Russellville-Whitesburg Utility District
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 13 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 Morristown Utilities Systems. 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 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 Russellville-Whitesburg Utility District 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.

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 Taylor Howington at 423.586.2232.

How can I get involved?
Our Water Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 12:00 pm, at 5935 E Andrew Johnson Hwy. Please feel free to participate in these meetings. The Commissioners of Russellville-Whitesburg Utility District serve four year terms. Vacancies on the Board of Commissioners are filled by appointment by the County Mayor(s) from a list of three nominees certified by the Board of Commissioners to the County Mayor(s) to fill a vacancy. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners on customer complaints brought before the Board of Commissioners under the District's customer complaint policy may be reviewed by the Utility Management Review Board of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation pursuant to Section 7-82-702(7) of Tennessee Code Annotated.

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. Morristown Utilities 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 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).

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. Russellville-Whitesburg Utility District 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 Russellville-Whitesburg Utility District at 423-586-2232. 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 7:00AM - 4:30PM.

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 423-586-2232.

Pharmaceuticals In Drinking Water
Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Learn more about disposing of unused medicines at https://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/

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.
- 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.
- 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

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	1		2025		0	TT Trigger	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity[1]	No	0.17	0.02-0.17	2025	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Copper**	No	90th%= 0.355	0.0207-0.6200	2023	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	No	0.67 Avg.	0.467-0.821	quarterly 2025	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead**	No	90th%= < 2.0	< 2.0 – < 2.0	2023	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	No	0.786	0.786*	2025	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	No	8.87	8.87*	2025	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	No	27.93 Avg.	18.00-37.70	2025	ppb	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	9.05 Avg.	5.84-13.30	2025	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Organic Carbon[2]	No			2025	ppm	TT	TT	Naturally present in the environment.
Asbestos	No	0.18	0.18	2019	MFL	7.0	7.0	Decay of asbestos cement water mains: Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MRDL	MRDLG	Likely Source of Contamination

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Chlorine	No	1.60 Avg.	1.10 – 2.30	2025	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.

**During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, 0 out of 30 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level. 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.

[1]100% of our samples were below the turbidity limit. Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of water.
[2]We have met all treatment technique requirements for Total Organic Carbon removal.
*We are only required to collect one sample from a single location.

CROSS-CONNECTION EDUCATION

Over the next few months, the warm weather will bring people outdoors to work in their yards and gardens and begin getting swimming pools ready. The ***Russellville Whitesburg Utility District.*** would like to ensure that our customers are aware of the dangers associated with these activities. An ordinary **garden hose** is a common way to contaminate a water supply when the hose is submersed in any liquid or attached to certain devices used to spray pesticides or herbicides. This forms a ***cross connection***. A cross connection is a situation where a possible source of contamination is directly linked to our public water system. If the end of your hose is connected to a chemical container, swimming pool or other contaminant during a water main break or fire, the substance can be siphoned back into the water system. This condition, known as ***back siphonage***, could cause a public health hazard. Devices are available to prevent this problem; however the best solution is to always be careful how you use your water hose.

Please help us provide a safe supply of water to all of our customers. Remember; never place your water hose in anything you would not want to drink. For more information on cross connections and how to protect against them, call our office at 423-586-2232.

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