

# City Of Cowan Water Quality Report

## 2024

### Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 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 12 of these contaminants. We found all of these contaminants at safe levels.

### What is the source of my water?

Your water comes from an underground spring. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants and we are working with the State of Tennessee to determine our water supply's vulnerability to contamination. A well head protection plan is available for your review by contacting Nic Willis at the Cowan Water Department between 7:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. weekdays.

The Tennessee Department of Environment has prepared A Source Water Assessment Program Report for 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 in the vicinity of the water source. Our rating is reasonably 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 <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?

- A. 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).
- B. 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 are:

- 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.

**For more information about your drinking water, please call Nic Willis at (931) 967-1922 or (931) 967-7623.**

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

## How can I get involved?

Our City Council meets at 7:00 P.M. on the second Tuesday of each month at Cowan City Hall. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

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

The State of Tennessee and the EPA requires us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

## 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 Cowan Water System 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.

### **WE HAVE A CROSS CONNECTION AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION INSPECTION PROGRAM ONGOING EACH YEAR!**

Never submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, or sinks. Always keep the end of the hose clear of possible contaminants. If you use spray attachments for poison or cleaning, buy and install inexpensive backflow prevention devices for threaded faucets around your house or business. When a water line breaks or the main is drained for repairs, back siphoning and backflow can occur when the pressure drops, causing bacteria or poisons to enter the water lines.

## 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 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 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).

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. The Cowan Board of Public Utilities is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **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/>

# 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 Y/N	Level <i>Detected</i>	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
*Total Coliform Bacteria	N	0		2024		0	>1 positive sample	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity	N	0.06	0.02-0.09	2024	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Asbestos	N	ND	0.00-0.17	2024	MFL	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	N	90 <sup>th</sup> %=0.44	0.08-0.79	2024	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	N	0.27	0.15-0.38	2024	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
*Lead	N	90 <sup>th</sup> %=001.0	<001.0	2024	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	2.13	2.13	2024	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	N	5.13	5.13	2024	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment

THMs Total Trihalomethanes	N	31	14-48	2024	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Halocetic Acids (HAA5)	N	17	4-30	2024	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
* Total Organic Carbon (T.O.C.)	N	0.99	0.99	2024	ppm	TT	TT	Naturally present in the environment
Chlorine	N	1.7	1.3-2.0	2024	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	Drinking water disinfectant

\* Zero (0) out of ten (10) sites sampled had a level exceeding the lead or copper action level.

\* We met the Treatment Technique requirement for Total Organic Carbon in 2024.