2026

# Drinking Water Quality Report

Colorado Springs Utilities®

*It's how we're all connected*

## Public Water System I.D. CO0121150

This required report is prepared in accordance with federal and state regulations of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Esta informacion acerca de su awua potable es importante. Si usted no puede leer esto en ingles, por favor pidale a alquien. Que le traduzca esta importante informacion o llame a Cuidado al Cliente al numero (719) 668-4800.

We take pride in providing some of the best drinking water in the nation. The majority of our drinking water comes from high mountain snowmelt which means we are primarily first time users. Hundreds of employees spend many hours protecting our water sources, managing our state-of-the-art water treatment processes, maintaining and operating our facilities and equipment and vigilantly monitoring and testing the water we serve.

## We perform 25,000 water quality tests each year to ensure a safe and reliable drinking water supply for Colorado Springs.

We're proud to share with you the 2026 Drinking Water Quality Report that provides detailed information about your drinking water. If you have any questions about this report or your water, contact us at (719) 668-4560.


We are ranked #1 in Customer Satisfaction with Midsize Water Utilities in the West Region and #1 for Water Quality and Reliability by JD Power, a global consumer intelligence and market research firm, in their **2026 U.S. Water Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study℠**.

South Catamount Reservoir

# 01. Water Source Information

Our water is blended from multiple surface water sources. Your water source may vary throughout the year.

## Mountain water sources

With no major water source nearby, much of our raw water collection system originates from more than 100 miles away near Aspen, Leadville, and Breckenridge. About 75% of our water comes from mountain streams and is collected and stored in numerous reservoirs along the Continental Divide. These collection systems include the Homestake, Fryingpan-Arkansas, Twin Lakes, and Blue River systems.

Most of this raw water is transferred to our city through pipelines that help protect it from contamination such as herbicides, pesticides, heavy metals and other chemicals. After the long journey, the water is stored locally at Rampart Reservoir and our reservoirs on the North Slope of Pikes Peak.

## Local surface sources

To supplement the water received from our mountain sources, we can divert water from these local surface water collection systems:

- North and South Slopes of Pikes Peak: Catamount Reservoirs, Crystal Creek Reservoir, South Slope reservoirs and tributaries
- North and South Cheyenne Creeks
- Fountain Creek
- Monument Creek – Pikeview Reservoir
- Northfield Watershed – Rampart and Northfield Reservoirs
- Pueblo Reservoir

## Purchased water source

Fountain Valley Authority or FVA (PWSID#CO0121300) receives water from the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project – a system of pipes and tunnels that collects water in the Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness Area near Aspen. Water collected from this system is diverted to the Arkansas River near Buena Vista and flows about 150 miles downstream to Pueblo Reservoir. From there, the water travels through a pipeline to a water treatment plant before being delivered to our customers.

## Water treatment

All water sources are treated at one of our treatment plants (FVA water is treated at FVA's treatment plant) prior to entering our drinking water distribution system, an intricate system of tanks, pumps and pipes that ultimately delivers water to your home or business.

Blue River watershed

# 02. Source Water Assessment and Protection

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment may have provided a Source Water Assessment Report for our water supply. For general information or to obtain a copy of the report, visit **wqcdcompliance.com/ccr.** The report is located under Guidance: Source Water Assessment Reports. Search the table by using our system name or ID, or by contacting our laboratory services at (719) 668-4560.


"One of our business's core values is safety and health. Being able to trust that our water source is clean and safe means a lot, and I never have to worry about that here."

*- Anna H., CEO, Pikes Peak Athletics*

The Source Water Assessment Report provides a screening-level evaluation of potential contamination that could occur. It does not mean that the contamination has or will occur. We can use this information to evaluate the need to improve our current water treatment capabilities and prepare for future contamination threats. This can help us ensure that quality finished water is delivered to your home. In addition, the source water assessment results provide a starting point for developing a source water protection plan. Potential sources of contamination in our source water area are listed below.


Continental Hoosier System

## Potential sources of contamination may come from:

- EPA superfund sites
- EPA abandoned contaminated sites
- EPA hazardous waste generators
- EPA chemical inventory/storage sites
- EPA toxic release inventory sites
- Permitted wastewater discharge sites
- Aboveground, underground and leaking storage tank sites
- Solid waste sites
- Existing/abandoned mine sites
- Concentrated animal feeding operations
- Other facilities
- Commercial/industrial transportation
- High-and-low-intensity residential
- Urban recreational grasses
- Quarries/strip mines/gravel pits
- Agricultural land (row crops, small grain, pasture/hay, orchards/vineyards, fallow and other)
- Forest
- Septic systems
- Oil/gas wells
- Road miles

# 03.

# Water Contaminants

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface 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.

## General information

All 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 the 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 (1-800-426-4791) or by visiting **epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water.**

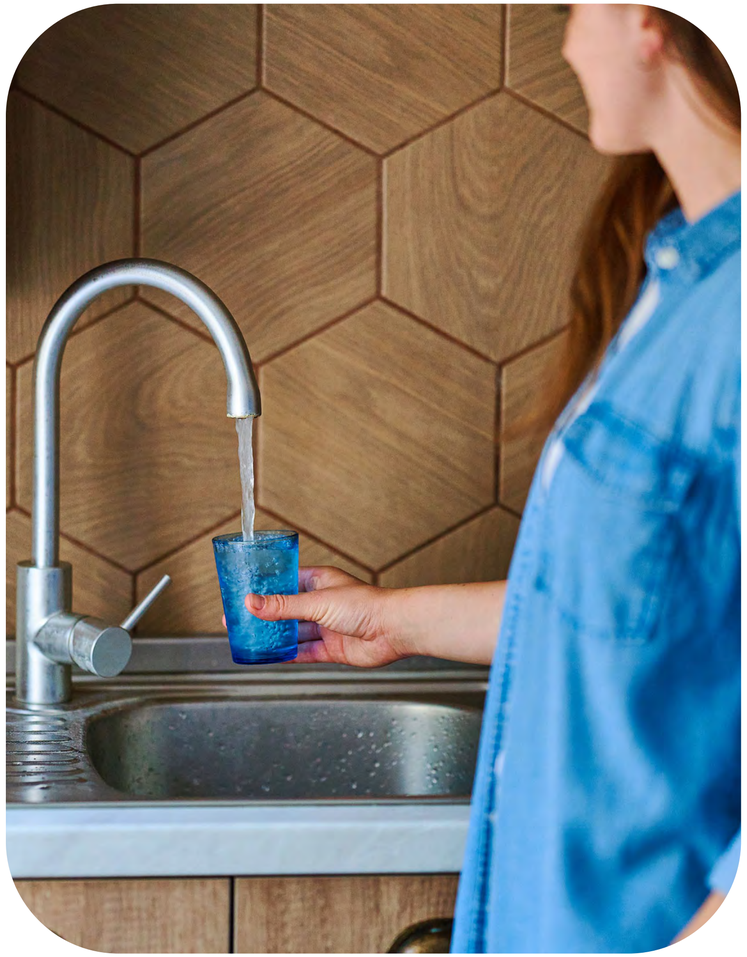
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV-AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the EPA and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and microbiological contaminants call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

## Contaminants

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants: viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants: 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: may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Radioactive contaminants: can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- Organic chemical contaminants: include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.



# 04. Lead in Drinking Water

## Lead in drinking water

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 home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes from our system 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 our Laboratory Services at 719-668-4560. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at **epa.gov/safewater/lead.**

## Service Line Inventory

New state and federal laws require water systems to inventory all water service lines in their service area to classify the material. A service line is the underground pipe that carries water from the water main (likely in the street) into your home or building. If you would like to view a copy of the service line inventory or have questions about the material of your service line, please contact us at 719-448-4800.


## Fluoride

Fluoride is a compound found naturally in many places, including soil, food, plants, animals and the human body. It is found naturally in our water sources and Fountain Valley Authority's. Additional fluoride is not added to either system. Any fluoride in the treated water results from what occurs naturally in the source water.

## PFAS

PFAS are man-made chemicals present in food packaging, commercial household products, drinking water sources and manufacturing facilities. Currently, PFAS are not yet regulated under the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. Under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR), we tested for 29 PFAS compounds in late 2024 and again in early 2025. We did not detect any PFAS compounds above the laboratory reporting limits. For more information about PFAS, visit **https://www.epa.gov/pfas.** More information about UCMR is included near the end of the report.

# Definitions

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.

**Treatment Technique (TT)** – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Health-Based** – A violation of either a MCL or TT.

**Non-Health-Based** – A violation that is not a MCL or TT.

**Action Level (AL)** – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment and other regulatory requirements.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** – 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – 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.

**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 contaminants.

**Violation** – Failure to meet a Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulation.

**Formal Enforcement Action** – Escalated action taken by the State (due to the risk to public health, or number or severity of violations) to bring a non-compliant water system back into compliance.

**Variance and Exemptions (V/E)** – Department permission not to meet a MCL or treatment technique under certain conditions.

**Gross Alpha** – Gross alpha particle activity compliance value. It includes radium-226, but excludes radon 222, and uranium.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** – Measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** – Measure of the clarity or cloudiness of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the typical person.

**Compliance Value** – Single or calculated value used to determine if regulatory contaminant level (e.g. MCL) is met. Examples of calculated values are the 90th Percentile, Running Annual Average (RAA) and Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA).

**Average (x-bar)** – Typical value.

**Range (R)** – Lowest to the highest value.

**Sample Size (n)** – Number or count of values (i.e. number of water samples collected).

**Parts per million = Milligrams per liter (ppm = mg/L)** – One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

**Parts per billion = Micrograms per liter (ppb = ug/L)** – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

**Not Applicable (N/A)** – Does not apply or not available.

**Level 1 Assessment** – A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment** – A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

# 05. Detected Contaminants Tables

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The following table(s) show all detections found in the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025 unless otherwise noted. The State of Colorado requires us to monitor certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. Violations and Formal Enforcement Actions, if any, are reported in the next section of this report.

**Note: Only detected contaminants sampled within the last five years appear in this report. If no tables appear in this section, then no contaminants were detected in the last round of monitoring.**

Colorado Springs Utilities (PWSID CO0121150)
Fountain Valley Authority (PWSID CO0121300)

"At Colorado Springs Utilities, we are proud to safeguard the drinking water our community depends on every day. We are committed to protecting this critical resource through science, innovation and responsible stewardship."

*- Renee S., Environmental Lab Supervisor, Colorado Springs Utilities*

## Inorganic Contaminants

Monitored at the treatment plant (entry point to the distribution system)

| Contaminant | MCL | MCLG | Units | Range detected | Average detected | MCL violation | Sample dates | Possible source(s) of contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barium | 2 | 2 | ppm | 0.02 - 0.05 | 0.03 | No | 2025 | Discharge of drilling wastes; metal refineries; eroision of natural deposits. |
| Fluoride | 4 | 4 | ppm | 0.15 - 1.23 | 0.48 | No | 2025 | Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Nitrate (as Nitrogen) | 10 | 10 | ppm | 0 - 0.4 | 0.14 | No | 2025 | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits. |
| Selenium | 50 | 50 | ppb | 0 - 5.0 | 1.5 | No | 2025 | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines. |
| Sodium* | N/A | N/A | ppm | 8.4 - 23.3 | 12.6 | No | 2025 | Erosion of natural deposits. |

*Secondary Contaminant - secondary standards are non-enforceable guidelines for contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water.

## Volatile Organic Contaminants

Monitored at the treatment plant (entry point to the distribution system)

| Contaminant | MCL | MCLG | Units | Range detected | Average detected | MCL violation | Sample dates | Possible source(s) of contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Xylenes | 10,000 | 10,000 | ppb | 0 - 1.2 | 0.44 | No | January, April, July, October 2025 | Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories. |

## Synthetic Organic Contaminants

Monitored at the treatment plant

| Contaminant | MCL | MCLG | Units | Range detected | Average detected | MCL violation | Sample dates | Possible source(s) of contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2, 4-D | 70 | 70 | ppm | 0 - 0.22 | 0.08 | No | January, April, July, October 2025 | Runoff from herbicide used on row crops. |

## Turbidity

Continuously monitored at the treatment plant (entry point to the distribution system)

| Contaminant | TT requirement | Level detected | TT violation | Sample dates | Possible source(s) of contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Turbidity | Maximum 1 NTU for any single measurement. | Highest single measurement: 0.51 NTU, May. | No | January - December 2025 | Soil runoff. |
| Turbidity | In any month, at least 95% of samples must be less than 0.3 NTU. | Lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting TT requirement: 99.5%, May. | No | January - December 2025 | Soil runoff. |

## Total Organic Carbon (Disinfection Byproducts Precursor) Removal Ratio of Raw and Finished Water

Monitored at the treatment plant (entry point to the distribution system)

| Contaminant | MCL | MCLG | Units | Range low-high | Average | MCL violation | Sample dates | Possible source(s) of contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CSU Total Organic Carbon (TOC) | TT minimum ratio = 1.00 | N/A | Ratio | 1 - 1.31 | 1.07 | No | 2025 monthly - running annual average | Naturally present in the environment. |

## Disinfection Byproducts

Monitored at the treatment plant (entry point to the distribution system)

| Contaminant | MCL | MCLG | Units | Range detected of individual sites | Average detected of individual sites | Highest compliance value | MCL violation | Sample dates | Possible source(s) of contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) | 60 | N/A | ppb | 11.4 - 42.4 | 23.4 | 48 | No | January, April, July, October 2025 | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection. |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) | 80 | N/A | ppb | 25.4 - 62.4 | 40.9 | 48 | No | January, April, July, October 2025 | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection. |

## Disinfectants in the Distribution System

| Contaminant | MRDL/TT | Lowest TT percentage | Number of samples below 0.2 | Units | TT violation | Sample dates | Possible source(s) of contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chlorine | MRDL = 4 ppm<br>TT = at least 95% of samples per month must be at least 0.2 ppm. | 100%<br>December | 0 | ppm | No | 2025 | Drinking water disinfectant used to control microbes. |

### Copper and Lead

Monitored in the distribution system

| Contaminant | AL at the 90th percentile | MCLG | Units | Tap sample range | 90th percentile | Sample size | Sample sites above AL | AL exceedance | Sample dates | Possible source(s) of contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Copper | 1.3 | 1.3 | ppm | 0.0029 - 0.275 | 0.12 | 59 | 0 | No | June 9, 2024 - September 15, 2024 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits. |
| Lead | 15 | 0 | ppb | 0 - 35.4 | 5.7 | 59 | 2 | No | June 9, 2024 - September 15, 2024 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits. |

## Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR)

EPA has implemented the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) to collect data for contaminants that are suspected to be present in drinking water and do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA uses the results of UCMR monitoring to learn about the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and to decide whether or not these contaminants will be regulated in the future. We performed monitoring and reported the analytical results of the monitoring to EPA in accordance with its Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). Once EPA reviews the submitted results, the results are made available in the EPA's National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD) (epa.gov/dwucmr/national-contaminant-occurrence-database-ncod) Consumers can review UCMR results by accessing the NCOD. A total of 30 contaminants were monitored. Only the contaminants that were detected during our UCMR sampling and the corresponding analytical results are provided below.

Monitored at the treatment plant (entry point to the distribution system)

| Contaminant | Average level detected | Range | Units | Sample size | Sample dates |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lithium | 6.12 | 0 - 14.8 | ppb | 12 | October 2024, January 2025 |

More information about the contaminants that were included in UCMR monitoring can be found at: drinktap.org/Water-Info/Whats-in-My-Water/Unregulated-Contaminant-Monitoring-Rule-UCMR. Learn more about the EPA UCMR at: epa.gov/dqucmr/learn-about-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule or contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water.

**No violations or formal enforcement actions.**

## Customers have a voice

As a community-owned utility, we encourage participation in decisions affecting our drinking water. Visit csu.org to learn how you can participate in our monthly Utilities Board meetings.

## General information

To request a printed copy of this report or for questions, call (719) 668-4560 or visit **csu.org/waterquality**. Past reports are also available upon request.