

## Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

PFAS are synthetic chemicals that have been manufactured and used by a broad range of industries since the 1940s. PFAS are used in many applications because of their unique physical properties such as resistance to high and low temperatures, resistance to degradation, and nonstick characteristics. They are commonly used in products like food packaging, dental floss, carpeting, water proof clothing, and cookware. PFAS can also be found in public drinking water systems and private drinking wells.

Due to their widespread use and persistence in the environment, most people in the United States have been exposed to PFAS. There is now evidence that continued exposure above specific levels to certain PFAS may cause adverse health effects. In response, the EPA developed health advisory levels for the following PFAS compounds: Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS), Perfluorobutane Sulfonic Acid (PFBS) and GenX. The EPA also issued draft Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) on March 14, 2023 for PFOS and PFOA compounds.

Current studies suggest that exposure to high levels of certain PFAS may lead to adverse health outcomes. However, ongoing research is still necessary to determine how differing levels of exposure to certain PFAS contributes to health effects.

The EPA periodically requires public water systems throughout the nation to conduct monitoring under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) for contaminants that may be present in drinking water but are not currently subjected to federal drinking water regulations.

EPA establishes a list of priority unregulated contaminants every five years that public water systems must monitor during a specified UCMR cycle, which typically runs for three calendar years. The results are used to inform future regulatory decisions at the federal level. From Jan. 1, 2023, through Dec. 31, 2025, public water systems are conducting monitoring under the fifth UCMR (UCMR 5). Between 2023 and 2025, public water systems will sample for 30 chemical contaminants, including 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium.

The U.S. EPA requires utilities to sample for emerging contaminants as part of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). Every five years, the EPA prepares a list of unregulated contaminants for drinking water suppliers to analyze. UCMR results are then used to assist in the development of future drinking water regulations. We are currently in the fifth round of UCMR sampling (UCMR5) that is required by water systems between 2023 – 2025.

**In numerous rounds of testing since 2018 involving the source water and treated water of the treatment plants managed by Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority, PFOA has been detected on only one occasion at 2.1 parts per trillion (ppt). PFOS has never been detected.**

For more information, visit the EPA website at <https://www.epa.gov/dwuicmr/learn-about-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>

## Continuing our Commitment

The City of Charlottesville and the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA), in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), work to ensure that you receive a safe and reliable supply of drinking water. As part of that ongoing commitment, we are providing you with this report on the quality of your drinking water. While this annual report is currently required by the **United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, we wish to use this opportunity to assure you that *the quality of your drinking water meets and exceeds all regulatory requirements* and your expectations for safety, reliability, and quality. RWSA collects, stores, and treats the water; then the City buys the treated water from RWSA and distributes it to you through the distribution system.



For the Spanish-speaking members of our community: Este Informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúzcalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.

## What standards does my water have to meet?

The information in this report has been collected and reported in accordance with the drinking water standards established by the EPA and the VDH. In 2024, RWSA collected and tested hundreds of samples to ensure the quality of your water. Sample sources included the rivers and reservoirs from which the WTPs draw water, the WTPs themselves, and numerous locations in the City's distribution system.

The sources of drinking water may 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, as well as

substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. 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 **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)** or visit their website ([www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)).

## CRYPTOSPORIDIUM IN DRINKING WATER

*Cryptosporidium* is a microbial pathogen found in surface waters throughout the United States. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause an abdominal infection characterized by nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps that healthy individuals can overcome within a few weeks. However immunocompromised people are at risk of developing a potentially life-threatening illness. In November 2003, RWSA began a two year study to determine the occurrence of this parasite in the raw sources of each of the three Urban Area WTPs. Results of that monitoring do reveal its occasional presence in very small concentrations (< 0.05 organisms per liter) in our reservoirs. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. The RWSA makes every effort to optimize the filtration processes at all of the WTPs to ensure the greatest degree of *Cryptosporidium* removal. Based on the results of this study, RWSA have been placed in the lowest risk category for exposure to *Cryptosporidium*. Sampling was conducted monthly between 2015 – 2017; to date no *Cryptosporidium* has been detected in any of the urban source waters as part of that monitoring program.

## What is Water Hardness?

If substantial amounts of either calcium or magnesium (both nontoxic minerals) are present in drinking water, the water is said to be hard. The hardness of finished water in the City water system averages 31 mg/L which is equivalent to 1.9 grains per gallon. This is mainly calcium. The water may be described as soft to slightly hard.



## How do I get more information?

The City of Charlottesville and the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority are committed to providing you, the customer, with this information because informed customers are our best allies. We hope that this report was easy to read and easy to understand. We encourage you to contact us and let us know what you think about your Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). Suggestions on how to make your CCR better are welcome. For more information about your water and for any comments, you can contact Anthony Allard at (434) 970-3805 or at [allarda@charlottesville.gov](mailto:allarda@charlottesville.gov). The Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority Board of Directors holds a monthly virtual meeting in which there is a public comment period. These meetings are held every fourth Tuesday at 2:15pm. Contact (434) 977-2970 for information regarding dates and access to the virtual meetings.

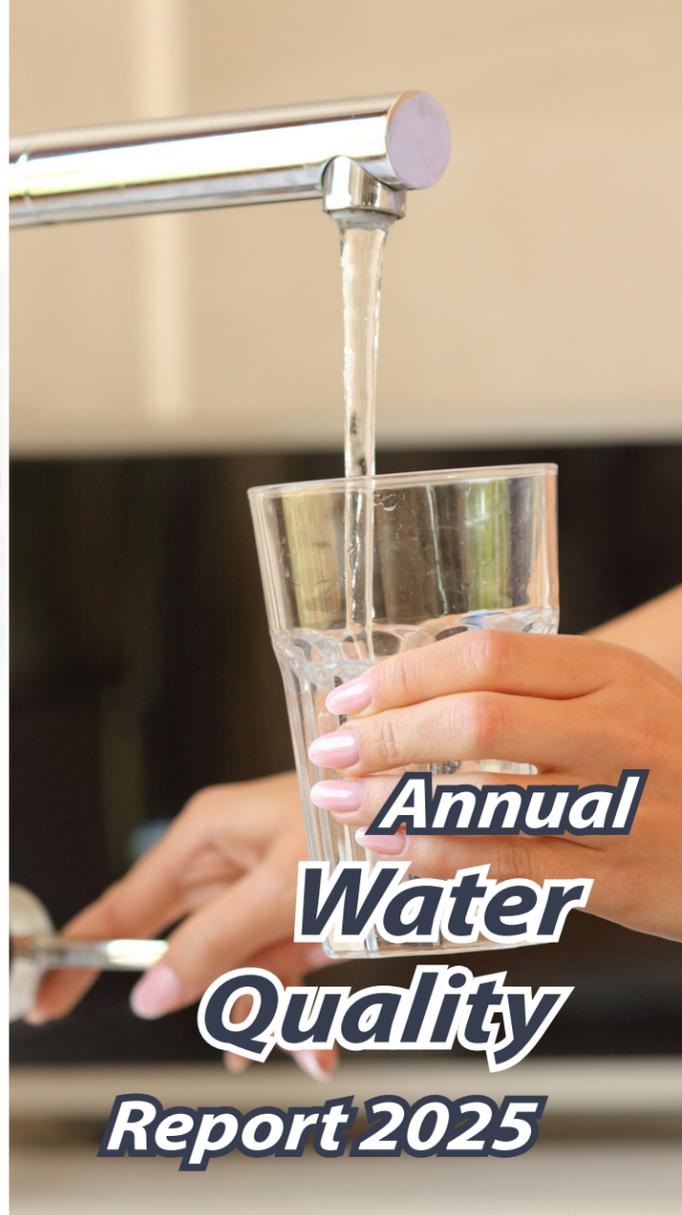
## Where does my water come from?

RWSA operates two water treatment plants (WTP) that provide water to the City of Charlottesville. The plants are the South Rivanna WTP and the Observatory WTP. Each plant employs both chemical and physical treatment processes before releasing water into the distribution system. Sodium hypochlorite is used at both South Rivanna and Observatory for disinfection. Fluoride is added at all treatment plants to promote good dental health. The water treatment plant that provides water to your tap may vary from day to day depending on the daily production of water at each plant, the level of storage in the system and your



location. The South Rivanna WTP draws water from the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir. The Observatory WTP draws water from both the Ragged Mountain and Sugar Hollow Reservoirs.

Under a program developed by VDH, multiple source water assessments for the Albemarle/Charlottesville Urban Area were completed by the VDH. The Observatory WTP received an assessment in 2018, and South Rivanna WTP in 2020. These assessments determined that the raw water sources named

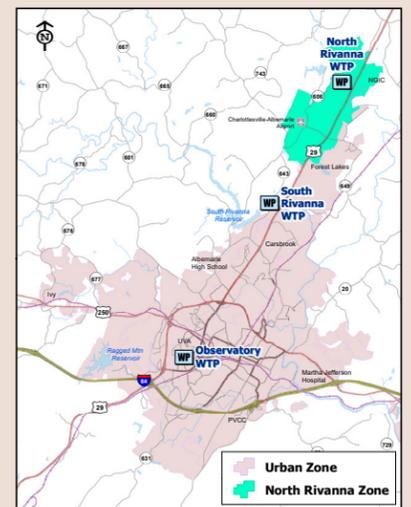


Water testing performed in 2024

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above may be susceptible to contamination. All surface water sources are exposed to a wide array of contaminants at varying concentrations and changing hydrologic, hydraulic and atmospheric conditions that promote migration of contaminants from land use activities of concern within the assessment area. More specific information may be obtained by contacting the water system representative listed at the end of this insert.



## Corrosion Control Program

It is standard practice that a phosphate chemical be added to drinking water supplies during treatment in order to reduce corrosion of the metal pipes in the distribution system and in customer plumbing. The chemical forms a protective layer on the inside of the pipes, reducing corrosion, and thus reducing the possibility of lead and copper entering the water. As a purely proactive measure, the City of Charlottesville, working with RWSA, decided to upgrade its corrosion inhibitor to ensure the highest level of current water treatment technology is being utilized to protect the public.

RWSA has developed a Q&A to answer any questions related to the new water treatment program. It can be found at: <https://www.rivanna.org/rwsa-projects-map/corrosion-control-program/>. If you wish to speak to a City representative directly, please contact Anthony Allard at (434) 970-3800.

# What were the results from last year's testing?

CONTAMINANTS DETECTED	MCLG	MCL	CITY WATER RESULTS	# OF SAMPLES > AL	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	VIOLATION?	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL COMPOUNDS</b>							
Fecal Coliform Bacteria (as <i>E. coli</i> ) <sup>1</sup>	0	<sup>2</sup> See footnote	0	n/a	n/a	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Turbidity (Maximum single value)	n/a	1 <sup>3</sup>	0.22 NTU	n/a	n/a	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (% of monthly samples below 0.3 NTU)	n/a	95%	100%	n/a	100%	No	Soil runoff
<b>RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Combined Radium <sup>4</sup>	0 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	ND	n/a	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta <sup>4,5</sup>	0 pCi/L	50 pCi/L	1.2 pCi/L	n/a	0.6 - 1.2 pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>INORGANIC COMPOUNDS</b>							
Copper <sup>6</sup>	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm (AL)	0.03 ppm <sup>7</sup>	0	<0.02-0.08ppm	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Lead <sup>6</sup>	0 ppb	15 ppb (AL)	< 2.00 ppb <sup>7</sup>	0	<2.00-151ppm	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride <sup>8</sup>	4 ppm	4 ppm	0.72 ppm	n/a	0.61 - 0.85 ppm	No	Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Barium	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.02 ppm	n/a	ND - 0.02 ppm	No	Discharge from drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	ND	n/a	ND	No	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage

<sup>1</sup> Unit of measurement for total coliform bacteria and *E. coli* is the presence or absence of bacteria in a 100 mL sample.  
<sup>2</sup> *E. coli* MCL: A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and at least one is also *E. coli* positive.  
<sup>3</sup> The MCL for turbidity is for no single measurement to exceed 1 NTU, and for 95% of all measurements to be below 0.3 NTU.  
<sup>4</sup> Sampled at all urban treatment plants in 2017, and sampling not required annually.  
<sup>5</sup> EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.  
<sup>6</sup> Sampled in 2022 from select, relatively high-risk residences.  
<sup>7</sup> The value reported is the 90th percentile of all data collected.  
<sup>8</sup> Compliance results for fluoride are from the annual inorganics sample. Range of results includes monthly split sample lab results.

## What are these contaminants and their potential health risks?

**TURBIDITY** is a measure of the clarity of the water and has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and may provide a medium for microbial growth. Elevated turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms.

**TOTAL COLIFORM AND E. COLI BACTERIA.** Fecal coliforms and *E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

**COMBINED RADIUM, AND ALPHA AND BETA PARTICLES** are naturally occurring. Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation. When these minerals are eroded into the source water, testing may indicate their presence. Some people who drink water containing radium, or alpha or beta emitters, over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**BARIIUM** is a metal that is naturally-occurring in rock and the soil. Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years may experience an increase in their blood pressure.

**FLUORIDE** is added at the water treatment plant to promote strong teeth. Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could develop bone disease with pain and tenderness of the bones.

The 1994 Federal **LEAD** and **COPPER** Rule mandates a household testing program for these substances. The values reported above are from this household-testing program. No lead or copper was found in the drinking water at the WTPs.

- **LEAD** Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the Action Level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults over many years could possibly develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

- **COPPER** Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the Action Level over a relatively short period of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their doctor.

**NITRATE** is an inorganic form of nitrogen found primarily in fertilizers, sewage, and runoff from natural deposits. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and "blue baby" syndrome.

**CHLORINE** is a water additive used to control disease-causing microbes. Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritation effects to their eyes, skin, nose, as well as stomach discomfort.

**CYANOTOXINS** are a group of toxins produced by cyanobacteria, which are more commonly known as blue-green algae. They often accumulate in lakes, ponds, streams, and other surface waters where currents do not disturb them.



The table in this report shows which contaminants were detected in your drinking water. Before trying to read and understand the table, there are a few terms which need to be defined.

**MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as possible using the best available treatment technology.

**MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is growing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL GOAL (MRDLG):** 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 contamination.

**PPB:** Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L). One part substance per billion parts of solution.

**PPM:** Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L). One part substance per million parts of solution.

**pCi/L:** Picocuries per liter. This is a measure of radioactivity.

**N/A:** Not applicable.

**NEPHELOMETRIC TURBIDITY UNIT (NTU):** Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**ACTION LEVEL (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other actions by the water provider.

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

**NON DETECT (ND):** Test result below the method detection limit.

## What do all these numbers mean?

**Most importantly, this information shows that your drinking water met and exceeded all regulatory requirements during 2024.** We are fortunate to have reliable sources for our drinking water needs and well-operated treatment facilities. Additional information is provided below that will give you more details on each contaminant detected in your drinking water. For information on the health risks associated with long term exposure to these contaminants at levels in excess of the MCL, please visit [www.charlottesville.gov/waterquality](http://www.charlottesville.gov/waterquality).

## 2025 Violation Information

During the 2025 monitoring period, we did not meet our monitoring requirement for coliform bacteria. Fifty samples a month are required for analysis and only 49 were analyzed in February of 2025. A Notice of Violation was issued by the Virginia Department of Health for the failure to collect the required number of water samples. State Health Officials believe that there is little need for concern about the safety of your water because past records show that our waterworks has had few documented problems with bacteriological contamination. The City of Charlottesville has confirmed that all required samples for March of 2025 were taken and there were no positive results for coliform bacteria. For more information, please contact: Westley Kern, Communication & Outreach Coordinator, Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority at (434) 977-2970 ext. 117.

## Charlottesville's Commitment to Water Quality

### Lead Service Line Inventory What You Need to Know

In 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the much-anticipated revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule. In accordance with this ruling, the EPA has required all water providers to identify and create an inventory of all water service lines within their distribution system. The goal of this program was to identify and replace lead service lines that may still be in existence. Since 2023, the Charlottesville Department of Utilities followed a statistical methodology derived from Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, known as the EGLE method, that identified locations where lead water lines could be present. We are happy to report that based on historical records, field verification, and a robust infrastructure replacement program, the Department of Utilities has found no evidence of lead water service lines in the private or public distribution system. Access the Utilities Water Service Line Inventory Dashboard at <https://tinyurl.com/554b3t3d>

### Moving Forward - How Can I Help?

The City of Charlottesville has a firm commitment to providing a safe and reliable source of water, and although we have fulfilled our obligation to State and Federal regulators, we believe that we can continue to improve our inventory by strengthening our understanding of the private distribution system. To help us achieve this goal, the Department of Utilities is asking for your help in identifying and reporting your service line material. A Lead Service Line Inventory Survey has been created to walk you through the necessary steps in identifying your service line material. As part of this process, you will be asked a series of questions followed by a request to photograph and submit an image of the service line.

Access to clean, safe, and reliable water is the number one priority for the Department of Utilities, and the 2025 Water Quality Report confirms that the city's drinking water exceeds all safety standards and poses no threat to public health. For help identifying your service line material, or if you have any questions regarding the new Lead and Copper Rule, please feel free to call Anthony Allard, Utilities Compliance & Operations Administrator at (434) 970-3805 or email, at [allarda@charlottesville.gov](mailto:allarda@charlottesville.gov).

### What if I am immuno-compromised?

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 healthcare providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or visit their website ([www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)).

## Fluoride

Fluoridated water is highly supported by the Virginia Department of Health, the American Medical Association, American Dental Association, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the majority of health professionals in the United States. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) recommends a fluoride level of 0.7 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of drinking water to prevent tooth decay and promote good oral health. Any changes to fluoridation in your water will be based off Federal and State guidance.

Detailed information on the benefits of fluoridation of drinking water is available via the CDC website. The recommended level is a based off scientific evidence in four areas of this subject:

1. The effectiveness of fluoridation on dental caries prevention and control for all age groups.
2. The availability of fluoride through other sources.
3. Trends in the prevalence and severity of dental fluorosis.
4. Fluid intake by children.

Tooth decay is the number one chronic condition for children and optimally fluoridated water is the single most cost-effective strategy that a community can take to improve the oral health of its residents. Studies consistently show that water fluoridation reduces tooth decay by 25 percent and by providing the optimal level of fluoride protects the dental health of people of all ages, not just children.

Please visit [www.cdc.gov/fluoridation](http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation) if you would like further information on the health impacts of fluoridated water.

## Additional Information for Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. 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 in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Charlottesville Department of Utilities 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 the Department of Utilities at (434) 970-3800. 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>.