ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025

Presented By

The Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard

PWS ID#: AL0001015

Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The water supplied to the Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard (PWWSB) comes from the Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS) Converse Reservoir, also known as Big Creek Lake. The Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard has four water storage tanks and over 2,000 fire hydrants. Line flushing to eliminate aged or discolored water is done throughout the system in a systematic method to improve water quality. System pressures are checked and maintained to a level that provides satisfactory usage to customers.

Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is available. If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office at (251) 457-3396 during regular office hours.

Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It's not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips.

- Automatic dishwashers use three to six gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

Public Meetings

Any announcements of public meetings for the Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard can be found at fixprichardwater.com.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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) or epa.gov/safewater.

Questions About Your Water?

The Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard is committed to providing you with high-quality water. We also understand that occasional concerns may arise. At times the water may appear cloudy or rusty or have an unusual odor. This change in water quality could be caused by various reasons. Construction in the area, in-house water filtration, water system maintenance, recent plumbing work done in your home or business, or seasonal weather-related changes are just a few possibilities. Whatever the reason, we want to address those concerns, which may be conveyed by calling customer service at (251) 457-3396.

Working to improve your service,

John Young
Receiver
Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard

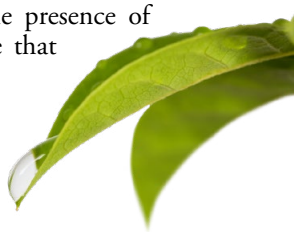
Lead in Home Plumbing

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. PWWSB 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 fam-ily 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 fam-ily's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certi-fied by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead in drink-ing water. If you are concerned about lead and wish to have your water tested, contact PWWSB at (251) 457-3396. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required 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. The lead service inventory is available by contacting our office at (251) 457-3396 during regular office hours. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. All 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.



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 radioactive material, and it can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)

You may not be aware of it, but every time you pour fat, oil, or grease (FOG) down your sink (e.g., bacon grease), you are contributing to a costly problem in the sewer collection system. FOG coats the inner walls of the plumbing in your house as well as the walls of underground piping throughout the community. Over time, these greasy materials build up and form blockages in pipes, which can lead to wastewater backing up into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains. These backups allow FOG to contaminate local waters, including drinking water. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public health hazard. FOG discharged into septic systems and drain fields can also cause malfunctions, resulting in more frequent tank pump-outs and other expenses.

Communities spend billions of dollars every year to unplug or replace grease-blocked pipes, repair pump stations, and clean up costly and illegal wastewater spills. Here are some tips that you and your family can follow to help maintain a well-run system now and in the future:

NEVER:

- Pour FOG down the house or storm drains.
- Dispose of food scraps by flushing them.
- Use the toilet as a wastebasket.

ALWAYS:

- Scrape and collect FOG into a waste container such as an empty coffee can, and dispose of it with your garbage.
- Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid wastes.
- Place a wastebasket in each bathroom for solid wastes like disposable diapers, creams and lotions, and personal hygiene products, including nonbiodegradable wipes.

Disinfection By-Products Explained

Disinfection by-products, commonly called DBPs, form when disinfectants such as chlorine react with naturally occurring organic matter in water. Two of the most commonly monitored DBPs are total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA5). While disinfectants play a vital role in protecting public health by killing harmful bacteria and viruses, these reactions can produce small amounts of DBPs. Long-term exposure to elevated levels of DBPs has been associated with increased health risks, which is why strict federal standards regulate these substances.

We carefully balance the need for effective disinfection with the control of DBP formation. This includes optimizing treatment processes, managing natural organic matter, maintaining proper disinfectant levels, and adjusting system operations seasonally. Customers can help reduce DBP exposure at home by allowing tap water to run briefly before use, using certified carbon filters, and refrigerating drinking water to allow some DBPs to dissipate.

Disinfection remains one of the most important public health achievements in modern history. Water utilities continuously work to ensure that water is both microbiologically safe and compliant with DBP regulations.

Think Before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit bit.ly/3IeRyXy.

Nondetected Contaminants

MAWSS tests for all primary contaminants, which include microbiological contaminants, radionuclides, inorganic chemicals, organic chemicals (synthetic and volatile), and disinfection by-products. In addition, MAWSS tests for secondary contaminants and unregulated synthetic and volatile organic chemicals.

Iron, nickel, silver, zinc, dicamba, metolachlor, metribuzin, propachlor, aldicarb, aldicarb sulfone, aldicarb sulfoxide, 3-hydroxycarbofuran, methiocarb, methomyl, carbaryl, bromobenzene, bromochloromethane, chloroethane, bromoform, bromomethane, n-butylbenzene, sec-butylbenzene, tert-butylbenzene, chloromethane, 2-chlorotoluene, 4-chlorotoluene, dibromochloromethane, dibromomethane, 1,3-dichlorobenzene, dichlorodifluoromethane, 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,2-dichloroethane, 1,3-dichloropropane, 2,2-dichloropropane, 1,1-dichloropropene, cis-1,3-dichloropropene, hexachloro-1,3-butadiene, isopropylbenzene (Cumene), p-isopropyltoluene, methylene chloride, methyl tert-butyl ether, naphthalene, n-propylbenzene, 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane, tetrachloroethene, 1,2,3-trichlorobenzene, 1,1,1,2-tetrachloroethane, trichlorofluoromethane, 1,2,3-trichloropropane, 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene, 11Cl-PF3OUdS, PFDA, PFUnA, 4:2 FTS, 6:2 FTS, 8:2 FTS, 9Cl-PF3ONS, ADONA, HFPO-DA, NFDHA, PFEESA, PFHpS, PFMBA, PFMPA, PFPeS, PFDoA, PFHpA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFTeDA, PFTrDA.

PWWSB also tests for dibromoacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, bromoform, dibromochloromethane, alpha-hexachlorocyclohexane, butylated hydroxyl anisole, anatoxin-a, chlorpyrifos, cylindrospermopsin, dimethipin, ethoprop, microcystin - total, o-toluidine, oxyfluorfen, permethrins - total, profenofos, quinoline, tebuconazole, and tribufos.

Test Results

The table below reflects water quality characteristics from MAWSS (PWWSB's water source). Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

Based on a study conducted by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management with the approval of the U.S. EPA, a statewide waiver for the monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Thus, monitoring for these contaminants was not required.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alkalinity [as CaC03][4] (ppm)	2025	NS	NA	14.0	12–14	No	Naturally occurring
Aluminum[5] (ppm)	2025	NS	NA	0.60	0.16–0.60	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2025	2	2	0.038	0.023–0.038	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Calcium[4] (ppm)	2025	NS	NA	17.8	13.9–17.8	No	Naturally occurring
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	2	0.29–2	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	2025	[800]	[800]	80.0	ND–80	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)	2025	1	0.8	0.74	0.15–0.74	No	Disinfection by-product
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2025	5	0	0.692	0.246–0.692	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2025	15	0	-0.177	-0.233–-0.177	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2025	4	0	0.082	0.027–0.082	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	4	4	1.813	ND–1.813	No	Water additive promoting strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	36.68	6.89–36.68	No	Disinfection by-product
Hardness [as CaC03][4] (ppm)	2025	NS	NA	49.6	38.3–49.6	No	Naturally occurring
Magnesium[4] (ppm)	2025	NS	NA	1.20	0.88–1.20	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	10	10	0.17	0.038–0.17	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Orthophosphate [as P][4] (ppm)	2025	NS	NA	1.36	ND–1.36	No	Corrosion control
Sodium[4] (ppm)	2025	NS	NA	4.0	3.4–4.0	No	Naturally occurring
Specific Conductance[4] (µmho/cm)	2025	NS	NA	129.0	111.0–129.0	No	Naturally occurring
Temperature[4] (degrees Celsius)	2025	NS	NA	40.6	10–40.6	No	Naturally occurring
Total Nitrate + Nitrite (ppm)	2025	10	10	0.17	0.0038–0.17	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (removal ratio)	2025	TT[1]	NA	1.4	1.4–2.2	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM][6] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	67.25	7.61–67.25	No	Disinfection by-product
TTHM [4566 Tucker Drive] (ppm)	2025	0.08	NA	0.106[7]	0.087–0.140	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [4731 St. Stephens Road] (ppm)	2025	0.08	NA	0.096[7]	0.071–0.130	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU)	2025	<0.3	NA	0.298	0.007–0.298	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper[2] (ppm)	2025	1.3	1.3	0.02836	0.002–0.033	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead[3] (ppb)	2025	15	0	ND	ND–0.16	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2025	250	NA	7.8	7.7–7.8	No	NA
Color (units)	2025	15	NA	5.00	ND–5	No	NA
Corrosivity[4] (units)	2025	Noncorrosive	NA	-1.19	-1.54–-1.19	No	NA
pH[4] (units)	2025	6.5–8.5	NA	8.30	7.1–8.30	No	Naturally occurring
Sulfate[4] (ppm)	2025	250	NA	27.5	19.6–27.5	No	NA
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2025	500	NA	83.0	66–83	No	NA

[1] The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio of percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than 1 indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than 1 indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

[2] The AL for copper is 1.3 ppm at the 90th percentile. Samples were taken at 30 locations throughout the Prichard Water distribution system during the most recent sampling event in 2025 in accordance with applicable regulations. The concentration of copper at the 90th percentile was 0.02836 ppm, which was under the AL.

[3] The AL for lead is 15 ppb at the 90th percentile. Samples were taken at 30 locations throughout the Prichard Water distribution system during the most recent sampling event in 2025 in accordance with applicable regulations. The concentration of lead at the 90th percentile was 0.159 ppb, which was under the AL.

[4] MAWSS has implemented a corrosion control program.

[5] Aluminum has an SMCL of 0.2 ppm and may cause discolored water.

[6] We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Test results we received in March, June, September, and December 2025 show our system exceeded the MCL of 80 ppb for TTHM. The following table lists the locations, disinfectant by-products, and levels that exceeded the MCL. Location Contaminant Quarter Level (ppm)
4731 St. Stephens Road TTHM Jan-Mar 2025 0.084
4566 Tucker Drive TTHM Jan-Mar 2025 0.101
4731 St. Stephens Road TTHM Apr-Jun 2025 0.093
4566 Tucker Drive TTHM Apr-Jun 2025 0.106
4731 St. Stephens Road TTHM Jul-Sep 2025 0.095
4566 Tucker Drive TTHM Jul-Sep 2025 0.096
4731 St. Stephens Road TTHM Oct-Dec 2025 0.098
4566 Tucker Drive TTHM Oct–Dec 2025 0.102
This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. PWWSB has increased the line flushing in these areas, and the continuing upgrades to the distribution system water storage will aid in lowering TTHM. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

[7] Locational running annual average.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

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

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

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 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): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NS: No standard.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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

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

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

removal ratio: A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

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

µmho/cm (micromhos per centimeter): A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.