

IS MY DRINKING WATER SAFE?

YES, our water meets all of EPA's Health Standards. In 2025, we conducted 10,143 analyses for contaminants that may be found in drinking water. We were in compliance with all federal and state standards for 2025. For Quality Control purposes the Water Treatment Plant is manned around the clock.

WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF MY DRINKING WATER?

Your water, which is surface water, comes from Center Hill Lake (Mine Lick Creek) and is purchased from Cookeville Water Department. 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 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:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and

Conservation prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water source to potential contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water sources to potential contamination. To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible (high), moderately susceptible (moderate) or slightly susceptible (low) based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The Cookeville Water Department system sources rated as moderately susceptible to potential contamination. An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed online at <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html> or you may contact the City of Cookeville Water Department to obtain copies of specific assessments.

The City of Cookeville Water Treatment Plant is designed to treat 15 million gallons per day (MGD). In 2025 the average daily flow pumped to customers was 12.61 MGD. The 2025 average Total Hardness was 76.6 ppm or 4.47 grains/gallon with a PH of 7.38.

Think Before You Flush

Flushing unused or expired medications can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly Disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of Tennessee's waterways by disposing them in one of our permanent pharmaceutical take back bins. There are over 385 take back bins located across the state in all 95 counties, to find a convenient location please visit: <https://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/>

WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

If you have any questions or concerns, please call or come by our offices at 1860 S Jefferson, Cookeville, TN. The City Council meets on the first and third Thursday of each month. If you have any items that you wish to address, please call the City Hall at (931) 526-9591 to be placed on the council agenda.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OUR OPERATIONS?

The State and EPA require us to test and report our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have always met all of these requirements. We want you to know that we pay special attention to all the rules.

TASTE AND ODOR

For the most part taste and odor problems are the result of iron, algae, and manganese. We use additives such as hydrogen peroxide and activated carbon in an effort to eliminate these problems.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants 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 their personal sanitation, food preparation, handling infants and pets, and drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of

infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Lead and Lead Service Line Inventory

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Double Springs Utility District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Angie Byers, Manager. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. We recently conducted a Lead Service Line Inventory, and the results of individual customers can be obtained by calling 931-526-3827 or coming by the office at 2677 West Broad Street, Cookeville, TN 38501 between 8am and 4:30pm.

For more information about your drinking water, please call Rodger Phillips at the Cookeville Water Treatment Plant at (931) 858-2646 or Angie Byers at Double Springs Utility District.

Water Quality Data

What does this chart mean?

- **MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level, or the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

* Most of the data presented in this table is from testing done between Jan 1-Dec 31, 2025. We monitor for some contaminants less than once per year, and for those contaminants, the date of the last sample is shown in the table.

** We meet the TT requirement for Total Organic Carbon. We were required to remove 27% and average removal was 64.6% based on 12 samples.

*** Turbidity does not present any risk to your health. We monitor turbidity, which is a measure of the cloudiness of water, because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Turbidity samples taken in 2025 numbered 2190 individual samples. 100% of all monthly samples were less than or equal to 0.30 NTU. Turbidity is monitored continuously. Our average turbidity for 2025 was 0.04193 NTU.

Abbreviations • ppb or micrograms/L: parts per billion or micrograms per liter explained in terms of money as one penny in \$10,000,000 • ppm or mg/l: parts per million or milligrams per liter explained in terms of money as one penny in \$10,000 • N/A: not applicable • BDL: Below Detection Limits • NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units-Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of the water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTUs is just noticeable to the average person • pCi/l picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity) • AL: Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. • TT: Treatment Technique or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. • MRDL or Maximum Residual Disinfectant Goal: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants • MRDLG or 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. • RTCR Revised Total Coliform Rule. This rule went into effect on April 1, 2016 and replaces the MCL for total coliform with a Treatment Technique Trigger for a system assessment. • CCR: Consumer Confidence Report

Footnotes for Table at right:

- None of the 1,204 samples tested positive for total coliform and 0 tested positive for E. Coli. We met the treatment technique requirement for Total Coliform.
 - Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.
- Lead and copper values are reported in 90th percentile values. During the most recent round of lead and copper testing, none of the 20 households tested contained concentrations of lead or copper exceeding the action level.
- Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
- The locational running annual average for all locations was 30.2ppb for THM and 31.9 for THAA. This is not an immediate risk. For more information on potential health effects, you can call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791)

Contaminant	MCLG in CCR Units	MCL in CCR Units	Level found in CCR Units	Range of Detection	Units	Violation	Date of Sample*	Typical source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria ¹	0	TT Trigger	0	N/A	%	No	01-01-25 to 12-31-25	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbons	N/A	TT	N/A	**	ppm	No	*	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity ^{***}	N/A	TT	0.18	0.03 to 0.18	NTU	No	*	Soil runoff
Lead ²	0	AL=15	BDL	BDL	ppb	No	June '23	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper ²	1.3	AL=1.3	0.128	0.00777 to 0.12	ppm	No	June '23	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	4	4	0.13	0.07 to 0.13	ppm	No	*	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Sodium	None	None	21.6		ppm	No	*	Sodium Hydroxide is added to the treatment process for corrosion control and water stabilization
Chlorine	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	2.02 Avg.	1.9 to 2.3	ppm	No	*	Water Additive used to control microbes
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] ^{3,4}		80	36.7	23.6 to 48.8	ppb	No	*	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids ⁴		60	40.9	19.0 to 51.8	ppb	No	*	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Barium	2	2	0.0171	0 to 0.0171	ppm	No	*	Discharge from drilling waste, metal refineries and erosion from natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides -The City of Cookeville is waived on these except Atrazine , 2, 4d, Picloram and they were below the Detection Limit.								