

What You Should Know About Your Drinking Water Supply

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2026 Water Quality Report

Maryland Public Water Service Identification Number – 0010008

Pennsylvania Public Water Service Identification Number - 4050028

In Accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

National Primary Drinking Water Regulation 40 CFR 141

Introduction: The City of Cumberland is pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report detailing all contaminant information collected between January 1 and December 31, 2025. The report is designed to inform you about the quality water services delivered to you every day and any violations that may have occurred throughout the year. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable drinking water supply. We want you to be aware of the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and to protect our water resources. The City of Cumberland analyzes its drinking water for all parameters outlined in the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation: Consumer Confidence Report 40 CFR 141 unless a waiver or variance has been granted by Maryland Department of the Environment and/or Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The City also analyzes for many unregulated chemical compounds. Parameters and compounds that were detected in treated water over the calendar year are displayed in the **2025 Water Quality Data Chart**.

Where Does Your Drinking Water Originate: The water for the City of Cumberland is surface water originating from the Lake Koon and Gordon reservoirs located in the Cumberland Valley Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. The primary tributaries supplying water to the reservoirs are Evitts Creek, Growden Run, Oster Run as well as several unnamed tributaries.

In accordance with the Drinking Water Act Amendments, Maryland Department of the Environment and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Maryland Rural Water Association has prepared a **Source Water Protection Plan** for the Evitts Creek Watershed. The Plan evaluates the existing land use and water quality conditions, describes potential contamination threats as well as providing background to support ongoing efforts to protect the watershed through the Evitts Creek Steering Committee (ECSC).

A **Source Water Assessment** has been performed by the Maryland Department of the Environment and is accessible on their website at: https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx

Lake Koon and Gordon are surrounded by approximately 3,623 acres of forest cover. The **Forest Stewardship Plan** outlines goals and guiding principles for sustainable management of forestland with a primary focus on maintaining or improving water quality and quantity. For more information on watershed plans and assessments contact the City of Cumberland at 301-759-6604 or WaterQuestions@cumberlandmd.gov.

Water Conservation: Our water resources are not unlimited – they are affected everyday by precipitation, population growth, economic development and pollution. The most cost-effective way to protect your water resources is through conservation. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/> for water conservation tips, facts, information, and online activities for you and your family.

At Home Pollution Prevention

Prevent the flow of pollution into local waterways is to prevent water from leaving your property as you perform daily activities.

Around the Home: Sweep up trash, dirt, and debris and place it in the garbage. Use Safer Choice products <https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice>, that contain ingredients that are safer for human health and the environment.

In the Yard: Yard waste has the potential to carry hazardous landscaping chemicals like pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers into your local watershed. Sweep up yard waste instead of hosing it away. Reduce bacteria in our waterways by picking up litter from around your yard and neighborhood and carry bags to pick up after your pet.

City of Cumberland							
Maryland Public Water Service # 0010008 - Pennsylvania Public Water Service Identification # 4050028							
Data for both MD and PA water distribution systems unless otherwise noted							
2025 Water Quality Data Chart							
Regulated Parameter	UNITS	RESULT	RANGE	MCLG	MCL	VIOLATION	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Water Treatment Facility (Point of Entry)							
Turbidity (max)	NTU	0.07	NA	NA	1	NO	Soil run-off. Turbidity is a measurement of cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles and is monitored as a good indicator of water quality and effectiveness of filtration
Turbidity Samples <0.3	%	100%	NA	NA	<95	NO	
Fluoride (highest value)	ppm	0.51	0.51	4	4*	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate-Nitrite	ppm	0.5	0.5	10	10	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Parameters - Maryland & Pennsylvania							
Sodium	ppm	7.23	7.23	NA	NA	NO	
Maryland Distribution System							
	UNITS	90th Percentile	RANGE	MCLG	AL	VIOLATION	
Copper tap samples (2023)	ppm	0.092	(ND)<0.0125 - 0.319	1.3	1.3	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Number of sampling sites exceeding the action level for Copper - zero (0)							
Lead tap samples (2023)	ppb	1	(ND)<0.5 - 8.04	0	10	NO	
Number of sampling sites exceeding the action level for Lead - zero (0)							
	UNITS	RESULT	RANGE	MCLG	MCL	VIOLATION	
Chloramines (as Chlorine)	ppm	2.2	0.5 - 3.5	4	4	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes (LRAA)	ppb	48	28.6 - 71.4	NA	80	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (LRAA)	ppb	43	19.5 - 59.9	NA	60	NO	
Total Coliform Bacteria	count	0	0	0	>1	NO	Naturally present in the environment
Pennsylvania Distribution System							
	UNITS	90th Percentile	RANGE	MCLG	AL	VIOLATION	
Copper tap samples (2025)	ppm	0.066	ND - 0.174	1.3	1.3	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Number of sampling sites exceeding the action level for Copper - zero (0)							
Lead tap samples (2025)	ppb	0.29	ND - 4.53	0	10	NO	
Number of sampling sites exceeding the action level for Lead - zero (0)							
	UNITS	RESULT	RANGE	MCLG	MCL	VIOLATION	
Chloramines (as Chlorine)	ppm	2.99	2.5-2.99	4	4	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	55	48-63	NA	80	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	56	39-76	NA	60	NO	
Total Coliform Bacteria	count	0	0	0	>1	NO	Naturally present in the environment
Entry Point Disinfection Residual	UNITS	RESULT	RANGE	MINIMUM	DATE		
Chlorine	ppm	1.7	1.7 - 2.8	0.2	2025		Water additive used to control microbes
THE 5th UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE (UCMR5)							
Results for all 30 contaminants analyzed under UCMR5 are available at the City's website link. Results received for UCMR5 in 2023, 2024 & 2025 were non-detect at the method detection levels (Methods EPA 533, EPA 537.1 & EPA 200.7)							https://www.ci.cumberland.md.us/731/UCMR-5-Public-Notification
* PA DEP maximum contaminant level for Fluoride is 2 ppm							

Terms & Abbreviations to help you better understand the above data
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using best available treatment technology
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - Set by the USEPA - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants
Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow
Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water
Waiver, Variance, or Exception - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions
AVG - Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples
ppb - micrograms per liter (ug/L) or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water
ppm - milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water
ppt - One part per trillion is equivalent to one nanogram (ng/L) per liter. A single drop of food coloring in 18 million gallons of water
NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity
S.U. - Standard Units
LRAA - Locational running annual average
ND - Non-detect - Constituent was not present or was present at levels below the detection limit of the testing method
NA - Not Applicable

General Drinking Water Information

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 at (800) 426-4791.

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 health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

See the **2025 Water Quality Data Chart** that summarizes water testing results for the **2025** calendar year.

Water Treatment

Surface water treatment facilities like Cumberland's are designed and operated to take a raw water source of variable quality and produce consistent high quality drinking water. Multiple treatment processes are provided in series and each process represents a barrier to prevent the passage of particulate matter, cysts and other microbial contaminants. Our Water Treatment Facility utilizes barriers which include clarification, filtration, and disinfection.

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 include:

- 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 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, urban storm water 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 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.

Additional Information Regarding Lead There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

The City of Cumberland – Utilities Division 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.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

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 City of Cumberland – Utilities Division (301-759-6464 or WaterQuestions@cumberlandmd.gov). 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>.

An initial Service Line Inventory was submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment on October 10, 2024. As a result, the Service Line Inventory requirement was fulfilled. The report is available *by contacting 301-759-6604 or WaterQuestions@cumberlandmd.gov*.

PFAS – or Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances PFAS – short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a PFAS monitoring program for Community Water Systems from 2020 to 2022. The results are available on MDE's website: <https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx>.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in March 2023. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are proposed to be 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The proposal for HFPO-DA (GenX), PFBS, PFNA and PFHxS is to use a Hazard Index of 1.0 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

The Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) specifies monitoring for 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium. The City of Cumberland's results for sampling taking place throughout 2023-2024 are available for viewing on the City's website at: <https://www.ci.cumberland.md.us/731/UCMR-5-Public-Notification>. The 5th Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) began testing for 29 PFAS compounds and lithium in 2023, and testing was completed for the Maryland PWSID. Detections greater than the minimum reporting levels for each constituent will be reported in the annual CCR. <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/ucmr5-factsheet.pdf>

This Water Quality Report is available to view at any time on City of Cumberland's website:

www.ci.cumberland.md.us and via the web-link: <http://tinyurl.com/cpshwod>

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS: Call 301-759-6464 or Email WaterQuestions@cumberlandmd.gov

Other water distribution systems in your area include:

LaVale Sanitary Commission at 301-729-1638 * Allegany County Sanitary District at 301-777-5942