



2026 City of Topeka Annual Water Quality Report Covering Calendar Year 2025

This report is a snapshot of the quality of the water we provided last year. It includes details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies. For more water quality information, visit the EPA website at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/> or the City of Topeka at https://topeka.gov/utilities/water_quality/index.php. You are invited to attend a water quality meeting on August 5, 2026, at 6 pm at 620 SE Madison St. For special accommodations, call 785-368-0943 or TTY 785-368-3603 8 am - 5 pm by August 1, 2026. For any questions related to water quality, or to request a paper copy of this report, please contact Katie Tietz at 785-368-0943.

The City of Topeka withdraws surface water from the Kansas River using two intakes on the south bank. The intakes are capable of pumping up to 110 million gallons of untreated water per day and Topeka consumes an average of 21 million gallons per day. Contaminants may be present in the source water before it is treated. These contaminants may include: Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, livestock operations and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally 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 storm water runoff, agriculture and residential users. Radioactive contaminants, which can occur naturally or result from mining activity. Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, may come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

During the 2025 calendar year, the City of Topeka met all drinking water standards.

Compliance Period	Comments
Jan- Dec 2025	No Violations Occurred in the Calendar Year of 2025

At the City of Topeka water treatment plant, we operate the system and monitor the water quality twenty-four hours per day and seven days per week, every day of the year. We utilize conventional water treatment, which includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, disinfection, and filtration. We monitor the quality of water in the Kansas River and make appropriate chemical and plant process changes to produce drinking water that meets or exceeds water quality standards on a continual basis.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those 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 health care providers.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, 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. 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or by visiting the EPA website at <http://epa.gov/safewater>.

EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). *Cryptosporidium* is a microbial parasite found in surface water throughout the United States. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration cannot guarantee 100% removal. Monitoring of our source water indicates the presence of these organisms. Current test methods do not allow



learning and behavior problems or worsen existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these negative health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney or nervous system problems. 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. Your water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of material 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

The following tables list all of the drinking water contaminants which were detected during the 2025 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 - December 31, 2025. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

The bottom line is that the water that is provided to you is safe.

2025 Summary of Detected Contaminants in City of Topeka Water						
REGULATED CONTAMINANTS						
Contaminant	Regulatory Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Date	Likely Source of Contamination
<i>Inorganic Contaminants</i>						
Barium	48	PPB	2000	2000	5/19/25	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	0.60 (Range 0.22 - 0.60)	PPM	4	4	Jan - Dec 2025	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Selenium	1.0	PPB	50	50	5/19/25	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
Copper (90 percentile) Range Number above AL	0.0324 0.0025 - 0.045 0	PPM	AL = 1.3	1.3	*2021-2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (90 percentile) Range Number above AL	2.4 0 - 6.0 0	PPB	AL = 15	0	*2021-2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
*Our system has monitored for copper and lead in specific homes identified with lead pipe or copper pipe with lead solder since 1992. Due to the low levels detected and because concentrations are not expected to vary significantly from year to year, the State requires us to monitor these homes only once every three years.						
2025 Summary of Detected Contaminants in City of Topeka Water						

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS						
Contaminant	Regulatory Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Date	Likely Source of Contamination
Organic Contaminants						
Atrazine	1.54 (0.13 - 2.9)	PPB	RAA = 3	3	Jan - Dec 2025	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
Chloramines Maximum Disinfection Level	RAA = 3.4 MPA = 3.64	PPM	MRDL MPA = 4	MRDLG = 4	Jan - Dec 2025	Water additive used to control microbes. RAA Units- mg/L
Haloacetic Acids* (HAA5)	46 (Range 19.40 - 86.70)	PPB	LRAA= 60	N/A	Jan - Dec 2025	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	54 (Range 40.32 - 68.3)	PPB	LRAA= 80	N/A	Jan - Dec 2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
*Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.						

Contaminant	Regulatory Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Date	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants						
Coliform (TCR)	* 0.97% (Range 0.0% - 0.97%)	%	≤5% of Monthly Samples (Treatment Technique Trigger)	0	Jan - Dec 2025	Coliform bacteria are usually harmless; however, their presence in drinking water can indicate that disease-causing bacteria may be present.
Total Organic Carbon** Lowest Month for Removal	Number of Samples: 12 Actual Removal Ratio 1.85	Ratio	Required Removal 1.0 Ratio	Lowest Monthly Removal Ratio 1.33***	Jan - Dec 2025	Naturally Present in the environment.
Turbidity	**** 99.86% (Range 0.013 - 0.387 NTU)	NTU	TT=< 0.3 NTU 95% of time. TT= 1 NTU Maximum.	N/A	Jan - Dec 2025	Soil runoff. Turbidity is a measure of cloudiness in the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
* In the months of June, July, August & November, 1 sample returned as positive. ** Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk in getting cancer. *** December ****Lowest Monthly %< # NTU.						

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. Our water system is required to collect and test a minimum of 100 samples per month in accordance with the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) for microbiological contaminants. When coliform bacteria are detected, follow-up testing is conducted to determine whether harmful bacteria are present. If regulatory limits are exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public. During 2025, one sample tested positive for coliform bacteria in June, July, August, and November; however, all required follow-up samples were absent of coliform bacteria. The regulatory limit for coliforms requires that no more than 5% of samples collected in a month may be total coliform-positive (for our system, 6 or more samples), which was not exceeded. The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) for total coliform is zero.

Every five years EPA issues a new list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored. EPA uses 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. Monitoring provides EPA and other interested parties with nationally representative data on the occurrence of contaminants in drinking water, the number of people potentially being exposed, and an estimate of the levels of that exposure. This data can support future regulatory determinations and other actions to protect public health and the environment. In accordance with the UCMR 5, the City conducted quarterly monitoring throughout 2026 for select unregulated contaminants. The results of this monitoring are provided in the table below.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR5).			
Analyte	Result Summary	EPA MRL (ppt or µg/L)	Definitions: PFAs: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances MRL: Minimum Reporting Level ppt: Parts per Trillion ug/L: Parts per Billion
PFBA (Perfluorobutanoic acid)	1 detect at 5.1 ppt, all others ND	5.0 ppt	
All other PFAS (28 compounds)	Non-detect in all samples	varies by analyte (2-20 PPT)	
Lithium	Detected in all quarterly samples: 11.0; 16.6; 12.0; 18.2 ug/L	9 ug/L (MRL)	Lithium is a required UCMR5 analyte. Results above 9 µg/L are expected in many systems — there's no MCL, but EPA is collecting national occurrence data.

SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS- Non-Health Based Contaminants - No Federal Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Established.

Contaminant	Level Detected/ (Range) *	SMCL	Unit of Measure	Date
Aluminum	0.026	0.05	PPM	5/19/25
Calcium	49	200	PPM	5/19/25
Chloride	86	250	PPM	5/19/25
Corrosivity	1.4	0	LANG	5/19/25
Magnesium	6.4	150	PPM	5/19/25
Potassium	8	100	PPM	5/19/25
Silica	2.9	50	PPM	5/19/25
Sodium	66	100	PPM	5/19/25
Sulfate	110	250	PPM	5/19/25
TDS	380	500	PPM	5/19/25
Total Phosphorus (as P)	1.1	5	PPM	5/19/25
pH	9.6 / (9.3-9.8)	8.5	pH unit	Jan - Dec 2025
Conductivity @ 25 C umhos/cm	606 / (374-798)	1500	umhos/cm	
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	135 / (65-135)	300	PPM	
Total Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	150	400	PPM	5/19/2025

* The Level Detected is the same as the range unless otherwise indicated. The likely source of contamination for most secondary contaminants is erosion of natural deposits.

Definitions of Terms and Abbreviations

AL (Action Limit): The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

Contaminant: Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water.

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

LANG (The Langelier Saturation Index): is a calculated value used to predict the scaling or corrosive tendency of water with respect to calcium carbonate (CaCO₃).

LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average): Average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): the "maximum allowed" is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available technology.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): the "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MPA (Monitoring Period Average): An average of sample results obtained during a defined time frame, common examples of monitoring periods are monthly, quarterly, and yearly.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of 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.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): A measurement of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

RAA (Running Annual Average): Average of sample results obtained over the most current 12 months and used to determine compliance with MCLs.

SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): recommended level for a contaminant that is not regulated and has no MCL.

TT (Treatment Technique): a required process intended to reduce levels of a contaminant in drinking water.

umhos/cm (Micro-mhos Per Centimeter): A measurement of the ability of a solution to conduct electrical current.

N/A (Not Applicable) **Non-Detects (ND):** Lab analysis indicates the contaminant is not present.

PPB (Parts Per Billion): or micrograms per liter (ug/L) **PPM (Parts Per Million):** or milligrams per liter (mg/L)