South Pittsburg Board of Water Works Water Quality Report 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 will see in the chart on the back, we only detected 9 of these contaminants. We found these contaminants at safe levels.

What is the source of my water?

Your water comes from the Tennessee River. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants, and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water supply to contamination. The Tennessee Dept. of Environment has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program Report for the untreated water sources. The 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 geological factors and human activities near the water source. Our rating is susceptible. An explanation of the Tennessee Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed at Source Water Assessment (tn.gov) 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 be expected to contain at least lesser amounts of some contaminants. Community water systems are required to disclose the detection of contaminants; however, bottled water companies are not required to comply with this regulation. Contaminants do 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).

For more information about your drinking water, please call Rob Vinson at 423-837-6841.

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

How can I get involved?

Our Water Board meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 5:00 p.m. CST at 138 S. Cedar Avenue. 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 regularly to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

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).

Other Information

Due to all water containing dissolved contaminants, occasionally your water may exhibit slight discoloration. We strive to maintain the standards to prevent this. We at South Pittsburg Water Works work around the clock to provide top

quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

The sources of drinking 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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.

Information on 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. **South Pittsburg Water Works** 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 **South Pittsburg Water Works (423) 837 6841**. 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.

Additional Lead Health Effects

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

Lead Service Line Inventory

Tennessee water systems must submit a comprehensive Lead Service Line Inventory (LSI) to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), as required by the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR). This mandatory inventory must identify the material of both public and private service lines, classifying them as lead, non-lead, galvanized, or unknown. For information on the (LSI), please contact **Marion Natural Gas & South Pittsburg Board of Water Works & Sewer** at **(423) 837-7164**

Radon

If a public water system finds radon in its finished water, the report must include the monitoring results and an explanation of the significance of these results. A possible explanation is provided below:

Radon is a naturally occurring gas present in some groundwater. Inhaling radon has been linked to lung cancer and may pose a health risk when inhaled after the release from water into the air

This inhalation could occur during showering, bathing, washing dishes, or washing clothes. The Radon gas release from drinking water is a relatively small part of the total Radon found in air. One major source of Radon gas is from the soil, where the gas can seep through the foundations of homes. It is not clear whether ingested (i.e. taken through the mouth) Radon contributes to cancer or other adverse health conditions. If you are concerned about Radon in your home, tests are available to determine the total exposure level. For additional information on home testing and the Tennessee Radon Program, please visit: https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/sustainability/programs/radon.html

W a t e r Q u a l i t y D a t a

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 Levels are set at very stringent levels. 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 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.
- LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average. Calculated by averaging four consecutive quarterly samples at a specific location.

Discretionary language regarding the use of averages to report levels of some contaminants.

- AL - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- 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.
- 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.

- Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per Liter. Example would be 1 drop in 20 Olympic sized pools or 1 second in 31,700 years.
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Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	(ND)		2025		0	TT	Naturally present in the environment
[1]Turbidity	N	0.29 Highest	0.06 To 0.29	2025	NTU	N/A	TT (95% < or =0.3 NTU	Soil runoff
[2]Copper	N	90th % 0.114	0.002 to 0.151	2023	ppm	1.3	AL 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	N	0.71 Average	0.62 to 0.76	2025	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
[2]Lead	N	90th % <=0.5 ND	<0.2 to 5.3	2023	ppb	NA	AL 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	N	4.39	1 sample per year	2025	ppm	n/a	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
[3]TTHMs Total Trihalomethanes	N	43.5 LRAA	22.1 to 65.0	2025	Ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)	N	31.38 LRAA	18.0 to 40.0	2025	Ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine Entry Point	N	1.29 Average	0.40 to 2.5	2025	ppm	MRDLG 4	MCL 4	Drinking water disinfectant
Chlorine Distribution	N	1.43 Average	0.30 to 2.2	2025	ppm	MRDLG 4	MCL 4	Drinking water disinfectant
Nitrate	N	0.179	1 sample per year	2025	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use. Erosion deposits.
	Compliance Achieved	Range of removal required	Range of removal achieved	Year		MCLG	MCL	Source
[4]Total Organic Carbons	Y	25% to 35%	20% to 44%	2025		N/A	TT	Naturally present in the Environment

Other Information

[1]One hundred percent (100%) of our samples were below the turbidity limit.

[2]During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, 0 out of 20 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level.

[3] 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 system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

[4]The Treatment Technique for Total Organic Carbon was met in 2025.

Unregulated Contaminant Rule

Discharge from manufacturing and industrial chemical facilities, use of certain consumer products, occupational exposures, and certain firefighting activities.

Results for South Pittsburg Water System Source 1*

Compound	Sample result of Source Water	Proposed MCL for Finished Drinking Water
PFOA Perfluorooctanoic acid	1.1 ng/L	4.0 ppt
PFOS Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	2.1 ng/L	4.0 ppt
PFNA Perfluorononanoic acid	<0.2 ng/L	10 ppt
PFHxS Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	0.5 ng/L	10 ppt
PFBS Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	1.9 ng/L	N/A
HFPO-DA (GenX)	<0.4 ng/L	10 ppt

1.0 (Unitless) Hazard Index**

Hazard Index or HI. The Hazard Index is an approach that determines the health concerns associated with mixtures of certain PFAS in finished drinking water. Low levels of multiple PFAS that individually would not likely result in adverse health effects may pose health concerns when combined in a mixture. The Hazard Index MCL represents the maximum level for mixtures of two or more of the following: PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO–DA, and/or PFBS allowed in water delivered by a public water system. A Hazard Index greater than 1 requires a system to take action.

* Please note that the test results shown are for source (raw) water. While the EPA has proposed finished drinking water MCLs for six PFAS, there are no regulatory levels for source (raw) water.

The results of this study may be used to identify watersheds or aquifers that have sources of PFAS contamination. If the system results are above the proposed MCL for any of the sampled PFAS and the system is not participating in the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR5), TDEC suggests testing finished water. If the system is participating in UCMR5, TDEC is using the same 29 PFAS analytes as the UCMR5, so there is no need to resample the finished water in addition to the UCMR5 sampling at this time. If detections are found in finished drinking water, TDEC suggests consideration of potential treatments and funding sources to alleviate the PFAS components. You are welcome to contact TDEC for additional information regarding treatment and funding. Please remember that all results from UCMR5 sampling need to be published in the Consumer Confidence Report.

To learn more about PFAS, visit these websites:

- TDEC's PFAS webpage website serving as the main resource for public information on PFAS in Tennessee: https://www.tn.gov/environment/policy/pfas.html

- Tennessee Department of Health's website includes an overview of PFAS, information on exposure and health effects, and links to additional resources: https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/environmental/environmental-health-topics/eht/pfas.html

- ASTDR's website includes health information, exposure, and links to additional resources: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas

- EPA's website includes basic information, EPA actions, and links to informational resources: https://www.epa.gov/pfas