Plateau Utility District 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'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 surface water, comes from the Crooked Fork Creek. The District, in an effort to protect this source, has cooperated 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 source serving this water system which assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to ***potential*** contamination. Water sources throughout Tennessee have been rated as low susceptibility, moderate susceptibility, or high susceptibility to potential contamination based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The District's intake located on Crooked Fork Creek has been rated as highly 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.

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 Mike Monroe 423-346-3101.

How can I get involved?
Our Water Board meets on the fourth Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at 407 Eliza Street, Wartburg, Tennessee; please feel free to participate in these meetings. The Commissioners of Plateau Utility District serve four-year terms. Vacancies on the Board of Commissioners are filled by nomination of the remaining Commissioners in office followed by appointment by the Morgan County Executive. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners regarding customer complaints brought before the Board of Commissioners under the District's customer complaint policy may be reviewed by the Tennessee Board of Utility Regulation (TBOUR). The TBOUR is created in and falls within the purview of the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury as defined within Tennessee Code Annotated § 7-82-701.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?

The State and EPA require us to test and report on our water quality on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements. In addition to monitoring for the presence of regulated contaminants, the District also monitors for the presence of unregulated contaminants. Monitoring results for unregulated contaminants 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. Plateau Utility District's water treatment processes are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern. 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 from their health care providers about not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets. 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, pumping stations, tanks, fire

hydrants, etc. to 423-346-3101.

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 a permanent pharmaceutical take back bin. 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 the corrosion of home plumbing materials that contain lead (e.g., lead service lines, brass or chrome-plated brass faucets, and plumbing with lead solder). While lead-free plumbing rules were enacted under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Lead Ban of 1986 and later strengthened under the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act (RLDWA) enacted by Congress in 2011, the possibility exists that some homes constructed prior to those dates contain plumbing fixtures and solder that contain lead. Plateau Utility District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and ensuring that our distribution system does not contain lead pipes. However, Plateau Utility District cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Further, lead levels may vary over time, and lead exposure is possible even when water quality sampling results at your tap indicate that there is no lead in your drinking water. Water quality sampling for lead represents a snapshot in time and a multitude of factors can impact that sampling results; for example, the duration of time since the sampling location/faucet in your home has been used. As such, customers should take every reasonable precaution to ensure they and their families are protected from lead exposure. 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. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, on their website, has listed important steps you can take to reduce lead in drinking water. Among those steps are the following:

- Proper use of a water filter that is certified for lead removal. Using a proper filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, make sure you use a filter that is certified for lead removal. Read the directions to learn how to properly install and use your filter and when to replace it.
- Routinely cleaning faucet aerators (also known as screens). Sediment, debris and lead particles can collect in your aerator and get into your water.
- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Remember, boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- Flushing your home's water pipes by allowing the water to run for a period before drinking, cooking, or making baby formula. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more lead it may contain.

If you have a lead or galvanized service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period before consuming the water. Additionally, it is strongly recommended that you replace lead or galvanized service lines and other plumbing fixtures within your home that were installed prior to the adoption of the SDWA Lead Ban of 1986 and/or the RLDWA; as described herein. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Plateau Utility District at 423-346-3101. For additional information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure, visit https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Lead Service Line Inventory
A Lead Service Line Inventory has been completed for our system. Plateau Utility District does not own or operate any lead water mains or service lines and owns and operates a minimal amount of galvanized lines; which are currently being replaced. For additional information regarding our water distribution system and the construction material contained therein, please contact our office during regular business hours.

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.
- 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.
- 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.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (RTCR)	No	0	N/A	2025		0	TT Trigger	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity[1]	No	0.16	Range of Results 0.03 to 0.16	2025	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Copper[2]	No	90th Percentile = 0.1460	Range of Results 0.00219 to 0.512	2023	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	No	0.76 Avg.	Range of Results 0.71 to 0.88	2025	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead[3]	Yes	16.3	90th Percentile = "not detected"	2023	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	No	6.68	N/A	4/9/2025	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
TTHM[4] [Total trihalomethanes]	No	60.63	22.70 to 76.10	2025	ppb	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	44.65	17.80 to 59.80	2025	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Organic Carbon[5]	No	< 2.0	Range of Results 1.30 to 1.79	2025	ppm	TT	TT	Naturally present in the environment.

Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	No	0.239	N/A	2025	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Contaminant	**Violation (yes/no)**	**Level Detected**	**Range of Detections**	**Date of Sample**	**Unit Measurement**	**MRDLG**	**MRDL**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Chlorine	No	1.58 Avg.	0.32 to 2.57	2025	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

[1] 100% of our samples were below the turbidity limit. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

[2] During the most recent round of lead and copper, NONE (zero out of thirty) of the households sampled exceeded the action level for copper.

[3] In accordance with Tennessee Rule 0400-45-01-.35 (3) (d) (4) (iv) (I), Plateau Utility District hereby reports that during the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, conducted July 2023, one out of thirty households sampled contained lead concentrations exceeding the lead action level of 15 parts per billion. Lead **WAS NOT** detected in any of the other twenty-nine households wherein sampling was conducted. Changes were made to the customer owned plumbing wherein the lead action level exceedance was detected, and another sample was collected. The second sample representing the water quality after changes were made to the customer owned plumbing indicated that **NO LEAD WAS PRESENT**.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA or EPA) states "a lead action level exceedance (ALE) occurs when the 90th percentile concentration of lead is greater than 15 parts per billion (ppb) or 0.015 mg/l". Whereas the 90th percentile concentration of the most recent lead sampling conducted by Plateau Utility District is "non-detected", Plateau Utility District does not herein intend to report a lead action level exceedance according to the USEPA definition, but rather inform our customers that one household contained lead concentrations greater than the established action level prior to changes to the customer owned plumbing; at which time resampling indicated **NO LEAD PRESENT**.

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. **In consideration of the serious health effects that lead exposure can have on humans, our customers should be vigilant to ensure they do not have lead pipes, lead solder, or plumbing fixtures containing lead within their home plumbing systems.**

[4] 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.

[5] In accordance with Chapter 0400-45-01-.36 (9) (a) 2. (i) and Chapter 0400-45-01-.36 (9) (a) 2. (ii) of the Rules of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Water Resources asserts and claims that we have met the alternative compliance criteria for disinfection byproduct precursors as both our source water and treated water contain less than 2.0 mg/l (ppm) of Total Organic Carbon calculated as a running annual average. We have met all treatment technique requirements for Total Organic Carbon removal.