ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025



Presented By

EST 1808
CITY OF
DELAWARE
OHIO

PWS ID#: OH2100311



Our Mission Continues

Once again, the City of Delaware Water Treatment Plant is proud to present our annual water quality report. This report, mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and funded by the city, covers the results of all required testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Our exceptional staff continue to work hard every day to deliver the highest-quality drinking water without interruption. Because of the many system improvements and the type of treatment technologies the city has invested in, we are proud to deliver safe, high-quality tap water to our valuable customers and their families.

Sincerely,

Emily Meek
Director of Public Utilities

Tom Hinson
Class IV Operator of Record and Plant Manager

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Delaware's primary source of water is the Olentangy River. The city has the capability to blend this river water with groundwater from wells drilled to more than 200 feet deep, located on the plant premises, and a wellfield located on Penry Road, about two miles north of the water plant. The water treatment facility provided more than 1.2 billion gallons of potable water to the City of Delaware during 2025 at an average of 3.45 million gallons per day.

Source Water Assessment

Surface waters are, by their nature, susceptible to contamination, and numerous potential contaminant sources along their banks make them more so. The protection areas around the Olentangy River and the wellfields include a moderate number of potential contamination sources, including agricultural runoff, inadequate septic systems, leaking underground storage tanks, and road and rail bridge crossings.

As a result, the drinking water supplied to the City of Delaware's public water system is considered to have a high susceptibility to contamination. Historically, the City of Delaware's public water system has effectively treated this source water to meet drinking water quality standards. The potential for negative impacts on the water quality can be further decreased by implementing measures to protect the Olentangy River and the local aquifer. More detailed information is provided in the City of Delaware's Drinking Water Assessment report, which can be obtained by calling the Public Utilities Department at (740) 203-1900.

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

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. Delaware City Council meets twice a month, and the city's Public Works/Public Utilities Committee meets quarterly. Feel free to call (740) 203-1010 for a schedule of meeting times or visit delawareohio.net.

Water Treatment Process



The treatment process consists of a series of steps. Since the city uses groundwater and surface water, these two raw sources of water are treated separately. The raw surface water is drawn from Olentangy River and sent to a mixing tank, where aluminum chlorohydrate is added, which causes small particles (called floc) to adhere to one another, making them heavy enough to settle into a basin from which the sediment is removed. The surface water then travels through ultrafiltration membranes, followed by nanofiltration membranes, to remove smaller suspended particles. Very pristine water emerges after these treatment processes.

The raw groundwater is drawn from the city's 200-foot-deep groundwater wells and sent through pressure filters, where iron and manganese are removed. The groundwater then travels through separate nanofiltration membranes, from which comparable pristine water emerges.

These two separate treatment processes combine before going into the finished water clearwell, where chlorine is added as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising the taste). Finally, fluoride (to prevent tooth decay) and a corrosion inhibitor (to protect distribution system pipes) are added before the water is pumped into the water distribution system, elevated water towers, and your home or business.

QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact Emily Meek, utility director, at emeek@cityofdelawareoh.gov or (740) 203-1900.

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, you may wish to have your water 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 epa.gov/safewater/lead.

> **"Water is the driving force of all nature."**
>
> *–Leonardo da Vinci*

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.

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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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 calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or visiting epa.gov/safewater.

Customer Service Line Inventory



Per the Lead and Copper Rule, public water systems are required to develop and maintain a service line inventory. A service line is the underground pipe that supplies your home or building with water. To view the City of Delaware's service line inventory, which lists the material types for your location, please visit https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/a79b9c72ef2c43dbbbcd820f8188f2eb

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
Atrazine (ppb)	2025	3	3	0.2	ND–0.7	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	1.8	1.6–1.9	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	9.33	ND–12.1	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	10	10	0.41	ND–1.26	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (removal ratio)	2025	TT[1]	NA	97.90	74.9–100	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ppm)	2025	TT	NA	0.1	ND–1.0	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	19.4	7–30.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity[2] (NTU)	2025	TT	NA	0.026	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	0.099	0.011–0.110	0/32	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2024	15	0	ND	ND–3.1	0/32	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
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	2.0	NA	0.98	0.84–1.21	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
pH (units)	2025	6.5–8.5	NA	8	7.7–8.3	No	Naturally occurring

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.

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.

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.

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alkalinity (ppm)	2025	76	66–84	NA
Hardness, Total [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2025	121	103–142	NA

[1] The 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.

[2] Turbidity 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.

THIS TIER 3 NOTICE WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE UTILITY OFFICE WINDOW AT CITY HALL

Lead Service Line Notification Violation (Tier 3)

Violation Type: Monitoring and Reporting
Violation Period: [January 2025]
Resolved: [January 2026]

In November of 2024, City of Delaware PWS ID OH2100311 failed to mail required notifications by the regulatory deadline of November 14, 2024, to notify customers served by lead or galvanized requiring replacement service lines and failed to notify Ohio EPA by the January 31, 2025 deadline of the mailings that were mailed November 18, 2024. Additionally, the notification that was distributed did not include required information regarding available service line replacement options.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) cited this as a Tier 3 violation of the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), which require community water systems to notify affected customers about the presence of lead or galvanized requiring replacement service lines and provide information about replacement opportunities and steps customers can take to reduce potential exposure to lead.

What does this mean?

This violation was not related to elevated lead levels in drinking water and did not pose an immediate threat to public health. However, it does mean that we did not meet a federal public notification requirement intended to ensure customers receive complete and timely information regarding potential sources of lead and available replacement options.

What is being done?

We have reviewed our notification procedures and implemented additional compliance tracking measures to ensure all future regulatory deadlines and content requirements are met.

What Should I Do?

No action is required currently. This notice is provided to keep you informed and to meet public notification requirements.

For more information, please contact:

Emily Meek
Public Utilities Director
City of Delaware PWS ID: OH2100311
740-203-1901
emeek@cityofdelawareoh.gov

Additional information about lead in drinking water is available from the U.S. EPA at www.epa.gov/lead.

