

City of Ashland 2025 Water Quality Report

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Past Water Quality reports can be found online at City of Ashland website www.ashland-ohio.com/departments/city-utlities-water/water-treatment-facility. Last year's report can be directly accessed at https://www.ashland-ohio.com/upload/water/2024_ccr.pdf

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 about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The City of Ashland receives its drinking water from 13 wells located in the Jerome Fork Basin. These wells range in depth from 70 to 300 feet. The type of water is Ground Water.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Ohio EPA has completed a study of the City of Ashland's drinking water, to identify potential contaminant sources and provide guidance on protecting the drinking water source. According to this study, the aquifer (water-rich zone) that supplies water to the City of Ashland has a high susceptibility to contamination. This determination is based on the following:

1. The thin discontinuous clay layer does not provide much protection to the aquifer.
2. Shallow depth to water.
3. Presence of significant potential contaminant sources in the protection area.

This susceptibility means that under currently existing conditions, the likelihood of the aquifer becoming contaminated is relatively high. This likelihood can be minimized by implementing appropriate protective measures. The City of Ashland has developed an Ohio EPA approved protection plan. This plan will help protect the health of the community residents, protect the community's water supply investment, and preserve the ground water resource for the future. For info on the Source water plan, please contact the Water Treatment plant at 419-281-7041.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking 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: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; (B) 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; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) 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; (E) 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, USEPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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 indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)

How can I get involved?

Public participation and comments are encouraged at regular meetings of the Ashland City Council. Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month, except during August. They are held at the Municipal Building 206 Claremont Avenue, at 7:00 pm. For more information on your drinking water, or to receive printed copies of this report, call the Water Treatment Plant at 419-281-7041.

Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated in a "treatment train" (a series of processes applied in a sequence) that includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Coagulation removes dirt and other particles suspended in the source water by adding chemicals (coagulants) to form tiny sticky particles called "floc," which attract the dirt particles. Flocculation (the formation of larger flocs from smaller flocs) is achieved using gentle, constant mixing. The heavy particles settle naturally out of the water in a sedimentation basin. The clear water then moves to the filtration process where the water passes through sand, gravel, charcoal or other filters that remove even smaller particles. A small amount of chlorine or other disinfection method is used to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water before water is stored and distributed to homes and businesses in the community.

License to Operate (LTO) Status Information:

The City of Ashland has a current, unconditioned license to operate the water system.

Revised Total Coliform Rule Information:

All Water systems are required to comply with the Revised Total Coliform Rule. This rule protects public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for presence of total coliform bacteria, which includes E. coli bacteria. The US EPA anticipates greater public health protection under this rule, as it requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. As a result, under this rule there is no longer a maximum contaminant level violation for multiple total coliform detections. Instead, this rule requires water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences to conduct an assessment to determine if any significant deficiencies exist.

Additional Information for Lead

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 City of Ashland 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, 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>.

Lead Educational Information

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. Ashland Water Treatment 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 at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Per the Lead and Copper Rules, Public Water Systems were 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 Service Line Inventory, which lists the material type(s) for your location, you can download the service line inventory at the following link: <https://5il.co/2yyuu>

Backflow and Cross Connection

When drinking water piping connects to various plumbing fixtures or water utilizing equipment a cross-connection is created. If improperly protected, contamination can result when a backflow event occurs; allowing contaminants to reverse flow from the fixture/equipment back into the drinking water piping. Please review the Ohio EPA flier on Backflow and Cross Connection Control online at web link: <https://epa.ohio.gov/static/Portals/28/documents/pws/PWS-02-003%20brochure.pdf>

If you suspect a backflow or cross connection exist please contact the water treatment plant at 419-281-7041.

In 2020 and 2023, our PWS was sampled as part of the State of Ohio's Drinking Water Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Sampling Initiative. Six PFAS compounds were sampled, and were below detection limits in our finished drinking water. For more information about PFAS, please visit pfas.ohio.gov or call the water plant at 419-281-7041.

Water Quality Data Table

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The City of Ashland conducted sampling for bacteria, disinfection byproducts, nitrates, and lead and copper during this year. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of

contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	1.29	.82	1.37	2025	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	15.7	9.27	15.7	2025	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination 2024 results 7.11 – 22 ppb.
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	55.6	13.3	69.3	2025	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.07	.44	1.17	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	.53	.53	.534	2025	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	0	0	NA		2025	No	Naturally present in the environment
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
Inorganic Contaminants								
Chromium	100 ppb		1.06 ppm	2023	0	No	Found in rocks, soil, and volcanic dust.	
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.009 ppm	2025	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits Revision 2024 results 90% value was .00577	
Lead UG/L	15	15	ND	2025	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits. Revision 2024 results 90% value 0 of 30 samples were above the action level	

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Selenium sampled	50 ppb		1.33 ppb	2023	0	No	Found in rocks, soil and water.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UMCR)

The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UMCR) requires water providers nationwide to sample for unregulated contaminants once every five years. The EPA uses these sampling efforts to collect information about contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water but which are currently not regulated by health based limits under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The UCMR5 – fifth round of UMCR, will provide new data that is critically needed to improve EPA’s understanding of the frequency that 29 PFAS (and lithium) are found in the nation’s drinking water systems and at what levels. This data will ensure science-based decision-making and help prioritize protection of disadvantaged communities. More information about the UMCR is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

TABLE OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS - UCMR5

Contaminants (Units)	Sample Year	Average Level Found	MRL (ug/l)
Lithium ug/l	2023	12.2	9

For information on any of the above contaminants please call the water plant 419-281-7041

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	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.
MCL	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level
MRL	MRL: Minimum Reporting Level (MRL)
HRL	HRL: Health reference level (HRL)

Failure to Certify Notification to Persons Served by Known or Potential Service Line Containing Lead–

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Reporting Requirement(s) Not Met for Ashland City

We were required to report a Service Line Inventory Material (SLIM) Notification form that the system sent to persons served by known or potential service lines containing lead”] to the State.

Our system failed to demonstrate to the State that it delivered annual notifications and information to affected consumers with lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or lead status unknown service lines as required by July 1, 2025. Although the failure to comply with the reporting requirement does not create a risk to public health, we are required to inform you of this violation and provide additional information including what we did to correct the situation.

The (SLIM) notifications were sent out on 11/21/2024 but was not signed. This caused a compliance notification. The (SLIM) verification form was signed on 5/13/2025 and sent back to the EPA. With the signed verification form and this notification, we are no longer in violation.

It is important for consumers to know if the water they are receiving has been delivered through a lead, galvanized requiring replacement (GRR), or lead status unknown service line so they can make decisions on whether and what actions to take to reduce their exposure to lead in drinking water.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. Remember, boiling water does not remove lead from water.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit the EPA's websites at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water> and <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

What is being done?

The (SLIM) verification form was signed on 5/13/2025 and sent back to the EPA. With the signed verification form and this notification, we are no longer in violation.

For more information, please contact Michael Hunter at 419-281-7041 or City of Ashland Water Treatment 206 Claremont Ave. Ashland, Ohio 44805.

This notice is being sent to you by Ashland City Public Water System ID# OH0300112.

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