2025 Water Quality Report
Metro Main Service Area

METRO WATER DISTRICT DELIVERS SAFE, RELIABLE DRINKING WATER

Office Location
6265 N. La Cañada Dr.
Tucson, Arizona 85704

Customer Service
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Monday – Thursday
7:30 a.m. – noon
Friday

Contact us at
520-575-8100
info@metrowater.com

Visit us at
www.metrowater.com

Board Meetings
are held at 6265 N. La Cañada Drive the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. If Monday falls on a holiday, the meeting is moved to Wednesday.

To request a printed copy of this report, please call us at (520)575-8100 or email us at info@metrowater.com

Este informe contiene información sobre el agua que consume. Si necesita obtener más información, comuníquese con nosotros al 1-520-575-8100.

Metro Water District (District) is pleased to report that the water delivered to your faucet meets all safe drinking water standards. This annual Water Quality Report is required by the Federal Government under the Safe Drinking Water Act. We believe customers who are well informed about their water supply are our best allies in supporting improvements necessary to maintain safe and reliable water.

WHERE DOES YOUR WATER COME FROM?

The District uses groundwater from the northwest portion of the Tucson Basin aquifer. The water in our aquifer was created primarily from mountain runoff and storm water infiltrating into the ground along the Cañada del Oro Wash and the Rillito River.

The Metro Main service area covers a 23 square mile area in the northwest metropolitan Tucson area between Lambert Lane to the north and River Road to the south, with Thornydale Road to the west and First Avenue and Oracle Road to the east. The 25 active wells pump water from the local aquifer. Depth to water ranges from 155.25 to 454.8 feet. Water from wells is placed in reservoirs/storage tanks or pumped directly into the system and moved underground through pipes to reach your home by either gravity or pressure.

While water is made up of hydrogen and oxygen, this life-giving liquid also contains many naturally occurring minerals that affect the taste and hardness of your water. Unfortunately, human-caused and naturally occurring contaminants can also be found in water. This is why the Safe Drinking Water Act exists.

HOW DO YOU KNOW YOUR WATER IS SAFE?

The District routinely checks its water for contaminants. In 2025, 1,511 samples were collected to meet Federal and State regulations, as well as to test for constituents that may or may not be regulated in the near future.

HOW IS YOUR WATER TESTED?

Trained staff collects samples from wells, storage facilities, points in the distribution system, and residents' homes. The samples are analyzed by State licensed laboratories. The test results are reported to the District and the State of Arizona. The District works closely with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to ensure all water quality standards are met.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE WATER TESTED INDICATES CONTAMINATION?

If the public water supply is found not to meet the safe drinking water standards, the District is required by Federal and State regulations to notify customers within affected service areas. Notification may be made by mail and/or through the news media. If a serious situation occurs that may affect the health and well-being of our customers, the District would do whatever is necessary to notify you and provide an alternate source of safe drinking water.

WHAT CONTAMINANTS MIGHT BE DETECTED?

The table on page 3 shows the detected results. The levels of detected contaminants meet the Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. You can also visit the EPA's website regarding the Safe Drinking Water Act at https://www.epa.gov/sdwa

The source of our drinking water is from wells. As water travels through the ground, naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases radioactive material, are dissolved. Water can also pick up dissolved substances resulting from the presence of plants, animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in the public water supply include microbial such as viruses and bacteria; inorganics such as salts and metals; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants, both synthetic and volatile; and radioactive contaminants.

WHERE DO CONTAMINANTS COME FROM?

Contaminants can be man-made or naturally-occurring.

Microbial contaminants may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, residential uses, agricultural activity, livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides may come from many sources, such as agriculture, urban runoff, and residential use.

Radioactive contaminants can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Organic chemical contaminants are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

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. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

IS YOUR WATER TREATED?

The District adds chlorine to its water to eliminate any type of bacterial contamination that could occur in the water pipes. If you notice a persistent chlorine taste or odor, please contact the District.

In 2006, the District completed a $1 million Granular Activated Carbon upgrade to the water treatment system at the South Shannon well site for removal of TCE, PCE and other volatile contaminants. The State of Arizona paid for the upgrade and ongoing operations as part of the State's effort to clean up a Superfund site. ♦

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) completed a Source Water Assessment for the drinking water in the Metro Main Service Area in April 2003. Based on the information currently available on the hydrogeologic settings and the adjacent land uses that are in the specified proximity of the drinking water source(s) of this public water system, the ADEQ has given a high-risk designation for the degree to which this public water system drinking water source(s) are protected. A designation of high risk indicates there may be additional source water protection measures which can be implemented on the local level. This does not imply that the source water is contaminated, nor does it mean that contamination is imminent. Rather, it simply states that land use activities or hydrogeologic conditions exist that make the source water susceptible to possible future contamination. Further source water assessment documentation can be obtained by contacting ADEQ.♦

METRO MAIN DETECTED REGULATED CONTAMINANTS IN 2025

Water Quality Parameter	Maximum Level Detected	Range of Detections	EPA* Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	EPA* Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Units	Potential Sources of Contaminant	Sample Year ***
Microbiological Contaminants							
E. Coli	0	0	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples.	Not Present	percentage	Naturally present in the environment.	2025
Radiochemical Monitoring							
Adjusted Gross Alpha Emitters	1.8	<0.7 to 1.8	15	0	pCi/L	Erosion and natural deposits.	2022
Combined Radium	1.9	<0.6 to 1.9	5	0	pCi/L	Erosion and natural deposits.	2022
Uranium	5.1	<0.8 to 5.1	30	0	µg/L	Erosion and natural deposits.	2022
Inorganic and Metals Monitoring							
Antimony	0.62	<0.50 to 0.62	6	6	ppb	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics, electronics and solder	2023
Arsenic	3.20	0.55 to 3.20	10	0	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits and run-off from agriculture.	2023
Barium	160	<50 to 160	2,000	2,000	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from drilling muds and metal refineries; leaching from bricks and tiles containing barium.	2023
Fluoride	0.29	0.19 to 0.29	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	2025
Sodium	27.0	11.0 to 27.0	NA	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.	2023
Strontium	0.26	0.26	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer production.	2023
Thallium	0.56	<0.5 to 0.56	2	1	ppb	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and pharmaceutical factories.	2023
Volitale Organic Monitoring							
cis-1,2-Dichlorethylene	2.60	<0.5 to 2.60	7	7	ppb	Discharge from industrial chemical sources.	2025
Nitrate							
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	5.5	<0.5 to 5.5	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits.	2025
Disinfection By-Products							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	9.2	0.6 to 9.2	80	0	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	2025
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	4.7	2.9 to 4.7	60	0	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	2025
Chlorine Residual	0.70	0.50 to 0.70	4.0 **	4.0 **	ppm	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	2025

Water Quality Parameter	90th Percentile Level and No. of Sample Over the Action Level	Range of All Samples	EPA* Contaminant Action Level (AL)	EPA* Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCGL)	Units	Potential Sources of Contaminant	Sample Year ***
Lead & Copper Monitoring							
Copper	0.10 No samples were above the Action Level.	0.001 to 0.20	1.3	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.	2025
Lead	0.57 No samples were above the Action Level.	<0.5 to 4.3	15	0	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.	2025

*** EPA is the acronym for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**** The MCL and MCLG for Chlorine Residual is actually the Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL)**

***** The data presented in the report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with drinking water regulations**

ELECTIVE MONITORING FOR UNREGULATED PFAS CONSTITUENTS IN 2025

The District collects elective samples in order to ensure the delivery of safe, reliable water to its Customers. While elective samples are not required for compliance, they assist the District in evaluating water quality to ensure compliance with future drinking water standards.

Water Quality Parameter	Maximum Level Detected	Water Range of Detections	Method Reporting Limit (MRL)	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	Units	Source of Contaminant	Sample Year ***
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (PFBS)	6.20	0.40 to 6.20	2.0	NA	ppt	Synthetic chemical used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant.	2025
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid (PFHpA)	0.64	0.46 to 0.64	2.0	NA	ppt	Emulsifier or surfactant used to make coatings, cleaners, paint and other textiles.	2025
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (PFHxS)	4.50	0.98 to 4.50	2.0	NA	ppt	Synthetic chemical used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant.	2025
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA)	2.00	0.46 to 2.00	2.0	NA	ppt	Emulsifier or surfactant used to make coatings, cleaners, paint and other textiles.	2025
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS)	2.50	0.82 to 2.50	2.0	NA	ppt	Surfactant or emulsifier; used in cleaners, fire fighting foam, and in pesticides.	2025
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)	1.20	0.69 to 1.20	2.0	NA	ppt	Emulsifier or surfactant used to make Teflon, cleaners, paint and other textiles.	2025

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Water Quality Parameter	Maximum Level Detected	Water Range of Detections	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCGL)	Units	Source of Contaminant	Sample Year ***
1,4-Dioxane *(Unregulated VOC)*	0.20	<0.07 to 0.20	NA	NA	ppb	Discharge from petroleum and industrial chemical sources.	2025
Lithium (EPA UCMR5)[1]	18.3	9.4 to 18.3	NA	NA	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	2024
Manganese	3.2	0.32 to 3.2	NA	NA	ppb	Naturally occurring element; used in fertilizers, batteries and fireworks; used in some wastewater treatment chemicals; and an essential nutrient.	2023
1,1-Dichloroethane	1.10	0.50 to 1.10	NA	NA	ppb	Discharge from industrial chemical sources.	2025

[1] Lithium was sampled as part of the EPA's 5th campaign of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5)

***** The data presented in the report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with drinking water regulations**

TUCSON WATER DETECTED REGULATED CONTAMINANTS IN 2025

Microbiological (RTCR)	TT Violation Y or N	Number of Positive Samples	Positive Sample(s) Month & Year	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
E. Coli	N	1	8/2025	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste

Disinfectants	MCL Violation Y or N	Running Annual Average (RAA)	Range of All Samples (Low-High)	MRDL	MRDLG	Sample Month & Year	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	N	1.00	0.94 – 1.07	4	4	2025	Water additive used to control microbes
Disinfection By-Products	**MCL Violation Y or N**	**Running Annual Average (RAA)**	**Range of All Samples (Low-High)**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Sample Year**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	N	1.3	ND – 2.1	60	N/A	2025	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	N	13.6	1.8 – 26.8	80	N/A	2025	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Lead & Copper	**MCL Violation Y or N**	**90th Percentile**	**Number of Samples Exceeds AL**	**AL**	**ALG**	**Sample Year**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Copper (ppm)	N	0.135	0	1.3	1.3	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	N	0.65	0	15	0	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Radionuclides	**MCL Violation Y or N**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Range of All Samples (Low-High)**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Sample Year**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	N	4.4	ND – 4.4	15	0	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium -226 & -228 (pCi/L)	N	1.44	ND – 1.44	5	0	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	N	16	ND -- 16	30	0	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Chemicals (IOC)	**MCL Violation Y or N**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Range of All Samples (Low-High)**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Sample Year**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Arsenic[1] (ppb)	N	8.8	ND – 8.8	10	0	2025	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards, runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	N	0.15	ND – 0.15	2	2	2025	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	N	0.80	0.13 – 0.80	4	4	2025	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate[2] (ppm)	N	6.7	0.25 – 6.7	10	10	2025	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	N	4.3	ND – 4.3	50	50	2025	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Sodium (ppm)	N	70.4	22.4 – 70.4	N/A	N/A	2025	Erosion of natural deposits

[1] Arsenic is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentration and is linked to other health effects, such as skin damage and circulatory problems. If arsenic is less than or equal to the MCL, your drinking water meets EPA's standards. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water and continuing to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic.

[2] Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause "blue baby syndrome." Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, and detected nitrate levels are above 5 ppm, you should ask advice from your health care provider..

Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC)	MCL Violation Y or N	Highest Level Detected	Range of All Samples (Low-High)	MCL	MCLG	Sample Year	Likely Source of Contamination
Atrazine (ppb)	N	0.09	ND – 0.09	3	3	2025	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Simazine (ppb)	N	0.05	ND – 0.05	4	4	2025	Herbicide runoff

TUCSON WATER DETECTED UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS IN 2025

One Metal	Detected Y or N	Average	Range of All Samples (Low-High)	MRL (ppb)	Analytical Methods
Lithium (ppb)	Y	14.8	ND – 63.7	9 ppb	EPA 200.7

The District takes extra measures to ensure the delivery of safe, reliable water, such as auxiliary pumping units, generators, and emergency interconnects from neighboring water utilities. The use of the emergency interconnects are infrequent; however, does occur in short durations. Although you may have received only a small amount of water from the interconnect, the District wants to ensure our customers are fully informed about water quality. Tucson Water's 2025 Consumer Confidence Report is available at https://www.tucsonaz.gov/Departments/Water/Water-Quality/

ARSENIC:

Arsenic is known to cause cancer in humans. Arsenic also may cause other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. The District meets the EPA arsenic drinking water standard, also known as a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). However, you should know that EPA's MCL for arsenic balances the scientific community's understanding of arsenic-related health effects and the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. The highest concentration of arsenic found in 2023 was 3.2 ppb, which is less than the EPA's MCL of 10 ppb.

LEAD:

If present, elevated levels of 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. The District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

NITRATE:

Even though the District meets the EPA nitrate drinking water standard, also known as a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), if you are caring for an infant and using tap water to prepare formula, you may want to use alternate sources of water or ask for advice from your health care provider. Nitrate levels above 10 ppm pose a particularly high health concern for infants under 6 months of age and can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness. Symptoms of serious illness include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin, known as “blue baby syndrome.” Nitrate levels in drinking water can increase for short periods of time due to high levels of rainfall or agricultural activity, therefore we test for nitrate annually with the exception of two locations collected quarterly due to past elevated Nitrate concentrations. The highest level for nitrate found during 2025 was 5.5 ppm, which is less than the EPA's MCL of 10 ppm.

1,4-DIOXANE:

While there is no regulated standard for 1,4-dioxane, the EPA has published an advisory level. This advisory concentration level is 0.35 parts per billion (ppb); for reference a ppb is equivalent to one drop in an Olympic sized swimming pool. In 2024, an Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) treatment system was installed on the South Shannon well to remove 1,4-dioxane. The State of Arizona paid for the upgrade. Prior to the AOP, the District performed blending operation to keep 1,4-dioxane below the advisory level. ♦

DEFINITIONS:

Action Level (AL):

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment, or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

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 feasible using the 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. MCLGs allow a margin of safety.

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.

Minimum Reporting Limit (MRL):

The smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured by a given analytical method.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):

Measure of the radioactivity in water.

ppm:

Parts per million or Milligrams per liter (mg/L).

ppb:

Parts per billion or Micrograms per liter (µg/L).

ppt:

Parts per trillion or Nanograms per liter (ng/L).

WATER... USE IT WISELY!

The District strongly encourages you to use our precious water resource efficiently. Listed below are some water-wise ideas.

- **Receive $200 (and save water and money) for installing a gray water or rainwater harvesting system.**
- **Receive $50 for replacing high water use toilets with a High Efficiency toilet that does not exceed 1.3 gallons of water per flush.**
- **Sign up for the FREE VXSmart Customer Portal at metrowateraz.watersmart.com to access detailed information about your water use.**
- **Check regularly for leaks, both inside and outside. A little leak can drain your wallet.**
- **Change your watering schedule on your drip irrigation and sprinkler systems according to the season.**
- **Maintain your drip irrigation and sprinkler systems.**
- **Water with infrequent, deep soaks.**

EPA WARNS NATIONALLY THAT...

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/CDC 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

HELP PROTECT OUR GROUNDWATER

The District and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) collect water samples each year to ensure we all have safe drinking water.

For more information on the source water assessment, call Wally Wilson, Water Resources Manager, at (520) 575-8100 or visit ADEQ's source water assessment and protection unit at https://www.azdeq.gov/source-water-protection.

LEAD & COPPER RULE COMPLIANCE

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required by the EPA to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. Metro Water District has not found any lead service lines at this time. For continually updated information about the inventory and lead sampling that has been done, please visit https://metrowater.com/water-resources-quality/lead-and-copper-rule-compliance. If you are concerned about lead in your water, contact the District at (520) 575-8100. Additional 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.

METRO WATER DISTRICT

MISSION: TO DELIVER SAFE, RELIABLE WATER TO OUR CUSTOMERS.