Safe Drinking Water Report 2025

READING
The Crossroads of Opportunity

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Inside:

- Details about how your water met all the health and standards for drinking water
- The sources of your drinking water
- Treatment processes that ensure the highest quality

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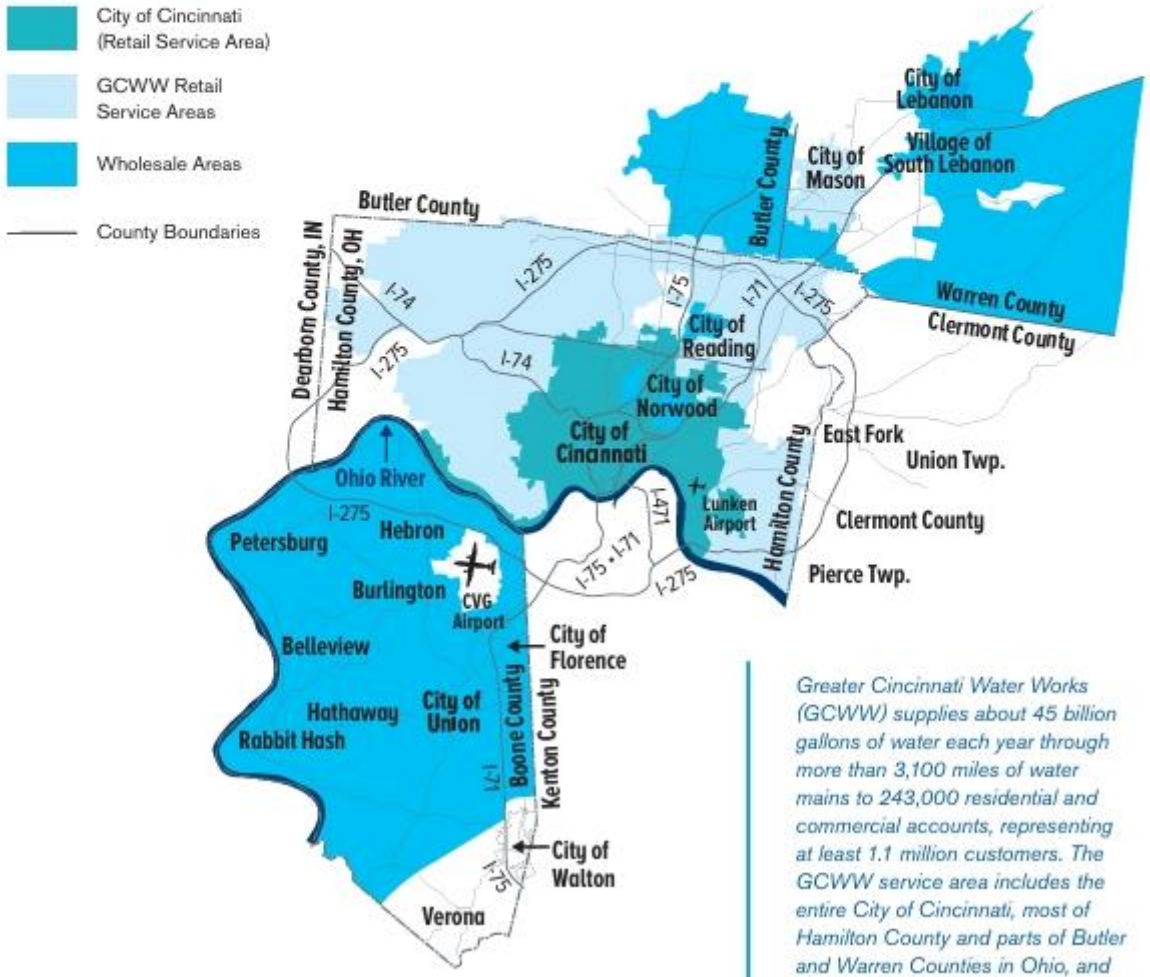
Where Your Water Comes From

GCWW supplies water from two sources: the Ohio River and the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer (GMBVA). Surface water from the Ohio River is treated at the Richard Miller Treatment Plant. This plant, located on the east side of Hamilton County, supplies about 88% of drinking water to GCWW's customers. The Charles M. Bolton Treatment Plant treats groundwater from 13 wells in the GMBVA. It is located in the southern part of Butler County and supplies about 12% of drinking water to GCWW customers.

Service Area Map



Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) supplies about 45 billion gallons of water each year through more than 3,100 miles of water mains to 243,000 residential and commercial accounts, representing at least 1.1 million customers. The GCWW service area includes the entire City of Cincinnati, most of Hamilton County and parts of Butler and Warren Counties in Ohio, and Boone County in Kentucky.

Only Your Tap Water Delivers These Protective Benefits

Protection of Public Health and Welfare

A safe water supply is critical to protecting public health. In the United States, water utilities monitor for more than 100 contaminants and must meet close to 90 regulations for water supply and quality. The same system of water mains, pumps and storage tanks transports water to home faucets and fire hydrants.

GCWW also takes great care to protect your water supply from chemical spills into the Ohio River that may contaminate the drinking water supply. GCWW has the ability to shut down river intake pumping, utilize stored and supplementary water until the spill passes, and use advanced treatment systems to remove contaminants.

Sources of Your Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water - both tap and bottled - 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 (in some cases radioactive material) and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. As with all surface waters, the Ohio EPA has classified the Ohio River as highly susceptible to potential contamination. The Ohio EPA has also classified our portion of the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer as highly susceptible to contamination due to lack of an overlaying protective clay layer, the presence of low levels of nitrate in the groundwater, and the presence of nearby potential contaminant sources. The Ohio EPA provided the most recent assessments in 2009 and GCWW has updated the Source Water Protection Plan for the Richard Miller Treatment Plant, which includes updated assessment material, in December 2025.

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 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 variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses;
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Protecting Your Drinking Water

GCWW actively participates in two regional collaborative source water protection programs:

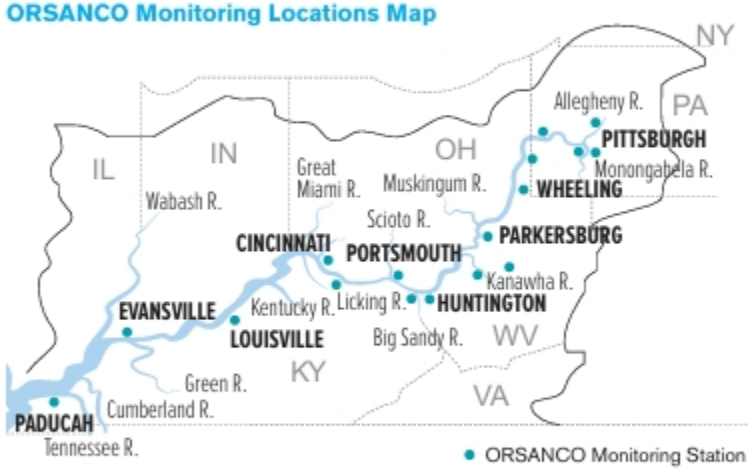
1. Protection of the Ohio River in the Cincinnati Area

GCWW has partnered with the Northern Kentucky Water District and the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) to implement an Ohio EPA-endorsed source water protection program for the Ohio River near Cincinnati. ORSANCO maintains 17 monitoring stations strategically placed along the Ohio River to detect and warn drinking water treatment plants about spills. GCWW participates as one of the monitoring stations for this program by analyzing Ohio River water multiple times a day, every day of the year.

2. Protection of the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer

The Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium is comprised of seven public and industrial ground water producers/suppliers in southwest Ohio. The Consortium maintains a network of early-warning monitoring stations, works with facilities that store hazardous substances to minimize the risk of spills, and educates the public on what they can do to protect groundwater.

ORSANCO Monitoring Locations Map



For more information about source water protection or to find out what you can do to help, visit myGCWW.org, email info@gcww.cincinnati-oh.gov, call Greater Cincinnati Water Works at 513.591.7700, or call the Groundwater Consortium at 513.785.2464.

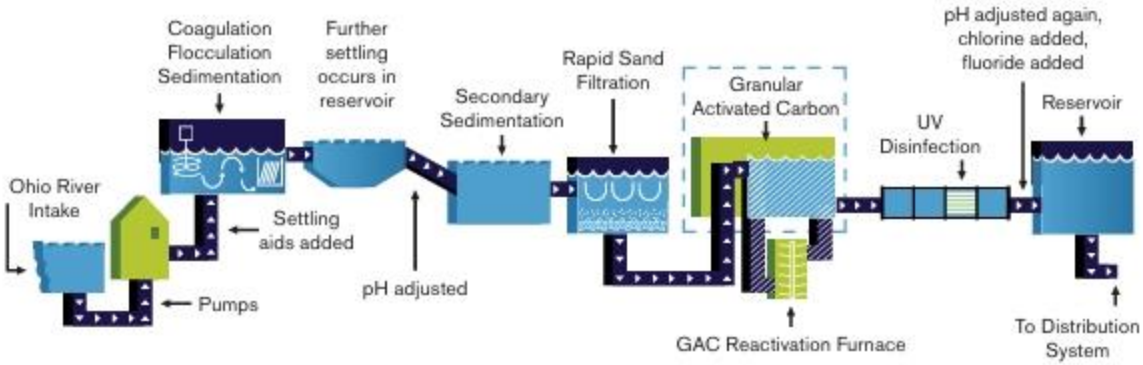
A Leader in Water Quality Treatment and Technology

GCWW uses state-of-the-art water treatment processes that create multiple barriers to protect public health. GCWW treatment processes include Coagulation/Flocculation/Sedimentation, Sand Filtration, Granular Activated Carbon (GAC), ultraviolet (UV) light and chlorine to remove and treat for natural and man-made contaminants from our drinking water. It is one of the first in the nation to use a combination of all these treatment methods.

GCWW typically treats about 120 million gallons of water a day, and ensures that all the treatment processes are effective by using more than 600 daily tests.

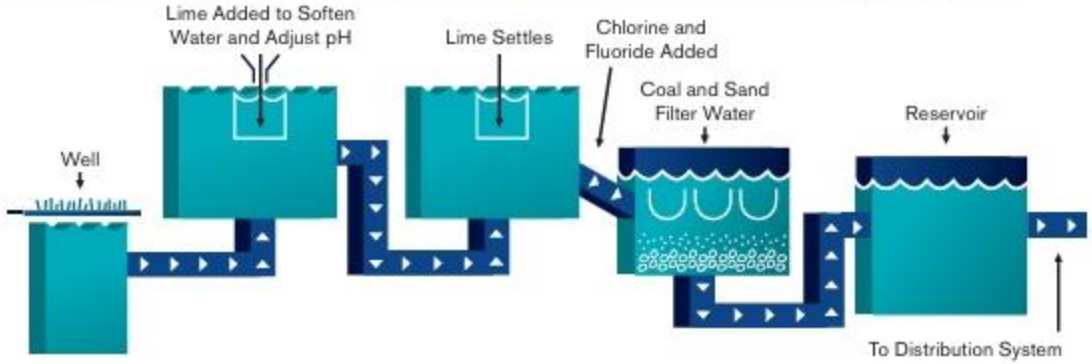
GCWW also treats the drinking water specifically to minimize the amount of lead that may leach into the drinking water from home plumbing — this treatment process is called corrosion control. There is no lead in the water as it leaves GCWW treatment plants, and this process minimizes the chance that lead can be picked up from home plumbing. Page 5 illustrates the treatment processes at the Richard Miller and Charles M. Bolton Plants.

Treatment Process at the Richard Miller Plant on the Ohio River



Backwash water from the sand filters and plant recycle water is returned to the beginning of the treatment process.

Treatment Process at the Charles M. Bolton Plant on the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer



Granular Activated Carbon

GCWW's Richard Miller Treatment Plant is one of only a few water treatment plants in the nation that incorporates granular activated carbon (GAC) with on-site reactivation into its water treatment process. This state-of-the-art technology uses granular carbon, which contains numerous microscopic cavities. When water is passed through the GAC, impurities adhere to the carbon and are removed from the water. Benefits of GAC include: barrier against chemical spills in the Ohio River; barrier against impurities in raw source water; less chlorine required for disinfection; reduced disinfection by-products; and improved control of taste and odor.

Ultraviolet Disinfection

GCWW is the largest water utility in North America to use UV disinfection following rapid sand filtration and GAC adsorption. UV disinfection, which uses rays of intense light to disinfect water, is one of the most effective methods used to protect against microorganisms such as *Cryptosporidium*.

GCWW Meets or Exceeds All State and Federal Health Standards

GCWW is proud to say that our water meets or exceeds every health standard developed by both the USEPA and Ohio EPA. 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 shall provide the same protection for public health. The tables on pages 6-9 show the substances detected in GCWW drinking water while performing the most up-to-date monitoring required by the EPA. The Ohio EPA requires GCWW to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Because of this, some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old. For a complete listing of GCWW test results and additional water quality information, visit wqt.myGCWW.org, or call 513.591.7700.

TABLE A: Regulated Contaminants				Miller Water (from the Ohio River)			
Substance (Unit)		Maximum Allowed (MCL)	MCLG	Highest Compliance Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation	Year Sampled
Fluoride (ppm)		4	4	0.88	0.65-1.06	No	2025
Nitrate (ppm)		10	10	1.10	0.48-1.10	No	2025
TTHMs (ppb) [Total Trihalomethanes][1]		80	na	49.6	15.7-76.0	No	2025
HAA5 (ppb) [Total Haloacetic Acids][1]		60	na	12.6	nd-15.2	No	2025
Turbidity (NTU)		TT1 < 1 NTU Max *and* TT2 < 0.3 NTU 95% of the time	na na	0.16 100% < 0.3 NTU	0.04 - 0.16	No	2025
1st Compliance Period (Jan - June)	Lead[1] (ppb)	AL = 15 (the 90th percentile must be less than 15 ppb)	0	90th percentile 1.32 ppb	nd - 13.5	No	2025
				(0 of 113 samples tested during the first compliance period were > the AL)[4]			
	Copper[1] (ppm)	AL = 1.3 (the 90th percentile must be less than 1.3 ppm)	1.3	90th percentile 0.026 ppm	nd - 0.43	No	2025
				(0 of 113 samples tested during the first compliance period were > the AL)			
2nd Compliance Period (July - Dec)	Lead[1] (ppb)	AL = 15 (the 90th percentile must be less than 15 ppb)	0	90th percentile 1.92 ppb	nd - 11.9	No	2025
				(0 of 108 samples tested during the second compliance period were > the AL)[4]			
	Copper[1] (ppm)	AL = 1.3 (the 90th percentile must be less than 1.3 ppm)	1.3	90th percentile 0.024 ppm	nd - 0.191	No	2025
				(0 of 108 samples tested during the second compliance period were > the AL)			
Total Organic Carbon[2]		TT	na	3.32	1.88-3.32	No	2025
Total Chlorine[1] (ppm)		MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	1.17	1.07-1.33	No	2025
Barium (ppm)		2	2	0.03	na[3]	No	2025

Regulated Contaminants (Table A): Substances subject to a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), Action Level (AL), or Treatment Technique (TT). These standards protect drinking water by limiting the amount of certain substances that can adversely affect public health and are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems.

Abbreviations
ppt: *parts per trillion or nanograms per liter; a part per trillion corresponds to one second in approximately 32,000 years*
ppb: *parts per billion or micrograms per liter; a part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years*
ppm: *parts per million or milligrams per liter; a part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days*

nr: *not regulated*
na: *not applicable*
NTU: *Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (used to measure clarity in drinking water)*
nd: *not detectable at testing limits*
TTHMs: *Total Trihalomethanes*
HAA5: *Haloacetic Acids*

Refer to pages 8-9 for definitions and footnotes.

Bolton Water (from the Great Miami Valley Buried Aquifer)				Typical Source of Contamination
Highest Compliance Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation	Year Sampled	
0.86	0.30 - 1.00	No	2025	Additive which promotes strong teeth. May come from erosion of natural deposits.
1.25	na[3]	No	2025	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits.
49.6	15.7-76.0	No	2025	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
12.6	nd-15.2	No	2025	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
nr	nr	No	na	Soil runoff.
90th percentile 1.32 ppb	nd - 13.5	No	2025	May come from erosion of natural deposits. There is no detectable lead in our water as it leaves the treatment plants. However, corrosion of household plumbing is a source of lead and copper contamination. GCWW tests water samples collected at customers taps, as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure safe water.
(0 of 113 samples tested during the first compliance period were > the AL)[4]				
90th percentile 0.026 ppm	nd - 0.043	No	2025	
(0 of 113 samples tested during the first compliance period were > the AL)				
90th percentile 1.92 ppb	nd - 11.9	No	2025	
(0 of 108 samples tested during the second compliance period were > the AL)[4]				
90th percentile 0.024 ppm	nd - 0.191	No	2025	
(0 of 108 samples tested during the second compliance period were > the AL)				
nr	nr	No	na	Naturally present in the environment.
1.17	1.07 - 1.33	No	2025	Water additive used to control microbes.
0.01	na[3]	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries.

Unregulated Contaminants (Table B): Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. Additional contaminants were monitored and not detected. If you would like further information on the results of unregulated contaminant monitoring, please call 513-591-7700.

TABLE B: Unregulated Contaminants	Miller Water (from the Ohio River)				
Substance (Unit)	Violation	Year Sampled	MCLG	Average Level Detected	Range of Detection
Chloroform (ppb)[1]	na	2025	70	12.9	nd-43.0
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)[1]	na	2025	0	9.8	1.8-18.2
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)[1]	na	2025	60	9.6	4.5-19.8
Bromoform (ppb)[1]	na	2025	0	4.4	0.6-15.8
Monochloroacetic Acid (ppb)[1]	na	2025	70	nd	nd-nd
Monobromoacetic Acid (ppb)[1]	na	2025	na	nd	nd-nd
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)[1]	na	2025	0	3.5	nd-9.4
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb)[1]	na	2025	20	1.1	nd-4.0
Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)[1]	na	2025	na	2.8	nd-6.0
Sulfate (ppm)	na	2025	na	56	19-85

TABLE B Continued: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (also known as PFAS)						
	Violation	Year Sampled	MCL*	MRL	Average Level Detected	Range of Detection
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)	na	2025	4.0	2.0	nd	na
Perflourooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	na	2025	4.0	2.0	nd	na
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS) (ppt)	na	2025	10	2	nd	na
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA or GenX) (ppt)	na	2025	10	2	0.7	nd-3.5
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) (ppt)	na	2025	10	2	nd	na
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppt)	na	2025	na	2	nd	na

Definitions

Minimum Reporting Level or MRL: The contaminant level that can reliably be detected using the specified analytical method.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: 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.

***Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** 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. MCLs for PFAS compounds will be effective in 2029.

Action Level or AL: The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system shall follow.

Treatment Technique or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal or MRDLG: The level of 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.

Turbidity: Utilities who treat surface water are required to report on turbidity as an indication of the effectiveness of the filtration system. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the samples analyzed each month, and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported in the table, GCWW's highest turbidity result for 2025 was 0.16 NTU (Miller Water) and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100%.

The < symbol: A symbol which means less than. A result of < 5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

Lead Threshold Level: The concentration of lead in an individual tap water sample. The lead threshold level is exceeded at 0.015 milligrams per liter (15 ppb) concentration of lead in an individual tap water sample.

Bolton Water (from the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer)					Typical Source of Contamination
Violation	Year Sampled	MCLG	Average Level Detected	Range of Detection	
na	2025	70	12.9	nd-43.0	Byproducts of drinking water disinfection, measured at representative points in the distribution system.
na	2025	0	9.8	1.8-18.2	
na	2025	60	9.6	4.5-19.8	
na	2025	0	4.4	0.6-15.8	
na	2025	70	nd	na	
na	2025	na	nd	na	
na	2025	0	3.5	nd - 9.4	
na	2025	20	1.1	nd - 4.0	
na	2025	na	2.8	nd - 6.0	
na	2025	na	44	na	Erosion of natural deposits.

Violation	Year Sampled	MCL	MRL	Average Level Detected	Range of Detection
na	2025	4.0	2.0	5	nd-10.7
na	2025	4.0	2.0	5.2	2.3-10.6
na	2025	10	2	2.6	nd - 4.6
na	2025	10	2	nd	na
na	2025	10	2	nd	na
na	2025	na	2	3.1	2.2-5.1

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals applied to many industrial, commercial and consumer products to make them waterproof, stain resistant, or nonstick. PFAS are also used in products like cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam called aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) which are used mainly on large spills of flammable liquids, such as jet fuel. PFAS are classified as contaminants of emerging concern, meaning that research into the harm they may cause to human health is still ongoing. GCWW meets all current EPA regulations. As part of the federal 2024 PFAS drinking water rule, initial finished drinking water monitoring is required by April 2027. GCWW's current monitoring results are shown in this part of Table B. The standards do not take effect for several years, but GCWW is working to investigate ways to minimize PFAS levels in the drinking water. Please see GCWW's website for more information: www. cincinnati-oh.gov/water/water-quality-and-treatment/water-your-health/pfas/

Footnotes: 1. *Miller and Bolton were considered as one distribution system for regulatory purposes by Ohio EPA during 2025. Data listed for each system represents the combined distribution system.* **2.** *The value reported under "Highest Compliance Level Detected" for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is the lowest ratio between percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than one (1) indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than one (1) indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.* **3.** *GCWW collects one sample per year.* **4.** *0 of 113 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead threshold level of 15 ppb during the first compliance period of 2025 (Jan-June). 0 of 108 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead threshold level of 15 ppb during the second compliance period of 2025 (July-Dec).*

Frequently Asked Questions

1 If there are reported contaminants, how can my water be safe?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

However, 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 healthcare providers. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.

2 What is *Cryptosporidium*?

Cryptosporidium (Crypto) is a microscopic organism, that when ingested, can result in diarrhea, fever and other gastrointestinal symptoms. Crypto is found in surface waters and comes from animal and human waste.

GCWW routinely tests for Crypto and did not detect it in our finished water in 2025. GCWW also tested for Crypto in the Ohio River surface water and it was detected in 1 of 4 samples during 2025. USEPA/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 at 800.426.4791.

3 Why is fluoride added to my water?

Fluoride is added to the water to protect teeth as required by a state law passed in 1969. According to the American Dental Association, persons who drink fluoridated water have a 20% to 40% reduction in the amount of cavities that would have occurred without fluoride. Some home filtration devices remove fluoride. Bottled water may not contain fluoride.

4 How much sodium is in my water?

GCWW has tested for sodium in treated water as it leaves the treatment plants and has found 31 mg (milligrams) per liter in the Richard Miller Water and 32 mg per liter in the Charles M. Bolton Water. There are approximately four cups in a liter.

5 Is there lead in my water?

There is no detectable lead in drinking water as it leaves the treatment plants. 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. GCWW 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 3 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.

A list of laboratories certified in the State of Ohio 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 800.426.4791 or at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

GCWW tests customers' water for lead at no cost. Lead information, including a lead service line lookup map which identifies where lead lines are located, and request for test kits, can be found at lead.myGCWW.org or by calling 513.651.LEAD (5323).

6 Sometimes my water is reddish-brown. What should I do?

The reddish-brown color can be caused by rust from corrosion in GCWW's pipes, the pipes in your home or from corrosion in your home's water heater. If you have rusty water, try running cold water for several minutes.

If you have questions or your laundry is stained from rusty water, call GCWW at 513.591.7700. We will deliver a laundry aid to remove the rust. Do NOT put stained laundry in the dryer.

7 Why does drinking water sometimes look cloudy?

Cloudy water that clears quickly from the bottom up is caused by tiny air bubbles in the water similar to gas bubbles in soda. The bubbles rise to the top and disappear. This cloudiness occurs more often in the winter when drinking water is cold. Air does not affect the safety of water.

8 How hard is GCWW's water?

Hard water is water that contains more minerals, such as calcium and magnesium. Water from GCWW's Richard Miller Plant has an average hardness of 126 mg per liter or 7 grains per gallon. Water from the Charles M. Bolton Plant averages 140 mg per liter or 8 grains per gallon. Hardness does not affect the safety of water.

Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?

The City of Reading purchases treated water from Greater Cincinnati Water Works and distributes it to the city's customers. GCWW supplies water from two sources:

- The Miller Treatment Plant treats surface water from the Ohio River. This plant supplies 88% of drinking water to GCWW's customers.
- The Bolton Treatment Plant treats groundwater from ten wells in the Great Miami Aquifer and is located in the southern part of Butler County. The plant supplies about 12% of drinking water to GCWW's customers.

Water from the Miller and Bolton Treatment Plants is delivered to customers in an open distribution system, which means it is mixed in the water mains. The border on the map is the dividing line under most typical operating conditions, although water from either plant may go miles beyond this border

Water - A Precious Resource

The first step in providing a plentiful supply of the highest quality drinking water is source water protection.

OHIO RIVER

Most of GCWW's customers receive water from the Miller Treatment Plant (see map at right), which treats water from the Ohio River. As with all surface waters, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) has classified the Ohio River as highly susceptible to contamination. This is because it is open to the environment and pollution may spread quickly with the flow of the river. To address this, GCWW has several barriers between potential pollution and your tap water. The first barrier, a source water protection program, is designed to prevent and monitor contamination in the river. GCWW works with ORSANCO and other utilities to monitor contamination in the river. GCWW has several options to protect the drinking water, ranging from turning off the intake and using only stored water until pollution passes, to altering a treatment process to remove the contamination. Finally, GCWW is one of only a few water treatment plants in the nation that has included granular activated carbon (GAC) into our daily treatment process. GAC has been recognized as the best available technology for removing the most common chemicals found in spills on the Ohio River.

GREAT MIAMI

Aquifer GCWW's Bolton Plant treats groundwater from the Great Miami Aquifer and provides water to the northwestern area of Hamilton County and parts of Warren and Butler Counties. Ohio EPA has classified Bolton water as having a high susceptibility to contamination because the Great Miami Aquifer does not have a protective clay layer, the water is shallow, there are potential contaminant sources nearby, and there are low levels of nitrates in the aquifer. This does not mean that the aquifer is contaminated, only that it is vulnerable to contamination. Cincinnati recognized the vulnerability of the aquifer over a decade ago and has worked hard as a member of the Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium to develop an award-winning source water protection program (www.gwconsortium.org) to protect the aquifer.

For more information about source water protection or to find out what you can do to help, visit myGCWW.org, email info@gcww.cincinnati-oh.gov, call GCWW at (513) 591-7700, or call the Groundwater Consortium at (513) 785-2464.

Reading Water Meets All Health Standards

The City of Reading purchases treated water from Greater Cincinnati Water Works. Greater Cincinnati Water Works continues to bring you a plentiful supply of the highest quality water. In fact, you'll be happy to know that your drinking water has always met or exceeded all of the state and federal health standards for drinking water. GCWW uses state-of-the-art treatment techniques to remove contaminants from the water and continuously monitors water quality throughout the system.

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 (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA prescribes regulations which 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 shall provide the same protection for public health.

The following tables show the substances detected in GCWW drinking water while performing the most up-to-date monitoring required by the EPA. The substances found were present in quantities less than the EPA limits for safe drinking water. GCWW tests for many more substances that consistently meet all state and federal health standards for drinking water. If you would like a complete listing of GCWW test results, call (513) 591-7700

Facts and Questions

My water tastes and smells like Sulfur.

The most likely cause of a sulfur or rotten egg like odor is from either the water trap below the sink or the faucet itself. The best way to test this theory is to fill a glass of water at the sink, then smelling it in a different room. If the smell disappears, the problem is most likely the sink. Pouring ¼ cup of bleach down the drain and allowing it to sit overnight should help.

My toilet/fixtures has pink or dark stains in them.

Airborne organisms are usually the cause. You will see grey, black, or sometimes pink film on surfaces that are regularly moist, including toilet bowls, showerheads, sink drains, dishwashers, and shower tiles. These organisms are controlled with normal drinking water disinfectants and, therefore, are not found in the water but rather from dust or dirt that is airborne. Regular cleaning and ventilation should reduce these nuisance organism.

Sometimes my water is reddish-brown.

The reddish-brown color can be caused by rust from corrosion in Reading Water pipes, the pipes in your home, or from corrosion in your home's water heater. This is not a health concern; the water meets all health-based regulations. If you have rusty water, try running cold water for several minutes.

Cloudy Water

Once in a while, you get a glass of water and it looks cloudy; maybe milky is a better term. After a few seconds it miraculously clears up! The cloudiness might be caused by the water in the pipes being under a bit more pressure than the water in the glass, but is more likely due to tiny air bubbles in the water. Like any bubble, the air rises to the top of the water and goes into the air above, clearing up the water. Cloudy water, also known as white water, is caused by air bubbles in the water. It is completely harmless. It usually happens when it is very cold outside because the solubility of air in water increases as water pressure increases and/or water temperature decreases. Cold water holds more air than warm water. In the winter, water travels from the reservoir which is very cold and warms up during its travel to your tap. Some of the air that is present is no longer soluble, and comes out of solution. Also, water pressure has something to do with it. The water in the pipes is pressurized to a degree (which helps get the water all the way from the water tower to your home). Water under pressure holds more air than water that is not pressurized. Once the water comes out of your tap, the water is no longer under pressure and the air comes out of solution as bubbles (similar to a carbonated soft drink). The best thing to do is let it sit in an open container until the bubbles naturally disappear.

Health Information

Results of GCWW Voluntary Monitoring for Cryptosporidium:
Cryptosporidium (Crypto) is a microscopic organism, that when ingested, can result in diarrhea, fever and other gastrointestinal symptoms. Crypto is found in surface waters and comes from animal and human waste. GCWW routinely tests for Crypto and did not detect it in our finished water in 2025. GCWW also tested for Crypto in the Ohio River surface water and it was detected in 1 of 4 samples during 2025.

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 infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.USEPA/ 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 at 800.426.4791.

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. GCWW 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 3 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. A list of laboratories certified in the State of Ohio 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 800.426.4791 or at 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 business with water. To view the service line inventory, which lists the material type(s) for your location, you can visit Reading City Hall at 1000 Market St.

How hard is Reading water?

First, let us explain “hard water.” Calcium and magnesium salts are minerals in water which are responsible for its hardness. Groundwater tends to contain more of these minerals than surface water because they are present in the rocks and aquifer. Miller Plant water has an average hardness of 127 milligrams per liter or 7 grains per gallon. Bolton Plant water has an average hardness of 144 milligrams per liter or 8 grains per gallon. Hardness does not affect the safety of water.

These minerals may accumulate in dishes like coffee pots. To remove them, fill the coffee pot with vinegar and let it sit overnight. Then rinse the coffee pot thoroughly before using. Vinegar will also work as a soak for clogged shower heads and faucet aerators.

Sources of Contamination to 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- occuring 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 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.

For More Information

GCWW drinking water:

- (513) 591-7700
- www.cincinnati-oh.gov/gcww

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for regulating bottled water. For more information about bottled water regulations, contact the FDA at:

- (888) 723-3366
- www.fda.gov

For more information about home treatment devices, contact the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) at:

- (800) 673-8010
- www.nsf.org
- info@nsf.org

USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline:

- (800) 426-4791

Drinking water regulations:

- (800) 426-4791
- www.epa.gov/ogwdw

Table A: Regulated Contaminants			City of Reading Water				Typical Source of Contaminants
Substance (Unit)	Maximum Allowed (MCL)	MCLG	Highest Compliance Level Detected	Range of Detections	Violations	Year Sampled	
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	na	na	na	na	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	na	na	na	na	Run off from fertilizer use, Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs (ppb) [Trihalomethanes]	80	na	50.5	49.7-50.5	No	2025	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5s (ppb) [Haloacetic Acids]	60	na	8.4	7.9-8.4	No	2025	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU)	TT1 < 1 NTU Max and TT2 < 0.3 NTU 95% of the time	na na	na	na	No	na	Soil Runoff
Lead (ppb)	AL = 15 (the 90th percentile must be less than 15 ppb)	0	Lead 90th percentile: 1.9	0 of 20 Samples > AL	No	2025	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	AL = 1.3 (the 90th percentile must be less than 1.3 ppm)	1.3	Copper 90th percentile: 0.039	0 of 20 Samples > AL	No	2025	Erosions of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosions of household plumbing systems
Total Organic Carbon	TT	na	na	na	No	na	Naturally present in the environment
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG =4	1.1	0.5 - 1.1	No	2025	Water additive used to control microbes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	na	na	na	na	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	na	na	na	na	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries

See next slide for abbreviations and definitions.

Unregulated Contaminants

Substances for which the EPA requires monitoring to determine where certain substances occur and whether it needs to regulate those substances

		Reading Water			
Substance (unit)	MCLG*	Average Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation	Year Sampled
Chloroform (ppb)[2]	70	13.3	13.2-13.4	na	2025
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	0	14.8	14.7-14.8	na	2025
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	60	16.5	16.2-16.7	na	2025
Bromoform (ppb)[2]	0	5.7	5.5-5.9	na	2025
Monochloroacetic Acid (ppb)[2]	70	nd	< 0.6	na	2025
Monobromoacetic Acid (ppb)[2]	na	nd	< 0.5	na	2025
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)[2]	0	3.4	3.3-3.5	na	2025
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb)[2]	20	nd	< 0.7	na	2025
Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)[2]	na	4.8	4.7-4.9	na	2025
Sulfate (ppm)	na	na	na	na	2025

Abbreviations

ppb: *parts per billion or micrograms per liter;*
ppm: *parts per million or milligrams per liter;*
nr: *not regulated;*
na: *not applicable;*
NTU: *Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (used to measure clarity in drinking water);*
nd: *not detectable at testing limits;*
TTHMs: *Total Trihalomethanes;*
HAA5: *Haloacetic Acids*

Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:
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.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:
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.

Action Level or AL:
The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system shall follow.

Treatment Technique or TT:
A method for treating water to achieve acceptable levels of the contaminants in lieu of establishing a maximum contaminant level.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level or MRDL:
The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal or MRDLG:
The level of 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.

Turbidity:
Utilities who treat surface water are required to report on turbidity as an indication of the effectiveness of the filtration system. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the samples analyzed each month, and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported in the table, GCWW's highest turbidity result for 2021 was 0.19 NTU (Miller Water) and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100%.

The < symbol:
A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

Lead Threshold Level:
The concentration of lead in an individual tap water sample. The lead threshold level is exceeded at 0.015 milligrams per liter (15 ppb) concentration of lead in an individual tap water sample.

Your Opinion Counts…..

To participate in water decisions please attend the City of Reading Council meetings held the first and third Tuesday of each month; call City Hall at 733-3725 for more information

How to Contact Us

Water Inquiries 513-733-3725
Comments on this report 513-733-3725
Additional Copies 513-733-3725
Customer Billing 513-733-3725

Water Emergencies:
Mon.-Fri. 8am - 5pm 513-733-3725
After 5pm, contact Police 513-733-4122

Past CCR Content and Delivery Violations

- **2017** – In the 2017 CCR, In the Table of Detected Contaminants, the 90th percentile value for lead and copper was incorrect, and the number of individual samples that exceeded the action level was not reported.
- **2018** – In the 2018 CCR, in the Table of Detected Contaminants, the 90th percentile values for copper was incorrect.
- **2022** – In the 2022 CCR, we did not provide information about the source water assessment report, did not include all mandatory language about the sources of contamination to drinking water, did not include the mandatory information regarding lead, and did not provide a status of the license to operate a public water system.
- **2023** – In the 2023 CCR, we did not provide a direct link to customers, and in the Table of Detected Contaminants, the column for "typical sources of contamination" was not included, wholesaler data should be clearly provided and labeled, and lead and copper was reported incorrectly.
- **2024** – We failed to distribute the 2024 Consumer Confidence Reports to the public and deliver a copy of the CCR to Ohio EPA by July 1st of the following years. If you have questions on the information that would have been covered in these reports, please contact us.

This report was prepared to meet the EPA's National Consumer Primary Drinking Water Regulation for Consumer Confidence Reports and is available to all Reading Customers. The City of Reading Water Department has a current unconditioned license to operate it's water system.