

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025



Presented By
Orangefield Water Supply Corporation

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (409) 735-9422.

PWS ID#: TX1810186



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.

About Our Water System

Our goal at Orangefield Water Supply Corporation (OWSC) is to provide safe, clean, sparkling water to all of our residents! We are a member owned, not-for-profit water supply corporation. We have provided and served our customers in the Orangefield and Bridge City area since 1995.

The creation of our water supply was a collaboration of smaller water systems to establish our infrastructure we have today. Our system is supported by two 250,000 gallon elevated storage towers located in the heart of the Orangefield community.

Water Loss Audit

If you have any questions about the 2025 water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board, please call our office at (409) 735-9422.



Microplastics in Drinking Water

Microplastics are tiny plastic particles smaller than a grain of rice that are now being detected in oceans, rivers, soils, and even the air. Scientists have also identified microplastics in drinking water supplies worldwide. These particles come from the breakdown of larger plastic products, synthetic clothing fibers, tire wear, and many everyday consumer items. Because plastics degrade slowly, microplastics are becoming increasingly widespread in the environment.

Modern water treatment processes, including filtration and sedimentation, remove a large portion of microplastics from source water. Advanced treatments, such as granular-activated carbon and membrane filtration, can further reduce microplastic levels.

Consumers interested in minimizing microplastic exposure can use certified drinking water filters, reduce single-use plastic consumption, and support responsible plastic recycling and waste reduction efforts.

Community Participation

You are invited to voice concerns about your drinking water at our regularly scheduled board of directors meeting. The Orangefield Water Supply Corporation Board of Directors meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the corporation's office.

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.

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 at (800) 426-4791.



QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Tamara Joseph at (409) 735-9422.

Source Water Assessment

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) completed an assessment of our source water, and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Our two groundwater sources and related source water assessment information are listed below.

SOURCE NAME	TYPE OF WATER	REPORT STATUS	LOCATION
1 - 8328 FM 105	Ground water	Available Online	https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/1810186
2 - 11040 FM 105	Ground water	Available Online	https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/1810186

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (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 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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material and 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, 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 may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily cause for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact our business office. 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

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. OWSC 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. 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 it tested, contact our office at (409) 735-9422. 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. We are still developing the inventory due to staff turnover. In the meantime, please feel free to contact us at (409) 735-9422 to ask any questions on any lead sampling that has been done.

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.



Test Results

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.

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.

The percentage of total organic carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month, and the system met all TOC removal requirements set.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2023	2	2	0.231	0.202–0.231	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	1.13	0.63–1.56	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2021	5	0	1.5	1.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	4	4	0.32	0.27–0.32	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5s] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	4.3	ND–4.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	33.4	27–33.4	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)	RANGE LOW- HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	1.3	0.1428	0.0024– 0.1636	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0	2.35	0–5.62	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES¹

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2025	9.3	7.5–9.3	NA

¹Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the U.S. EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

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 that 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.

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).

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

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.



About Our Violations

VIOLATION PERIOD	ANALYTE	VIOLATION TYPE	VIOLATION EXPLANATION	CORRECTIVE ACTION
10/17/2024 - 8/11/2025	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	Failed to issue public notice or failed to provide a copy of the notice and certification to the state	The system has engaged a professional compliance firm to prepare and distribute the required public notices and to ensure all future CCRs, notices, and certifications are completed correctly moving forward.
10/17/2024 - 8/8/2025	LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS	LSL INVENTORY-INITIAL	Failed to develop an initial inventory identifying the materials of all service lines in the distribution system	
10/17/2024 - 8/8/2025	LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS	LSL REPORTING-INITIAL	Failed to report the lead service line inventory results and provide the required notification to the state on time	
7/1/25	CONSUMER CONFIDENCE RULE	CCR ADEQUACY/ AVAILABILITY/CONTENT	Inadequate Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) or failure to deliver a CCR Certification form to the state on time	

— BY THE NUMBERS —



82

The average number of gallons of water an American uses per day.



27%

The percent of household water use attributable to toilets.



700

The average number of gallons that a household can save each year with water-efficient fixtures.



50-100

The typical design lifespan of underground drinking water pipes, in years.



<1%

The percent of Earth's water that is readily available as fresh drinking water.

Safeguard Your Drinking Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone’s responsibility. You can help protect your community’s drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain it to reduce leaching to water sources, or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use U.S. EPA’s Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with others in your neighborhood. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people “Dump No Waste – Drains to River” or “Protect Your Water.” Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.



What’s Your Water Footprint?

You may have some understanding about your carbon footprint, but how much do you know about your water footprint? The water footprint of an individual, community, or business is defined as the total volume of fresh water that is used to produce the goods and services that are consumed by the individual or community or produced by the business. For example, 11 gallons of water are needed to irrigate and wash the fruit in one half-gallon container of orange juice. Thirty-seven gallons of water are used to grow, produce, package, and ship the beans in that morning cup of coffee. Two hundred and sixty-four gallons of water are required to produce one quart of milk, and 4,200 gallons of water are required to produce two pounds of beef.

According to the U.S. EPA, the average American uses over 180 gallons of water daily. In fact, in the developed world, one flush of a toilet uses as much water as the average person in the developing world allocates for an entire day’s cooking, washing, cleaning, and drinking. The annual American per capita water footprint is about 8,000 cubic feet, twice the global per capita average. With water use increasing sixfold in the past century, our demands for fresh water are rapidly outstripping what the planet can replenish.

To check out your own water footprint, go to watercalculator.org.

Why can tap water have a taste?

Taste in drinking water is usually related to naturally occurring minerals, disinfectants, or seasonal changes in source water. While these characteristics may affect taste, they do not typically indicate a health risk.

Why is water sometimes called the “original energy drink”?

Water helps regulate body temperature, supports digestion, and keeps joints moving—without sugar, calories, or caffeine.

Can weather affect drinking water quality?

Heavy rain, drought, or seasonal changes can influence source water conditions. Water systems adjust treatment processes as needed to maintain water quality during changing environmental conditions.

Why is maintaining water infrastructure important?

Pipes, pumps, and treatment facilities are critical for delivering safe drinking water. Regular maintenance and upgrades help prevent leaks, breaks, and service disruptions.

What can customers do to help protect water quality?

Customers can help by reporting leaks, avoiding cross-connections, maintaining household plumbing, and staying informed through their annual water quality report.

