



# Water Quality

## Data Table & Test Results

Calendar Year 2025

### WHERE DO WE GET OUR WATER?

Our underground water is pumped from eight wells drawing from the massive sand of the lower Tuscaloosa Aquifer.

### SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to identify potential sources of contamination and determine the overall susceptibility of the drinking water supply. Susceptibility assessment has been completed and all wells have ranked moderate by the MDEQ for vulnerability to contamination.

### CONTACT US

As a valued customer, we want you to be informed about your water utility. If you have any questions, please contact Customer Service with Columbus Light & Water at 662-328-7192, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### WATER QUALITY

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man-made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemical and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

### TESTING

The Columbus Light & Water Department routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and Mississippi state laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2025. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2025, the table reflects the most recent results. As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and state requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected, however the EPA has determined that your water is safe at these levels.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LEAD

The Columbus Light & Water has completed the Lead Service Line Inventory and no lead lines were found. The system inventory does not include lead service lines. The methods used to make that determination were visual inspections.

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. Columbus Light & Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water

and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Columbus Light & Water at 662-328-7192. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. The MS Public Health Laboratory (MPHL) can provide information on lead and copper testing and/or other laboratories certified to analyze lead and copper in drinking water. MPHL can be reached at 601-576-7582 (Jackson, MS).

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR FLUORIDATION

To comply with the "Regulation Governing Fluoridation of Community Water Supplies", COLUMBUS LIGHT & WATER is required to report certain results pertaining to fluoridation of our water system. The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.6 – 1.2 parts per million (ppm) was 7. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.6 - 1.2 ppm was 83%. The number of months samples were collected and analyzed in the previous calendar year was 7.

*Note: This system adds fluoride to your drinking water to help prevent and reduce cavities and improve overall oral health. Supply-chain issues and increased cost of fluoride have limited or prevented this water system's ability to obtain fluoride on a regular basis. The data presented above only reflects the months when this water system added fluoride to your drinking water..*

### EXPLANATION OF REASONS FOR MONITORING UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminants monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

### SPECIAL POPULATIONS

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/CDC guidelines on appropriate ways to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791.

### HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

As a valued customer, we want you to be informed about your water utility. If you have any questions, please contact Customer Service with Columbus Light & Water at 662-328-7192, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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<br>or<br>MRDL | MCL,<br>TT, or<br>MRDL | Detect<br>In<br>Your | Range  |        | Sample<br>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                      | 2                    | 1.2    | 2.5    | 2025           | No        | Water additive used to control microbes                                                                                      |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)                                                                                     | NA                 | 60                     | 5.71                 | 5.2    | 5.71   | 2025           | No        | By-product of drinking water chlorination                                                                                    |
| Inorganic Contaminants                                                                                            |                    |                        |                      |        |        |                |           |                                                                                                                              |
| Barium (ppm)                                                                                                      | 2                  | 2                      | 0.0193               | 0.0079 | 0.0193 | 2023           | No        | Discharge of drilling wastes;<br>Discharge from metal refineries;<br>Erosion of natural deposits                             |
| Fluoride (ppm)                                                                                                    | 4                  | 4                      | 0.676                | 0.589  | 0.676  | 2025           | No        | Erosion of natural deposits;<br>Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Sodium (optional) (ppm)                                                                                           | NA                 |                        | 3.97                 | 2.19   | 3.97   | 2025           | No        | Erosion of natural deposits;<br>Leaching                                                                                     |

## Additional Monitoring

As part of an on-going evaluation program the EPA has required us to monitor some additional contaminants/chemicals. Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants/chemicals will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science.

| Name           | Reported Level | Range   |        |
|----------------|----------------|---------|--------|
|                |                | Low     | High   |
| Lithium (mg/L) | 0.01054        | 0.00906 | 0.0117 |

| Unit Descriptions |                                                               |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Term              | Definition                                                    |
| ppm               | ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)        |
| ppb               | ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (g/L)         |
| mg/L              | mg/L: Number of milligrams of substance in one liter of water |
| 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                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 90th Percentile                      | Compliance with the lead and copper action levels is based on the 90th percentile lead and copper levels. This means that the concentration of lead and copper must be less than or equal to the action level in at least 90% of the samples collected. |