

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023



*Presented By*



## Our Commitment

This year's Annual Water Quality Report covers testing from January 1 to December 31, 2023. The report includes details about your source water, its contents, and how it compares to regulatory standards. We aim to provide you with a safe and dependable drinking water supply and continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the highest-quality drinking water.

We are pleased to announce that the City of Tega Cay's water met all quality standards in 2023. This achievement reflects our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and reliability of your drinking water. For further details or inquiries regarding your drinking water, please contact me at (803)548-3514.

Sincerely,  
Antonio Maturo, Utilities Director

## Community Participation

You are invited to attend our city council meetings and voice your concerns about your drinking water. Council meetings are usually scheduled for the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, located in the lower level of the Glennon Center, 15077 Molokai Drive.

## Important Health Information

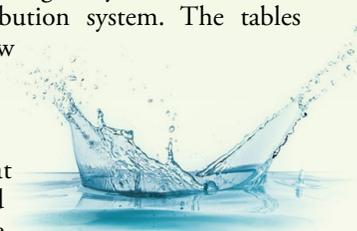
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The 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 at (800) 426-4791 or [water.epa.gov/drink/hotline](http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline).



## Where Does My Water Come From?

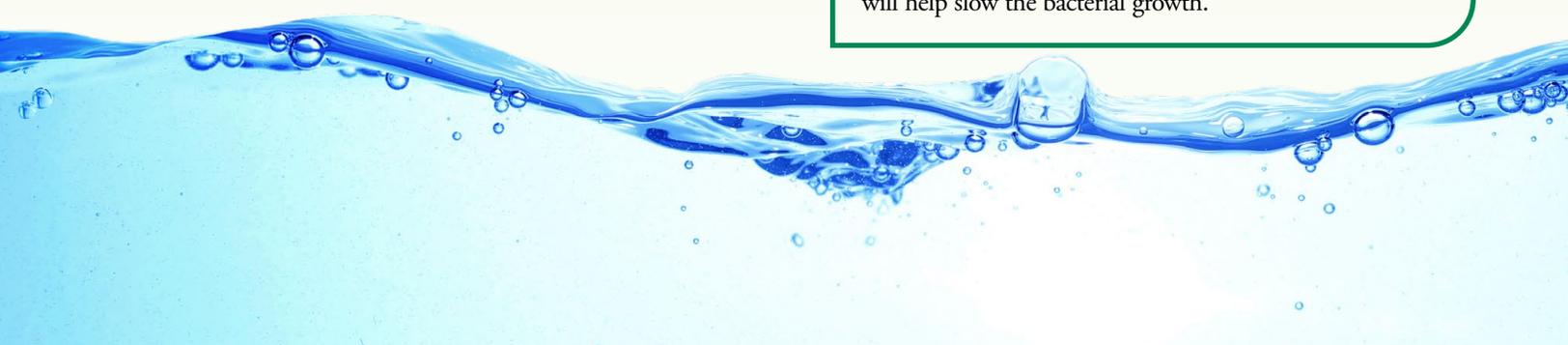
The City of Tega Cay has an agreement to purchase its drinking water from Fort Mill, which purchases its drinking water from the City of Rock Hill. The supply system between the City of Tega Cay and Fort Mill consists of a 12-inch-diameter transmission main installed in the Sutton Road right-of-way from the Catawba River Bridge to New Grey Rock Road. In 2023 Tega Cay purchased more than 386 million gallons from the Town of Fort Mill. This water is distributed through the Tega Cay system to serve residential and commercial customers.

Lake Wylie is the City of Rock Hill's raw water source. Raw water is pumped to the treatment facility. Rock Hill monitors its water treatment process on a 24-hour basis. As state law requires, the City of Tega Cay conducts additional testing throughout its distribution system. The tables contained in this report show the results of monitoring for January 1 through December 31, 2023. The City of Tega Cay is pleased to report that its drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements.



## How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water can be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.



## 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. 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.

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, in some cases radioactive material, and 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;

**Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or may be 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.



## Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but we 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, or 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 the Utility Department at (803) 548-3514. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at [epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## What Are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit [bit.ly/3Z5AMm8](http://bit.ly/3Z5AMm8).



## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many substances on a rigorous sampling schedule. 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 the analytical results is available upon request from the City of Rock Hill). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detected substances below their respective maximum allowed levels.

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 are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Beta/Photon Emitters (pCi/L)	2023	50	0	ND	NA	No	Decay of natural and human-made deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2023	[4]	[4]	1.5	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2023	60	NA	22.0	12.9–28.6	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2023	10	10	0.33	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	2023	TT	NA	0	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2023	80	NA	38.0	16.8–49.1	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

### 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)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2022	1.3	1.3	0.027	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2022	15	0	ND	0/30	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits

### SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	2.0	NA	0.63	0.62–0.63	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

### UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Hardness (ppm)	2023	39.0	20.0–39.0	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Sodium (ppm)	2023	5.5	NA	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Tritium (pCi/L)	2023	1,220	NA	Naturally present in the environment



## What Causes the Pink Stain on Bathroom Fixtures?



The reddish-pink color frequently noted in bathrooms on shower stalls, tubs, tile, toilets, sinks, and toothbrush holders and on pets' water bowls is caused by the growth of the bacterium *Serratia marcescens*. *Serratia* is commonly isolated from soil, water, plants, insects, and vertebrates (including humans). The bacteria can be introduced into the house through any of these sources. The bathroom provides a perfect environment (moist and warm) for bacteria to thrive.

The best solution to this problem is to clean and dry these surfaces to keep them free from bacteria. Chlorine-based compounds work best, but keep in mind that abrasive cleaners may scratch fixtures, making them more susceptible to bacterial growth. Chlorine bleach can be used periodically to disinfect the toilet and help eliminate the occurrence of the pink residue. Keeping bathtubs and sinks wiped down using a solution that contains chlorine will also help to minimize its occurrence. *Serratia* will not survive in chlorinated drinking water.

## BY THE NUMBERS



**5.1** TRILLION

The dollar value needed to keep water, wastewater, and stormwater systems in good repair.



**12** THOUSAND

The average amount in gallons of water used to produce one megawatt-hour of electricity.



**2**

How often in minutes a water main breaks.



**47.5** TRILLION

The amount in gallons of water used to meet U.S. electric power needs in 2020.



**1.7** TRILLION

The gallons of drinking water lost each year to faulty, aging, or leaky pipes.



**33**

The percentage of water sector employees who will be eligible to retire in 2033.

## 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.

**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.

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

**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).

**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.

## 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/3leRyXy](https://bit.ly/3leRyXy).