VB Public Utilities

2026 WATER QUALITY REPORT

for 2025 data

About This Report

The Virginia Beach Department of Public Utilities is committed to delivering high-quality drinking water all day, every day. This annual Water Quality Report, also known as a Consumer Confidence Report, is our report card to you. We are pleased to present this report which contains information about your tap water and summarizes test results performed from January 1 through December 31, 2025. In this report, learn where your water comes from, how it is treated and tested, and how Virginia Beach water compares to federal and state standards.

Public Participation Opportunities

The Virginia Beach Department of Public Utilities is part of the City of Virginia Beach municipal government. The City Council meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month except in July and December, when the meetings occur on the first and second Tuesdays. Agendas for upcoming meetings may be requested from the City Clerk's office at **(757) 385-4303** or found online at **www.VirginiaBeach.gov**.

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SPANISH

Este panfleto contiene información muy importante acerca del agua potable que usted consume. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta con respecto a esta información, por favor llame al Departamento de Servicios Públicos al (757) 385-4171.

TAGALOG

Ang pahayag na ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa tubig na iniinom ninyo. Kung kayo ay mga katanungan tungkol sa iba pang nilalaman ng pahayag na ito, pakitawagan lamang po ninyo ang Departamento ng Public Utilities sa (757) 385-4171.

Where Does Virginia Beach Tap Water Come From?

Virginia Beach water comes from surface water treated at Norfolk's Moores Bridges Water Treatment Plant.

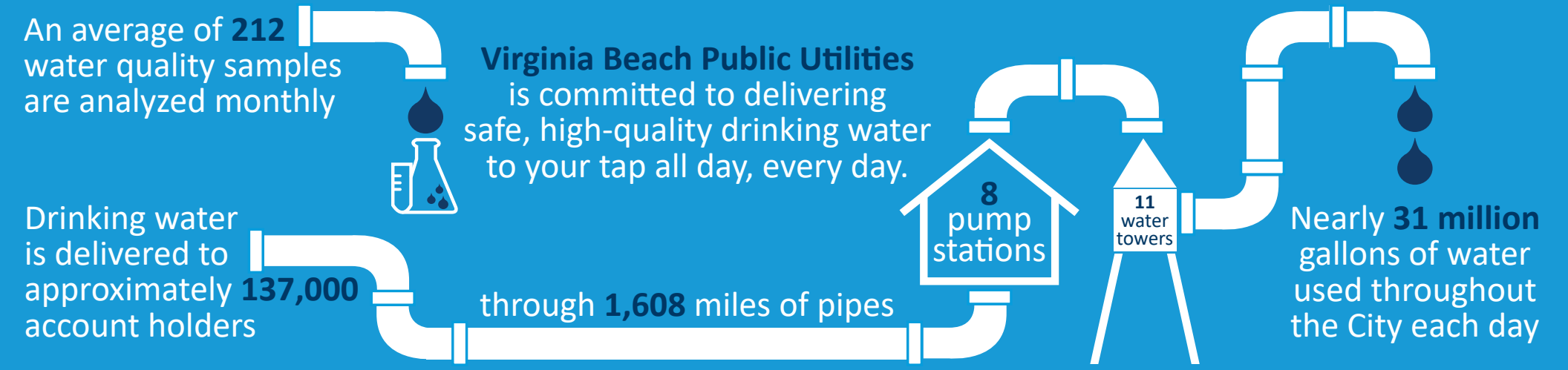
The mission of the Virginia Beach Department of Public Utilities is to provide a safe and sufficient water supply that will enhance and sustain our vibrant community. The Lake Gaston Water Supply Pipeline helps fulfill that mission by providing water to Virginia Beach citizens through a 76-mile-long pipeline leading from Lake Gaston, in Brunswick County, to Lake Prince, a reservoir located in Suffolk that is owned and operated by the City of Norfolk. From the reservoir, water is pumped to Norfolk's Moores Bridges Water Treatment Plant, where it undergoes an extensive filtering and disinfection process before being pumped to Virginia Beach's water distribution system. The treatment plant uses state-of-the-art treatment technology to remove any particles, bacteria, algae, and other impurities. Once treated, water quality is ensured through continual monitoring and testing both at the treatment plant and throughout the distribution system.

Source Water Assessment

Your water is tested before and after it is treated to ensure it meets federal and state standards.

A source water assessment of our system was conducted by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) to determine the susceptibility to contamination of the surface water from which our drinking water originates. In Hampton Roads, all surface water sources were determined to be of high susceptibility to contamination using the criteria developed by the state. Areas that rely on surface water commonly receive this rating. However, Norfolk's Moores Bridges Water Treatment Plant tests and treats the water to ensure it continually meets federal drinking water standards.

The HRPDC assessment report consists of maps showing the source water assessment area, a list of known land use activities of concern, and documentation of any known contamination. The report is available by contacting Don Piron, Public Utilities' Planning and Analysis Manager, by phone at **(757) 385-4171** or by email at DPiron@vbgov.com.



Why Treat Water?

To ensure the water is clean and safe to drink.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include lakes, ponds, reservoirs, rivers, springs, streams, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring organic and inorganic substances. Water also picks up contaminants from animals and human activity.

Disinfection is an essential part of the water treatment process, preventing the occurrence and spread of many water-borne diseases. Norfolk's Moores Bridges Water Treatment Plant treats our source water, testing it for 172 substances. Further testing is performed daily throughout Virginia Beach's water distribution system. An average of 212 water quality samples are collected and analyzed monthly, providing continual monitoring for the highest water quality possible.

Possible contaminants in *untreated* water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from wildlife, pets, agricultural livestock operations, septic tanks, and sewage treatment plants. When ingested, these microscopic organisms can cause diarrhea, fever, and other gastrointestinal symptoms.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from 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 agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential use.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Is the Water Safe for Everyone?

Virginia Beach water meets all Environmental Protection Agency drinking water standards. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has established similar regulations for bottled water.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. However, some people may be more vulnerable than the general population to drinking water contaminants. Immunocompromised persons such as people undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly people, and infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people, or those caring for them, should seek advice from their health care providers about their drinking water.

The EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on reducing the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (**1-800-426-4791**) or the EPA website at **www.EPA.gov/safewater**.

EPA's Revised Lead and Copper Rule

In compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) revised Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), every drinking water system in the country is required to prepare an inventory of all public and private water service line materials in their service area in an effort to identify and remove any lead materials from the water distribution system.

Virginia Beach Public Utilities' water service line material inventory map is available at **VirginiaBeach.gov/lead**.

A Message About Lead in Drinking Water

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. Virginia Beach Public 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 Virginia Beach Public Utilities at **(757) 385-1400**. 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**.

Health Effects of 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.

About PFAS

In recent years, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have gained significant attention due to their potential health risks. PFAS, also called "forever chemicals", are a group of human-made chemicals that were created for a variety of household and industrial uses. PFAS can repel oil, grease, and water, so they have been used in protective coatings for many different products including food packaging, non-stick cookware, and waterproof fabrics.

In 2024, Virginia Beach Public Utilities conducted monitoring under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR5), testing for 29 PFAS substances and lithium. **No PFAS or other UMCR5 contaminants were detected in the water samples.** More information about Virginia Beach's UCMR5 monitoring results and ongoing sampling is available by contacting Nicole Payne, Public Utilities' Utility Laboratory Supervisor, at **(757) 385-1400**.

Virginia Beach drinking water meets all current federal and state water quality standards. Virginia Beach Public Utilities is committed to protecting public health and will continue to monitor this issue closely to stay ahead of potential health risks.

VIRGINIA BEACH WATER QUALITY DATA

JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

REGULATED SUBSTANCES TABLE

Substance	Likely Source	Range	Average Level	Highest Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Unit	Meets EPA Standards
Barium	Erosion of natural deposits	0.02-0.04	0.03	0.04	2	2	ppm	YES
Fluoride	Added to prevent tooth decay	0.1-0.8	0.3	0.6[1]	4	4	ppm	YES
Halocetic Acids (HAA5)	Drinking water disinfection byproduct	13-35	24	29[2]	60	N/A	ppb	YES
Nitrate as Nitrogen	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff	0.05-0.20	0.10	0.20	10	10	ppm	YES
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	Drinking water disinfection byproduct	13-51	30	37[2]	80	N/A	ppb	YES

Substance	Likely Source	Percent Removal[3]	Range	MCL	MCLG	Unit	Meets EPA Standards
Total Organic Carbon	Occurs naturally in environment	57% (45% is required)	51% - 71%	TT	N/A	%	YES

MICROBIOLOGICAL TABLE

Substance	Likely Source	Range	Highest Level Detected	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit	Meets EPA Standards
Chloramine	Drinking water disinfectant	0.5-3.8[1]	3.0[3]	4	4	ppm	YES

Substance	Likely Source	Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting the Limit	Highest Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Unit	Meets EPA Standards
Turbidity	Soil runoff	100%	0.26	< 1.0 maximum, and ≤ 0.3 95% of the time	N/A	NTU	YES

LEAD AND COPPER TABLE FROM 2024[4]

Substance	Likely Source	Range	Number of Sites Exceeding the AL	MCL	MCLG	Unit	Meets EPA Standards
Lead	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits	90% of samples ≤ 1 ND - 4	0	15	0	ppb	YES
Copper	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	90% of samples = 0.124 ND - 0.236	0	1.3	1.3	ppm	YES

FOOTNOTES

(1) The highest monthly average for calendar year.
(2) The highest running average over four quarters at one location.
(3) The highest running average over four quarters.
(4) EPA requires the Lead and Copper Table to reflect monitoring results for the period of January 1st, 2024 through December 31st, 2024. The state allows us to monitor for lead and copper less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

SECONDARY AND UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES TABLE[1]

Substance	Likely Source	Range	Average Level	Highest Level Detected	Secondary Standard	Unit
Aluminum	Erosion of natural deposits; also, from use of chemicals at water treatment plant	0.02-0.05	0.03	0.05	0.05-0.20	ppm
Boron	Natural in environment and manmade origins	0.05-0.13	0.09	0.13	N/A	ppm
Chloride	Natural in environment	13-19	16	19	250	ppm
Iron	Natural in environment	ND-0.02	ND	0.02	0.3	ppm
Nickel	Corrosion of plumbing materials	ND-0.004	ND	0.004	N/A	ppm
pH	Adjusted during water treatment process	7.1-8.3	7.6	7.7[2]	6.5-8.5	pH
Sodium	Natural in environment; also, from use of chemicals at water treatment plant	16-28	21	28	N/A[3]	ppm
Sulfate	Natural in environment; also, from use of chemicals at water treatment plant	29-53	38	53	250	ppm
Total Dissolved Solids	Natural in environment	121-131	127	131	500	ppm
Zinc	Natural in environment; also, from use of chemicals at water treatment plant	0.12-0.22	0.17	0.22	5	ppm

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Substance	Range	Average Level	Unit
Alkalinity	31-55	43	ppm
Ammonia	ND-0.2	0.1	ppm
Hardness	48-74	56[4]	ppm
Silica	3-8	6	ppm

FOOTNOTES

(1) Monitoring unregulated substances helps the EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

(2) The highest monthly average for calendar year.

(3) For physician-prescribed “no salt diets,” a limit of 20 ppm is suggested.

(4) The water averages in the range between soft and slightly hard. This means there is enough hardness for soaps and detergents to work properly, yet not too much to interfere with most industrial applications. To find grains per gallon, divide ppm value by 17.

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE DEFINITIONS

Action Level or AL - The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs (see definition below) as feasible by using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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 set by EPA.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL - The highest level of disinfectant allowed in the drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or 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.

NA - Not applicable.

ND - Not detected in the water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit or NTU - Units describing how cloudy a water sample appears. Turbidity is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

ppb (parts per billion) - Concentration in parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L); this is equivalent to a single penny in $10,000,000.

ppm (parts per million) - Concentration in parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L); this is equivalent to a single penny in $10,000.

Treatment Technique or TT - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions or concerns about your water quality or your Public Utilities account, please contact us.

LOCAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY:
Nicole Payne, Virginia Beach Public Utilities
Phone: (757) 385-1400
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Website: PU.VirginiaBeach.gov

ADDITIONAL WATER QUALITY RESOURCES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791
Website: www.EPA.gov/safewater

Virginia Department of Health
Office of Drinking Water
Phone: (757) 683-2000
Website: www.VDH.virginia.gov/drinking-water

Virginia Beach Public Utilities' Water Quality Website
Website: VirginiaBeach.gov/water-quality

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