



City of Wooster Utilities Division 2025 Water Quality Report

Dear Valued Customer, I invite you to read this report and learn more about your City of Wooster Water Utilities. This report provides information about the quality of your drinking water. The 2025 calendar year was a very productive year for the Utilities Division in the daily mission of clean water. A total of 1.28 billion gallons of drinking water was processed at our facility for everyday customer use. Resources were utilized to operate the Water Production Facility and distribution system for our customers at a high level. The goal for 2025 is “Intentional Progress” as we continue our efforts in protecting the water utilities infrastructure with diligent preventative maintenance and revitalization through reinvestment.

We will continue to focus on infrastructure reliability while ensuring our daily commitment of drinking water to our customers. Our staff is diligent in their duties ensuring the highest quality of drinking water to our customers in a safe, economical and environmentally friendly approach. Our staff is the first line of defense protecting our water and local natural resources. We strive to exceed regulatory and customer expectations in daily delivery of safe drinking water to our customers with a focus on outstanding customer service. Our focus will continue to be on the public we serve through direct infrastructure management. The dedicated stewards on this team are devoted to facility operation and maintenance, water distribution service and maintenance, and billing and customer service-related duties. Our goal and mission are devoted to excellent service to the extent if our residents could choose their water utility, they would select Wooster.

On behalf of the City of Wooster Council, Mayor, administration and employees of the Utilities Division, I am pleased to present our 2025 Water Quality Report.

“Safety, Reliability and Excellence!”

Highest Regards,
Mike Fritz, Utilities Manager

<u>Mayor</u> Bob Reynolds	<u>Water Production Supervisor</u> Bob King
<u>Director of Administration</u> Joel Montgomery	<u>Water Production Mechanic</u> Rory Reed
<u>Utilities Manager</u> Mike Fritz	<u>Water Production Lab Technician</u> Derek Sigler
<u>Utilities Billing Manager</u> Vince Cicconetti	<u>Water Production Operators</u> Jeff Buck Kevin Cormany Emma Fox James Goon Wanjin Kwon Nathan Wichterman
<u>Utilities Office Specialist</u> Pam Corbett	

WATER UTILITIES CONTACT NUMERS

Utilities Manager 330-263-5284	Billing and Customer Service 330-263-5228	Water Quality Questions 330-263-5286 or 330-263-5284	Water Main Breaks 330-263-5286 (24/7)
--	---	--	---

For information regarding the treatment process, tours, future system plans or how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water, please call the Utilities Manager at 330-263-5284. Concerns about the water system may also be addressed at City Council meetings, which are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month (except July & August) at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers, located at 538 North Market Street, Wooster Ohio.

Water Sources and Treatment Techniques

The Wooster Water Production Facility, located at 1020 Old Columbus Road, was commissioned in 1998. Water is pumped from underground well sources. The well system consists of seven wells in two separate well fields. The well fields pump from the sand and gravel buried valley aquifer underlying the confluence of the Upper Killbuck Creek and Apple Creek. The aquifer is covered by 15 feet of low-permeability material, which provides protection from contamination in some areas and little protection in others. The facility is classified by the Ohio EPA as a Class III operation. The treatment process includes ground water sources, coagulation, flocculation, iron removal, softening, sedimentation, VOC removal, re-carbonation, filtration, disinfection and solids handling.

The ground water used by the City of Wooster has high susceptibility to contamination, as evidenced by ground water contamination in the South Wellfield. In 1983, the Ohio EPA discovered the presence of VOCs (volatile organic compounds) in the raw water supply. The source of contamination was determined to be surface spillage migrating from a nearby industrial plant upgradient from the production well. Interceptor wells were installed in 1985, 1989 and 2006 to capture the contaminated ground water prior to migration to the production wells. The interceptors create a hydraulic barrier between the local ground water divide and the production wells. The well system and the treatment components remove contaminants by air stripping thus removing contamination from the aqueous state.

The Utilities Division engaged with the Ohio EPA to create an endorsed “Source Water Protection Plan.” A Source Water Protection Plan includes protective strategies including the establishment of a committee to review the program and advise on its implementation. The program identifies the source and boundaries of the City’s aquifer and the potential sources of contamination that could affect the water in the aquifer as the sand and gravel composition is susceptible to contamination. The City has identified potential sources within the wellhead protection area. These sources include several industrial activities, underground storage tanks, and abandoned landfills. VOCs have been detected in water well S-1, confirming the sensitive nature of the aquifer. The city has worked to keep VOCs out of the remaining public water wells through pumping and ground water monitoring. Intentional treatment techniques are utilized to ensure the elimination of VOCs in the drinking water.

In late 2023 and early 2024, PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) were found in both S-1 and S-2 wells and in finished water at the Water Treatment Plant. The analysis for PFAS has improved from a sampling event in 2020 by Ohio EPA. Minimum detection levels were lowered from 10 ppt to 2 ppt by 2023 when PFAS were sampled again as part of the USEPA UCMR5 (unregulated contaminant monitoring rule) sampling. Further sampling of raw water from the North Wellfield and from individual wells in the South Wellfield found only wells S-1 and S-2 had detectable amount of PFAS. In order to produce finished water with no detectable amount of PFAS, wells S-1 and S-2 were taken out of service in February 2024.

In April 2024, USEPA issued PFAS regulations that require quarterly sampling for PFAS in finished water and to meet MCLs (maximum contaminant levels) for six individual PFAS by 2027. The regulations have been under review since early 2020 with the expectation that the compliance date will be delayed until 2028. The treatment goal included in the regulation is to produce finished water with no detectable amounts of PFAS. The City has been meeting that goal for the six PFAS that are included in the USEPA regulations since removing wells S-1 and S-2 from service in February 2024. The capacity of the North Wellfield and S-3 is 4.75 MGD. Current peak seasonal demands are approximately 4 MGD. The City has completed drilling test wells to site new production wells S-4 and S-5 in the south end of the South Wellfield. Drilling of well S-4 is completed and should be in service by late 2026 with an expected design capacity of 3.25 MGD.

The City of Wooster has placed a priority on protecting its ground water resources through public education and source controls. Education is focused on those activities identified by the potential contamination source inventory. Source controls focus on education, recycling methods, and pollution prevention. Several industrial activities, underground storage tanks and abandoned landfills near the well fields were identified as high priority potential sources of pollution.

Additional Source Water Protection Plan information continued on page 4.

What are sources of contamination to drinking water?

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: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife; (B) 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; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) 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; (E) radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA 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. 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Who needs to take special precautions?

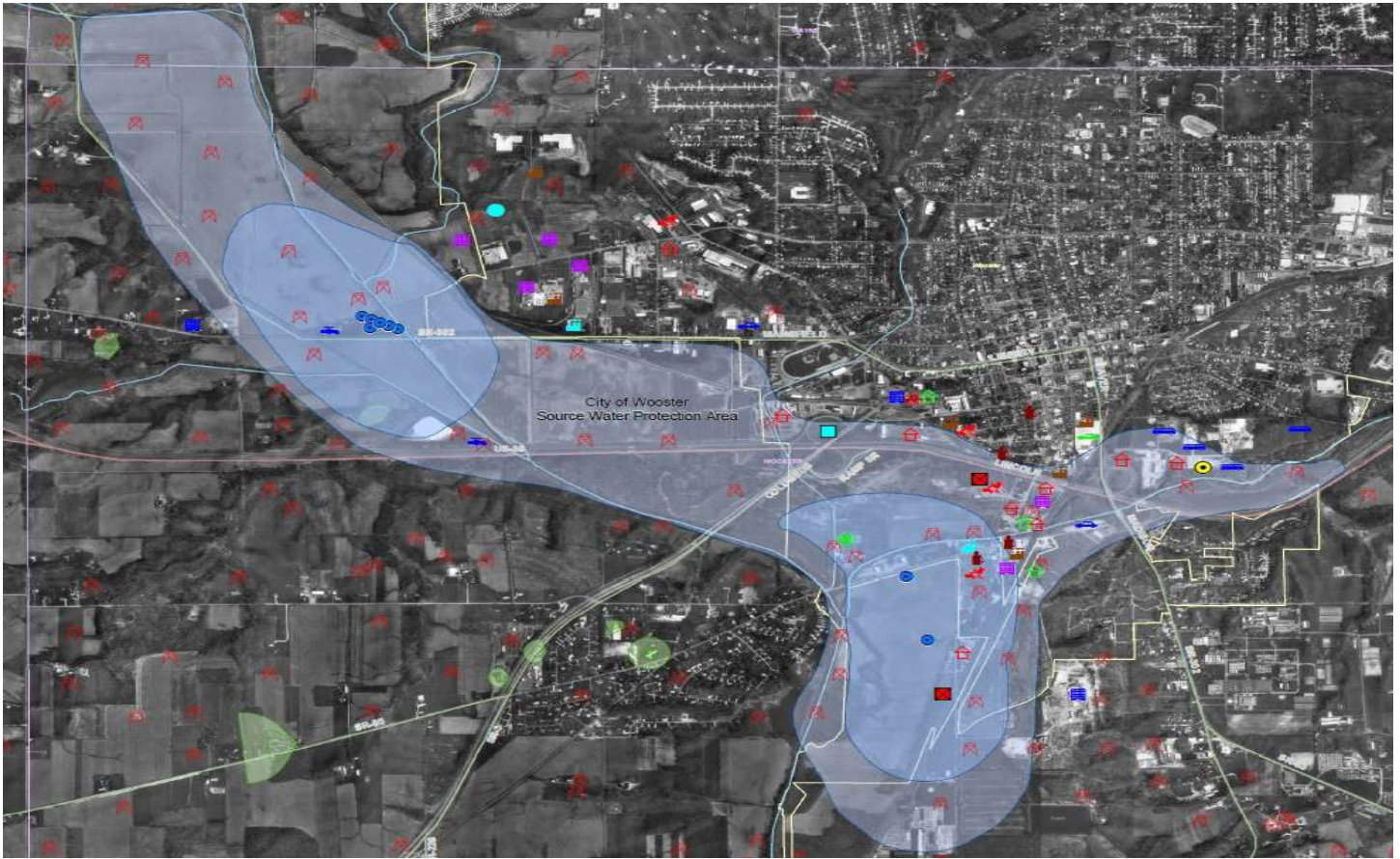
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infection. 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 Ground Water and Drinking Water/Safe Drinking Water Information website: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-information>

USEPA Lead Education Information

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 City of Wooster Water System 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 EPA Ground Water and Drinking Water/Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water website: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

Our distribution system has no lead, galvanized requiring replacement or lead status unknown service lines. To determine this, we used the following sources: construction and plumbing codes, permits, historical records, visual inspections or other documents that indicate service line materials.

The City of Wooster Source Water Protection Area



The City of Wooster has an Ohio EPA endorsed *Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP 2021)* which is a written, adaptive plan of action for protecting the water we drink at the source. The plan also includes emergency action plans in the event of contamination or major infrastructure that affects the quality and/or delivery of water. Wooster's SWPP includes active education and outreach opportunities to share with the general public on our plan and how residents can help protect our most precious natural resource. You can view helpful information and the program document at: https://woosteroh/departments/water/about/source_water_protection_program.php

If you would like to participate in plan updates, please contact Mike Fritz, Utilities Manager at 330-263-5284 or by email at mfritz@woosteroh.com.

2025 WOOSTER DRINKING WATER CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

In 2025, the City of Wooster had an unconditioned license to operate the water system.

Listed below are Regulated Health Related Standards for Water Quality Testing as required by the Ohio EPA. Your drinking water met all Ohio EPA regulatory standards in 2025. The Ohio EPA requires regular sampling and specific testing to ensure drinking water safety. The Ohio EPA requires the City of Wooster to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old but not greater than 5 years. In 2025, the Wooster Water Utilities conducted nearly 15,000 tests on our drinking water through certified laboratories.

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS							
Contaminant (units)	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation?	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.038	0.038	No	2025	Discharge from drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Volatile Organic Compounds							
Xylene (ppm)	10	10	0.0007	.00069-.0007	No	2021	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories.
Residual Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.08	0.96-1.12	No	2025	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	N/A	80	42.58	29.8-57.4	No	2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	N/A	60	3.65	0-7.1	No	2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Lead and Copper							
Contaminant (units)	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	Individual Results over the AL	90th Percentile Value	Violation?	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	15	0	0/30	1.89	No	2025	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0/30	0.0317	No	2025	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

2025 WOOSTER DRINKING WATER CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The table below consists of operational process data and Secondary Standards.

NON-REGULATED SECONDARY STANDARDS - NON-MANDATORY WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AND PRODUCTION DATA							
Test Parameter	Frequency	Yearly Average	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation?	Test Information
Iron-Fe (mg/L)	Weekly	0.04	NA	0.3	ppm	No	Iron is not a health related standard but is aesthetically unpleasant from its yellowish to brownish color and stale taste.
Manganese-Mn (mg/L)	Monthly	0.025	NA	0.05	ppm	No	Manganese is not a health related standard but is aesthetically unpleasant due to the ability to cause stains.
Hardness (mg/L)	Daily	118.28	NA	NA	ppm	No	Hardness consists of calcium and magnesium salts. Soft water creates soap suds easier. Water too soft can be corrosive. The harder the water the more residual deposits. Plant Operational hardness goal is 100-130 mg/l.
Chloride (mg/L)	Weekly	63	NA	250	ppm	No	Chloride concentrations of between 1 and 100 ppm are normal in freshwater. Chloride ions come into solution in water in underground aquifers.
TDS (mg/L)	Monthly	214	NA	NA	ppm	No	TDS in drinking water originate from natural sources, sewage, urban run-off, industrial wastewater, and chemicals used in the water treatment process.
Magnesium (mg/L)	Weekly	9.91	NA	NA	ppm	No	Magnesium is washed from rocks and subsequently ends up in water.
Calcium	Weekly	32.05	NA	NA	ppm	No	Calcium is naturally present in water. It may dissolve from rocks such as limestone, marble, calcite, dolomite, gypsum, fluorite and apatite.
Total Gallons Produced	1.28 Billion Gallons	Average Daily Flow: 3.53 MGD					

As part of the federal 2025 PFAS drinking water rule, Public Water Systems were required to monitor finished drinking water for PFAS by April 26, 2027. We completed our four sampling events on 3/26/25, 6/18/25, 9/26/25 and 11/24/25, analyzing for the six regulated PFAS: PFOA, PFOS, HFPO-DA, PFBS, PFHxS and PFNA. All results were non-detections.

GLOSSARY AND DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in a drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

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 Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): 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.

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.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment of other requirements which a water system must follow.

ppm: Milligrams per liter or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water or 1 second in 11.5 days.

ppb: Micrograms per liter or parts per billion – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water or 1 second in 31.7 years.

ppt: Nanograms per liter or parts per trillion – or one ounce in 7,350,000,000 gallons of water or 1 second in 31,710 years.

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

The “<” symbol: A symbol which means ‘less than.’ A result of “5” means that the lowest level detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

MGD: A measure of flow in million gallons per day.

N/A: Not applicable.

Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): Are a group of man-made chemicals applied to many industrial, commercial and consumer products to make them waterproof, stain resistant or nonstick. PFAS are also used in products like cosmetics, fast food packaging and a type of firefighting foam called aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) which are used mainly on large spills of flammable liquids, such as jet fuel. PFAS are classified as contaminants of emerging concern, meaning that research into the harm they may cause to human health is still ongoing.