

# City of Savannah Utility Department Water Quality Report for 2025

## Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. As you'll see in the chart on the back, we only detected 9 of these contaminants. We found all of these contaminants at safe levels.

## What is the source of my water?

Your water, which is ground water, comes from a well field located within the lower Tennessee--Beech Watershed. 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 water to 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 City of Savannah Utility Department 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.

A wellhead protection plan is available for your review by contacting James Matthews at the City of Savannah Utility Department between 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. weekdays.

## 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 James Matthews at 1-731-925-4930.**

## How can I get involved?

Our utility Board meets on the third Monday at 5:30 p.m. at the Savannah City Hall. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

## 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 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:

- 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. 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).

### **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, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to **1-731-925-4930**.

### **Think before you flush!**

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of Tennessee's waterways by disposing in one of our permanent pharmaceutical take back bins. There are nearly 100 take back bins located across the state, to find a convenient location please visit: <https://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/>

### **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. **City of Savannah Utility Department** 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 **City of Savannah Utility Department at 1-731-925-4930**. 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. **Contact **City of Savannah Utility Department at 1-731-925-4930****

# 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. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.
- **MRDL**: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG**: Maximum residual disinfectant level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **AL** - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Below Detection Level (BDL)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a level that can be detected.
- **Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L)** – explained as a relation to time and money as one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter** - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Millirems per year (mrem/yr)** - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
- **Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)** - million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.
- **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.
- **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.
- **TT** - Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Found	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	NO	0.0007	0.0007	2020	ppb	N/A	10 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits, and runoff
Copper	NO	90 <sup>th</sup> % = 0.335	0.0092 to 0.616	2023	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	NO	0.77 Quarterly compliance sample average	0.72 TO 0.87	2025	ppm	N/A	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead <sup>4</sup>	NO	90 <sup>th</sup> % 0.0010 1.0 PPB	1.0 TO 1.7 PPB	2023	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	NO	7.00	7.00	2023	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
TTHM <sup>6</sup> [Total trihalomethanes]	NO	28.9	0.6 TO 28.9	2025	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water with chlorination
Chlorine	NO	1.95	0.82 TO 1.95	2025	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDGL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Coliform Bacteria	NO	0	N/A	2025	% POSTIVE SAMPLE	0	0 POSITIVE SAMPLE	Naturally present in the environment
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	NO	15	<1.0 TO 15	2025	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
(PFOA)	NO	0.0032	0.0019 TO 0.0032	2023	UG/L	N/A	0.0040	SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS AND FIRE FIGHTING FOAM
(PFOS)	NO	0.0174	0.0067 TO 0.0174	2023	UG/L	N/A	0.0040	SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS AND FIRE FIGHTING FOAM

**Iron:** *Iron occurs naturally in our raw water and occasionally accumulates in the distribution system. Iron shows up as “red” or “rusty” water at your tap. Although you do not want to drink water that is not clear, iron is not considered to be a hazard to your health. We test for iron daily and it is usually around 0.06 ppm that’s in the distribution system. The aesthetic limit for iron is 0.3 ppm.*

<sup>4</sup> During the most recent round of **Lead and Copper testing**, 0 out of 30 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level. PPB: parts per billion or micrograms per liter, PPM: parts per million or milligrams per liter, N/A: not applicable, AL: action level or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. About the date: **Most of the data presented in this table is from testing done between January 1 and December 31, 2023 and 2024.** We monitor for some contaminants less than once per year, and for those contaminants, the date of the last sample is shown in the table. **ARSENIC AND SODIUM** we only required to collect one sample

<sup>2</sup>While your drinking water meets EPA’s standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA’s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

<sup>3</sup>The laboratory did not meet the required detection limit therefore the data does not necessarily reflect that the water is contaminated to a level approaching the MCL.

<sup>4</sup>Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home’s plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home’s water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

<sup>5</sup>Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

<sup>6</sup> While your drinking water meets EPA’s standard for trihalomethanes, it does contain low levels. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Copper.** Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson’s Disease should consult their personal doctor.

**Fluoride.** Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.

**TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes].** 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.

**HAA [Haloacetic Acids].** Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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