Gallatin Public Utilities – 2025 Consumer Confidence Report

For Monitoring Period: January 1 - December 31, 2025

PWSID TN0000253

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

Where does my water come from?

Gallatin's water goes through several steps to ensure its quality on its trip to your tap. First, the water is pumped from an intake on the Cumberland River - Old Hickory Lake to the Water Treatment Plant. Once the water reaches the treatment plant, it is pre-chlorinated, PAC (polyaluminum chloride) is added to aid in settling, and powdered activated carbon is added to aid in taste and odor control. Then, the water proceeds through areas called flocculation basins and begins the sedimentation process (where larger particles are formed and allowed to sink to the bottom). The water then flows into the plants filtration system and becomes crystal clear. At this point the water receives post chlorination (to prevent bacteria from developing), Aquadene (for corrosion control), and fluoride (to help in preventing tooth decay). The treated water flows into a clear well and is then pumped into the water distribution system.

To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible, or slightly susceptible based on geographic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The Gallatin Water Department source is rated as reasonably susceptible to potential contamination. An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings, and the overall TDEC report to the USEPA can be viewed online at https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources-home.html or you may contact Gallatin Public Utilities to obtain copies of specific assessments.

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the concentrations of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Important Health Information

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 persons, and infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water. Environmental Protection Agency and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, 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. Gallatin Public Utilities 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 Gallatin Public Utilities at 615-451-5922. 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.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

Lead Service Line Inventory

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently mandated that water utilities across the nation conduct an inventory of all water service lines to determine what materials they are made of (for example: lead, copper, galvanized, PVC, PEX). Nationwide, the goal is to identify and replace all lead service lines that are found and any galvanized lines that may have been attached to a lead service line at one time (galvanized service lines that have absorbed lead can contribute to lead in drinking water). If either of these types of materials are found (lead, and/or galvanized that is or was downstream of a lead service line) on the Utility side of the water meter, the Utility is mandated to replace that side of the line. If either of these types of materials are found on the Customer side of the service line (the portion from the water meter that proceeds on into the customer's home), the customer will be notified and the customer will decide how they would like to proceed (the customer will be responsible for any replacements they would like to make on their side of the service line).

Gallatin Public Utilities completed a Lead Service Line Inventory in 2024. The inventory continues to be updated as Unknown service lines are identified within the distribution system.

To access the inventory, please visit GPU's webpage at:

GALLATIN PUBLIC UTILITIES

https://www.gallatinutilities.com/water/water/lead-service-line-information

Gallatin Public Utilities 2025 Water Quality Report

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Date	Violation	Sources of Contamination
E. coli	*See note	0	0	0	mpn/100 mL	2024	No	Naturally present in the environment
Copper	AL = 1.3	1.3	0.108 (90th percentile)	0.0108 - 0.0757	ppm	Jun-23	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Fluoride	4	4	0.400 (AVG)	0.27 - 0.49	ppm	Quarterly	No	Water additive for strong teeth
Lead	AL = 15	0	(90th percentile) ND (<2)	< 2 - 13.5	ppb	Jun-23	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Nitrate	10	10	0.375		ppm	11-Feb-25	No	Runoff from fertilizer use
Turbidity	TT (100% <0.3 NTU)	TT	0.18	0.02 - 0.18	NTU	Daily	No	Soil runoff
Chlorine	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	1.57 (AVG)	0.67 - 2.20	ppm	Daily	No	Water additive for disinfection
Sodium			12.9		ppm	7-May-25	No	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHM	80	0	49.9 (AVG)	23.6 - 57.8	ppb	Quarterly	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5	60	0	42.1 (AVG)	13.9 - 47.8	ppb	Quarterly	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TOC	TT	TT	42.2% (AVG)	41.20%-45.56%	% removal	Quarterly	No	Naturally occuring in environment
Gross Alpha	15	0	2.42		pCi/L	7-Nov-23	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226	3	0	0.118		pCi/L	7-Nov-23	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	2.5	0	ND		pCi/L	7-Nov-23	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC) establish the safe drinking water regulations that limit the amount of contaminants allowed in drinking water. Tha table above shows the concentrations of detected substances in comparison to the regulatory limits. Substances not detected are not included in the table.

Treatment Technique (TT) requirements for Total Organic Carbon were met in 2025. Most of the data presented in this table is from testing done between **January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025** We monitor for some contaminants less than once per year (for those contaminants, the last sample date is shown in the table).

*E. coli MCL - Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is E. coli positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform positive repeat sample for E. coli.

During the most recent round of lead and copper testing, 0 out of 30 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the Action Level.

Additional Monitoring

As part of an ongoing evaluation program, the EPA has required us to monitor some additional contaminants. 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 furture regulation is warranted. For additional information call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Contaminant	Average Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Date
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	1.2	ND - 1.2	ppt (parts per trillion)	2024 (Quarterly)
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	2.6	ND - 2.6	ppt (parts per trillion)	2024 (Quarterly)

Definitions

Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. Action Levels are reported at the 90th percentile for homes at greatest risk.
BDL - Below Detection Limit
HAA5 - Halo Acetic Acids
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
Maximim Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant above which there is no known or expected risk to health.
MPN - Most Probable Number
ND - Not Detected (simply means that the results were less than the Method Reporting Limit for that test)
NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (used to measure cloudiness in drinking water)
ppb - one part per billion, explained in terms of money as one penny in $10,000,000.00
ppm - one part per million, explained in terms of money as one penny in $10,000.00
TOC - Total Organic Carbon
Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. The Treatment Technique requirements for the Total Organic Carbon were met in 2025.
TTHM - Total Trihalomethanes
Turbidity - Turbidity does not pose any risk to your health. We monitor turbidity, which is the measure of the cloudiness of water, because it is a good indicator that our filtration system is functioning properly.

Cross-Connection Prevention

A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and ensuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If the end of your garden hose is connected to a chemical container, swimming pool, or other contaminant during a water main break or fire, the substance can be siphoned back into the water system. This condition, known as back siphonage (or backflow), could cause a health hazard. A garden hose submerged in any liquid or attached to devices used to spray pesticides or herbicides forms a cross connection. Devices are available to prevent this problem. Please contact us if you have any questions so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it, if that is necessary. Always be careful how you use your hose. Remember, never place your hose in anything you would not want to drink! A simple way to stop backflow is by using an air gap. An air gap can be created by arranging your hose so that the end is at least six inches above the top rim of the container it is being used to fill.

Is Bottled Water Better?

While the EPA regulates water delivered by the public water systems, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates commercial bottled water. FDA bottled water standards are less stringent than the EPA standards. For bottled water, there are no requirements to inform customers of the source of water or to report any of the contaminants detected in the water. The EPA requires this report to provide you with that information for your tap water. While commercially prepared bottled water is safe and of high quality, one should not assume that just because it comes out of a bottle it is as healthy as the water from your tap.

Planning a home improvement job?
Installing a fence or deck?
Planting a tree?

Before you dig, call 811
It's free, and it's the law!!

Tennessee 811
Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Think Before You Flush

Flushing unused or expired medicines 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 in one of our permanent pharmaceutical takeback bins. There are nearly 100 takeback bins across the state. To find a convenient location, please visit: https://www.tn.gov/environment/sustainability/programs/pharmaceuticals-takeback.html

In Sumner County, medications may be disposed of at:

Sumner Co. Sheriff's Office
117 W Smith Street
Gallatin, TN 37066

Operation Round Up

Have your bill rounded up to the next whole dollar amount and help a Gallatin Public Utilities customer in need. Visit our website and download the enrollment form or come by our office to have those few extra pennies make a difference to a family in need by enrolling in the Operation Round Up program.

GALLATIN PUBLIC UTILITIES

For more information about GPU's water department and water quality, please visit our website:
https://www.gallatinutilities.com/

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