recent year of testing.

Steps you can take:

You cannot see, smell or taste lead, and boiling water will not remove lead. Here are steps you can take to reduce your potential exposure if lead exists in your home plumbing.

1. Replace any lead service lines. If you have a lead service line, replace it.
2. Flush your taps. The longer the water lies dormant in your home's plumbing, the more lead it might contain. If the water in your faucet has gone unused for more than 6 hours, flush the tap with cold water for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before drinking or using it to cook. To conserve water, catch the running water and use it to water your plants.
3. Use cold water for drinking and cooking. Hot water has the potential to contain more lead than cold water. If hot water is needed for cooking, heat cold water on the stove or in the microwave.
4. Routinely remove and clean all faucet aerators.
5. Check to see if your interior plumbing or faucets contain lead and replace any that do. Look for the "Lead Free" label when replacing or installing plumbing fixtures.
6. Follow manufacturer's instructions for replacing water filters in household appliances, such as refrigerators and ice makers, as well as home water treatment units and pitchers. Look for NSF 53 certified filters.
7. Flush after plumbing changes. Changes to your service line, meter or interior plumbing may result in sediment, possibly containing lead, in your water supply. Remove the aerator from each faucet and run the water for 3 to 5 minutes.

Note: Homeowners are responsible for their in-home plumbing. Plumbing fixtures like faucets, valves and solder can contain small amounts of lead. If lead exists in your internal plumbing or fixtures, we recommend that you follow the above tips to help reduce your potential exposure to lead. If you have concerns about the plumbing in your home, please contact a licensed plumber.

Determining Your **Service Line Material**

Homeowners' service lines are most commonly made of lead, copper, galvanized steel or plastic. Homes built before 1930 are more likely to have lead plumbing systems.

There are different ways that you can determine if you have a lead service line.

- You can access your service line material where it enters your home, typically in your basement, crawl space or garage, near the inlet valve and identify the pipe material using the chart on the right.
- A licensed and insured plumber can inspect your pipes and plumbing.
- Lead test kits can be purchased at local hardware and home improvement stores. These kits are used to test paint but can also be used to test pipe – not the water inside. Look for an EPA recognized kit. Wash your hands after inspecting plumbing and pipes.

Your Service Line Material

At Tennessee American Water, providing safe, reliable water service is our top priority. The Lead and Copper Rule Revisions finalized in 2021 require that all water providers share with customers the material of the utility-owned and customer-owned service lines that provide water to their property.

To support this initiative, Tennessee American Water created an interactive map to help our customers learn or identify their service line material and the next steps they can take to support this initiative. To access the online inventory map, please visit https://www.tennesseeamwater.com/leadfacts.

Please note: if your service lines contain lead, it does not mean you cannot use water as you normally do. Tennessee American Water tests for lead in drinking water and our water meets state and federal water quality regulations, including those set for lead. For added protection and to comply with the new legislation, we will be removing lead and lead/galvanized piping from service lines over time. For more information on lead in drinking water, please visit https://www.tennesseeamwater.com/leadfacts

If you visit our interactive map and the customer-owned portion of the service line material is listed as unknown, help us identify the material.

Due to age or lack of records, your service line material may be unknown. Help us by identifying and reporting your service line material online:

- **Visit https://www.tennesseeamwater.com/leadfacts** and search for your address.
- **Follow the instructions,** answer a few questions and upload a photo of your service line material.
- **CLICK "SUBMIT!"**

Types of Pipe

- Galvanized: A dull, silver-gray color. Use a magnet—strong magnets will typically cling to galvanized pipes.
- Copper: The color of a copper penny.
- Plastic: Usually white, rigid pipe that is jointed to water supply piping with a clamp. Note: It can be other colors, including blue and black.
- Lead: A dull, silver-gray color that is easily scratched with a coin. Use a magnet—strong magnets will not cling to lead pipes.

Every Drop **Counts**

Six Simple Steps to **Save Water**

Fix any leaking faucets.
One drop every 2 seconds from a leaky faucet wastes 2 gallons of water every day. That's water — and money — down the drain.

Don't let faucets run when brushing, shaving, or washing the dishes. Just turning off the water while you brush can save 200 gallons a month.

Run washing machines and dishwashers only when they are full, or select the properly-sized wash cycle for the current laundry load.

Install water-saving shower heads and faucet aerators in the bathroom and kitchen (available at most home improvement stores and some supermarkets).

Don't wash your car at home. A car wash uses much less water and often recycles it, too.

Turn off automatic lawn and garden sprinklers when it's raining outside and at the end of the growing season.