

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025



Presented By

THE CITY OF
YOUNGSTOWN
OHIO

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

PWS ID#: 5002303

Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Your Water Supply

The MVSD public water system uses surface water drawn from the Meander Creek Reservoir. Youngstown distributes approximately 17.4 million gallons per day through 750 miles of pipelines to residents of Youngstown, Austintown, Boardman, Canfield Township, and Liberty and sells bulk to Mahoning County (Jackson and Milton Townships) and the cities of Girard and Canfield.

How Is Your Drinking Water Treated?

The MVSD treats approximately 27.3 million gallons per day of raw water from Meander Creek Reservoir and pumps it to Youngstown, Niles, and McDonald. These communities distribute the water to residents and surrounding areas. Treatment includes chemical addition for softening, disinfection, fluoridation, taste and odor control, mixing, settling, filtration, and pumping.



Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and



Prevention (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 at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater.

Information on the Internet

- **Link to This Consumer Confidence Report:**
<https://youngstownohio.gov/water#quality>
- **Backflow Prevention:**
<https://youngstownohio.gov/water#backflow>
- **Lead Awareness:**
https://youngstownohio.gov/water_lead

Source Water Assessment

For the purpose of source water assessments in Ohio, all surface waters are susceptible to contamination. By nature, surface waters are accessible and can be contaminated by chemicals and disease-causing organisms that may rapidly arrive at the public drinking water intake with little warning or time to prepare.

The MVSD's drinking water source protection area is susceptible to runoff from row crop agriculture and animal feedlot operations, oil and gas wells, failing home and commercial septic systems, road and rail crossings, and new housing and commercial development that could raise runoff from roads and parking lots.

The MVSD water system treats water to meet drinking water quality standards, but no single treatment technique can address all potential contaminants. The potential for water quality impacts can further be decreased by implementing measures to protect Meander Creek Reservoir and its watershed. More detailed information is provided in the MVSD's Drinking Water Source Protection Plan, which can be obtained by calling Jonathan Jamison at (330) 652-3614 or visiting meanderwater.org and selecting District Info, Water Quality.

Why We Test So Often

Drinking water is one of the most closely monitored resources in the United States. Water systems regularly test for bacteria, disinfectants, metals, organic chemicals, radioactive substances, and many other contaminants. Some tests are performed daily, while others are conducted weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually, depending on regulatory requirements and system size. Microbiological testing for bacteria such as coliforms ensures that disinfection is working properly. Turbidity monitoring confirms effective filtration. Chemical testing verifies that treatment processes remain optimized. All certified laboratories must meet strict quality assurance requirements to ensure accurate results. When results approach regulatory limits, corrective actions are taken immediately.

QUESTIONS?

For technical water quality information, contact the Mahoning Valley Sanitary District (MVSD) at (330) 652-3614. For information regarding water distribution, pressure, discolored water, or lead and copper sampling, contact the Chief Engineer's Office at (330) 743-5338. This information is also available at youngstownohio.gov/water.

Substances That Could Be in Water

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 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.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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 calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visiting epa.gov/safewater.

Tip Top Tap

The most common signs that your faucet or sink is affecting the quality of your drinking water are discolored water, sink or faucet stains, a buildup of particles, unusual odors or tastes, and a reduced flow of water. The solutions to these problems may be in your hands.

Kitchen Sink and Drain

Handwashing, soap scum buildup, and the handling of raw meats and vegetables can contaminate your sink. Clogged drains can lead to unclean sinks and backed-up water in which bacteria (i.e., pink or black slime growth) can grow and contaminate the sink area and faucet, causing a rotten egg odor. Disinfect and clean the sink and drain area regularly and flush with hot water.

Faucets, Screens, and Aerators

Chemicals and bacteria can splash and accumulate on the faucet screen and aerator, which are located on the tip of faucets and can collect particles like sediment and minerals, resulting in a decreased flow from the faucet. Clean and disinfect the aerators or screens on a regular basis.

Check with your plumber if you find particles in the faucet screen, as they could be pieces of plastic from the hot water heater dip tube. Faucet gaskets can break down and cause black, oily slime. If



you find this slime, replace the faucet gasket with a higher-quality product. White scaling or hard deposits on faucets and showerheads may be caused by water with high levels of calcium carbonate. Clean these fixtures with vinegar or use water softening to reduce the calcium carbonate levels for the hot water system.

Water Filtration/Treatment Devices

A smell of rotten eggs can be a sign of bacteria on the filters or in the treatment system. The system can also become clogged over time, so regular filter replacement is important. (Remember to replace your refrigerator filter!)

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in 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 it tested. A list of laboratories certified in the State of Ohio to test for lead may be found at epa.ohio.gov/ddagw or by calling (614) 644-2752. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Per the Lead and Copper Rule, public water systems were required to develop and maintain a service line inventory. A service line is the underground pipe that supplies your home or building with water. The service line inventory, which lists the material type for your location, is available for download here: youngstownohio.gov/sites/default/files/forms/OEPA-SL-Inventory.xlsx. You can learn more about our efforts on lead by visiting youngstownohio.gov/water_lead.

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.

Note that we have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system.

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]	2.25	1.87–3.11	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	4	4	1.00	0.85–1.10	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	29.00	13.60–36.70	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	10	10	0.33	0.10–0.56	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ppm)	2025	TT ¹	NA	1.79	1.40–2.10	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80 ²	NA	72.63	40.30–90.50	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity ³ (NTU)	2025	TT	NA	0.09	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2025	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	0.03	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community⁴

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper [Round 1] (ppm)	2025	1.3	1.3	0.04	ND–0.07	0/101	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper [Round 2] (ppm)	2025	1.3	1.3	0.07	ND–0.14	0/104	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead [Round 1] (ppb)	2025	15	0	ND	ND–27.50	1/101	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead [Round 2] (ppb)	2025	15	0	ND	ND–180.00	1/104	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2025	8.2	5.1–11.5	NA
Chloroform (ppb)	2025	55.4	43.9–85.9	NA

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 which 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.

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.

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).

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

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

BY THE NUMBERS



82

The average number of gallons of water an American uses per day.



27%

The percent of household water use attributable to toilets.



700

The average number of gallons that a household can save each year with water-efficient fixtures.



50-100

The typical design lifespan of underground drinking water pipes, in years.



<1%

The percent of Earth's water that is readily available as fresh drinking water.

¹The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio of percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than 1 indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than 1 indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

²Some 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.

³Turbidity 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. All samples should be <1 NTU, 95% of them <0.3 NTU.

⁴Lead and copper sampling is reported as Round 1: January to June 2025 and Round 2: July to December 2025. Round 1 had 101 individual samples, and Round 2 had 104 individual samples, for a total of 205 for 2025. Of the 205 samples tested for lead, two samples were detected above the lead action level of 15 ppb. One was over the action level in the first half of sampling, and one was over the action level in the second half of sampling. Round 1: January to June 2025, six-month lead and copper sampling Site 31: 27.50 ppb Round 2: July to December 2025, six-month lead and copper sampling Site 90: 180.00 ppb

What's a Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air-conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection.

For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

How Do I Participate in Decisions Concerning My Drinking Water?

Public participation and comments regarding water are encouraged at regular city council meetings, which are scheduled on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. on the sixth floor of Youngstown City Hall, 26 South Phelps Street. To request permission to address city council, please contact City Council Chambers at (330) 742-8708.

Failure to Certify Notification to Persons Served by Known or Potential Service Line Containing Lead

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Reporting Requirement(s) Not Met for Youngstown City PWS

The Youngstown Public Water System was required to report all Galvanized service lines on the customer owned portion, where there is non-lead material on the city owned portion, but where the city cannot prove that the city owned portion was never lead, to the State. Notices should have been mailed to those customers, stating that their service line was classified as “Galvanized Requiring Replacement.” Instead, no notices were sent.

Our system failed to demonstrate to the State that it delivered annual notifications and information to affected consumers with lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or lead status unknown service lines as required by July 1, 2025. Although the failure to comply with the reporting requirement does not create a risk to public health, we are required to inform you of this violation and provide additional information including what we did to correct the situation.

It is important for consumers to know if the water they are receiving has been delivered through a lead, galvanized requiring replacement (GRR), or lead status unknown service line so they can make decisions on whether and what actions to take to reduce their exposure to lead in drinking water.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. Remember, boiling water does not remove lead from water.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit the EPA's websites at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water> and <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

What is being done?

Notices will be mailed to all service line accounts where the material is classified as “Galvanized Requiring Replacement” even if the city owned portion is non-lead. All customers requiring notices will be in November 2025. While we did not certify and notify the State as quickly as we should have, we provided the required notifications to people served, as well as the missing information to the State in November 2025. We are no longer in violation.

For more information, please contact Nicholas D’Alesio at 330-742-8769 or P.O. Box 6219 Youngstown, OH 44501.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Youngstown City PWS. Public Water System ID#

OH5002303.

Date distributed: 3/31/2026