# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025

***Presented By***

DELCO WATER COMPANY

PWS ID#: 2101412

## Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

## Source Water Assessment

Surface water sources supply three of the system's four water treatment plants: the Olentangy Plant, the Ralph E. Scott (Alum Creek) Plant, and the Timothy F. McNamara (Old State) Plant. Surface water is by its nature susceptible to contamination, and there are numerous potential contaminant sources, including agricultural runoff, oil/gas wells, inadequate septic systems, leaking underground storage tanks, and road and rail bridge crossings. As a result, the surface water supplied to these plants is considered to have a high susceptibility to contamination.

> **"Water is the driving force of all nature."**
>
> *–Leonardo da Vinci*

Del-Co also obtains groundwater from its well field in Knox County, which is treated by the Thomas E. Steward Plant. In October 2001, the Ohio EPA approved Del-Co's Wellhead/Drinking Water Source Protection Plan for this well field. The source water here is also considered to have a relatively high susceptibility to contamination due to the lack of a significant confining layer above the sand-and-gravel aquifer and the presence of numerous potential contamination sources within the protection area.

Historically, Del-Co has effectively treated its source waters to meet drinking water quality standards. By implementing measures to protect the Olentangy River, O'Shaughnessy Reservoir, Alum Creek Reservoir, and the local aquifer, the potential for water quality impacts can be further decreased. More information on Del-Co Water Company's Drinking Water Source Assessment Reports may be obtained by calling Damon Dye at (740) 548-4037.

## Why We Test So Often

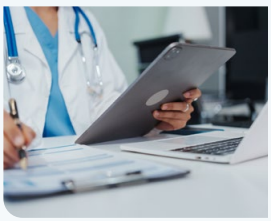
Drinking water is one of the most closely monitored resources in the United States. Water systems regularly test for bacteria, disinfectants, metals, organic chemicals, radioactive substances, and many other contaminants. Some tests are performed daily, while others are conducted weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually, depending on regulatory requirements and system size. Microbiological testing for bacteria such as coliforms ensures that disinfection is working properly. Turbidity monitoring confirms effective filtration. Chemical testing verifies that treatment processes remain optimized. All certified laboratories must meet strict quality assurance requirements to ensure accurate results. When results approach regulatory limits, corrective actions are taken immediately.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

Del-Co's primary surface water supplies are the Olentangy River, the O'Shaughnessy Reservoir (Scioto River), and the Alum Creek Reservoir. The Olentangy River runs for 88 miles, originating in Galion and flowing through the Scioto River. The O'Shaughnessy Reservoir is located about nine miles northwest of Columbus in Delaware County and covers an average of 1,000 surface acres. The Alum Creek Reservoir is located about 10 miles southeast of Delaware and covers an average of 3,400 surface acres. Del-Co also has a groundwater supply from four wells rated at 1,300 gallons per minute each. Combined, our treatment facilities provide our customers with an average of nearly 13 million gallons of drinking water per day.

Our water supply is part of the Upper Scioto Watershed, which covers an area of roughly 450 square miles on the Olentangy River, 770 square miles on the Scioto River, and 125 square miles on Alum Creek. An average of 38 inches of rainfall annually replenishes the watershed. Snowmelt also contributes to the water supply. To learn more about our watershed online, visit U.S. EPA's How's My Waterway at epa.gov/waterdata/hows-my-waterway.

## Important Health Information



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 health-care providers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 (800-426-4791) or the U.S. EPA website at epa.gov/safewater.

**QUESTIONS?** For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Damon Dye at (740) 548-4037 or Spencer Sheldon at (740) 548-7746.

## Q&A

**Why can tap water have a taste?**
Taste in drinking water is usually related to naturally occurring minerals, disinfectants, or seasonal changes in source water. While these characteristics may affect taste, they do not typically indicate a health risk.

**Why is water sometimes called the "original energy drink"?**
Water helps regulate body temperature, supports digestion, and keeps joints moving—without sugar, calories, or caffeine.

**Can weather affect drinking water quality?**
Heavy rain, drought, or seasonal changes can influence source water conditions. Water systems adjust treatment processes as needed to maintain water quality during changing environmental conditions.

**Why is maintaining water infrastructure important?**
Pipes, pumps, and treatment facilities are critical for delivering safe drinking water. Regular maintenance and upgrades help prevent leaks, breaks, and service disruptions.

**What can customers do to help protect water quality?**
Customers can help by reporting leaks, avoiding cross-connections, maintaining household plumbing, and staying informed through their annual water quality report.

## Safeguard Your Drinking Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain it to reduce leaching to water sources, or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use U.S. EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with others in your neighborhood. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## Substances That Could Be in 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:

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 occur naturally in the soil or groundwater or may 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 occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration 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 mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or visiting epa.gov/safewater.

## Community Participation

Customers are encouraged to participate in discussions about Del-Co's drinking water by attending the annual meeting on Thursday, July 16, 2026, or by contacting the office. Del-Co's contact information is available at delcowater.org/contact-us/.

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

Note that we have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

**REGULATED SUBSTANCES**

| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | MCL [MRDL] | MCLG [MRDLG] | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Atrazine** (ppb) | 2025 | 3 | 3 | 0.47 | 0.31–0.76 | No | Runoff from herbicide used on row crops |
| **Barium** (ppm) | 2025 | 2 | 2 | 0.016 | NA | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Chlorine** (ppm) | 2025 | [4] | [4] | 1.48 | 1.34–1.62 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| **Fluoride** (ppm) | 2025 | 4 | 4 | 1.08 | 0.86–1.18 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| **Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]** (ppb) | 2025 | 60 | NA | 38.78 | 10.1–45.0 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| **Nitrate** (ppm) | 2025 | 10 | 10 | 1.4 | 0.21–1.4 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Simazine** (ppb) | 2025 | 4 | 4 | 0.08 | <0.05–0.08 | No | Herbicide runoff |
| **Total Organic Carbon** (removal ratio) | 2025 | TT[1] | NA | 1.41 | 1.11–2.64 | No | Naturally present in the environment |
| **Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs]** (ppb) | 2025 | 80 | NA | 79.95 | 24.8–75.3 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| **Turbidity**[2] (NTU) | 2025 | TT | NA | 0.25 | NA | No | Soil runoff |
| **Turbidity** (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit) | 2025 | TT = 95% of samples meet the limit | NA | 100 | NA | No | Soil runoff |

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

**Herbicide:** Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

**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.

**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.

**[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.

**[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.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Pesticide:** Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

**PFAS:** Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of human-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, which is 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.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**removal ratio:** A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

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

| Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | AL | MCLG | AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE) | RANGE LOW-HIGH | SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE |
| **Copper** (ppm) | 2024 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.22 | 0.01–0.35 | 0/50 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Lead** (ppb) | 2024 | 15 | 0 | 0.85 | 0.26–3.15 | 0/50 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |

[1] The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio of percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of >1 indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of <1 indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

[2] Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system. All samples should be <1 NTU, 95% of them <0.3 NTU.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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, you may wish to have your water tested. A list of laboratories certified in Ohio to test for lead 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 at (800) 426-4791 or 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 types for your location, you can visit del-co.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b13fd43c5eb24f498fafb1d59a96efaa.

## How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.