

# Waynesboro Water System Water Quality Report 2021

## Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. As you see in the chart on the back, we only detected 13 of these contaminants. We found all of these contaminants at safe levels.

## What is the source of my water?

Your water, which is a combination of surface water and groundwater, comes from the **Green River & Geissler Spring's Well**. 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 serving this water system. The (SWAP) Report assesses the susceptibility of 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, moderately susceptible or slightly susceptible based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The Waynesboro Water System sources are 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 EPA can be viewed online at <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/lr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html> or you may contact the Water System to obtain copies of specific assessments.

## Why are there contaminants in my 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).

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

**For more information about your drinking water, please call the Water Treatment Plant at 931-722-5593.**

## How can I get involved?

Our City Council meetings are held on Monday's at 6 p.m. at the Waynesboro City Hall which is located at the corner of Hwy 64 East and Court Square. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

## Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?

The State and EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements. Results of unregulated contaminant analysis are available upon request. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

## Other Information

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:

- 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.

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 number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Waynesboro Water System's water treatment processes are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## Do I Need To Take Special Precautions?

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 under-gone 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 not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets 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 in Drinking Water

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. Waynesboro Water System 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 2 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. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

## Water System Security

Following the events of September 2001, we realize that our customers are concerned about the security of their drinking water. We urge the public to report any suspicious activities at any utility facilities, including treatment plants, pumping stations, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to 931-722-5593 or 911

## 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 take back bins. **There is a disposal bin currently located at the City Hall.** There are also nearly 100 take back bins located across the state, to find a convenient location please visit:

<https://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/>



TTHM <sup>3</sup> [Total Trihalomethanes]	No	0.0973	See Foot Note 3	2021	mg/L	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	0.0871		2021	mg/L	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Organic Carbon	No	0.848	See Foot Note 4	2021	mg/L	TT	TT	Naturally present in the environment.
Chlorine	No	1.54	0.3-1.5	2021	mg/L	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.
Cryptosporidium Oocysts/L	No	ND		2019	Oocysts/L			Naturally present in environment

During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, 1 out of 20 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level. The next round of Lead and Copper testing will be conducted in 2024.

<sup>1</sup>100% of our samples were below the turbidity limit of 0.3 NTU. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our sedimentation & filtration systems.

<sup>2</sup>Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

<sup>3</sup> While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for Trihalomethanes, it does contain low levels. Some people who drink water containing Trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL 80 over many years, may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

<sup>4</sup>The Waynesboro Water System met all treatment technique requirements for Total Organic Carbon removal.

On March 30, 2021 the Green River flooded its banks entering into the lower floors of the Water Treatment Plant and into the clearwell storage underneath the building. To maintain public health and safety the City of Waynesboro issued a 2-day boil water notice as a precaution to ensure that the contaminated water was treated and flushed from the system.

On June 7, 2021 the Waynesboro Water System incurred a Monitoring Violation due to the failure to maintain a chlorine residual of 0.2mg/L for more than 4 hours during the monthly compliance period of April 2021.

On April 1, 2021 around 02:40 am the automated disinfection equipment at the Geissler Spring's Well failed to feed the proper dosage of Chlorine (Bleach) resulting in the residual entering the water system to be below 0.2mg/L for more than 4 hours.

EPA Rule 0400-45-01-.17(30) states:

Any surface water or ground water supplied system under direct influence of surface water required to filter shall employ filtration in combination with disinfection that will achieve 99.9% (3 log) and 99.9% (4 log) inactivation of Giardia Lamblia and viruses respectively between a point where the raw water is not subject to recontamination by surface water runoff and a point downstream before or at the first customer. The free residual disinfectant concentration in the water entering the distribution system cannot be less than 0.2mg/L for more than four hours.

To correct this issue the Waynesboro Water System Staff fixed and replaced the failed equipment, redesigned the chlorine feed system to ensure proper flow, and incorporated safety alarms and shutoffs in the event of another failure.

