

2025 Ocean Springs Drinking Water Quality Report PWS# 0300005

Spanish (Espanol)

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need 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 infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The drinking water supplied by the City of Ocean Springs is pumped from ground water aquifers using five (5) separate wells within the City. The wells draw water from the Graham Ferry Formation. The City also purchases water from the Jackson County Utility Authority (JCUA).

Source water assessment and its availability

MDEQ has completed a source water assessment of the City of Ocean Springs water system and its susceptibility to contamination. All five of the city's wells have a Moderate rating for susceptibility to contamination. An Annual Inspection for your water system has been completed, and the system remains in full compliance with a perfect rating of 5.0.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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:

microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, 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.

How can I get involved?

The City of Ocean Springs Board of Aldermen meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 pm at City Hall, 1018 Porter Avenue, Ocean Springs, MS 39564. Any questions or comments can be addressed at the meeting. We encourage your participation.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to

conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and ensuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

Source Water Protection Tips

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 your system 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 EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. 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.

Monitoring and reporting compliance data violations

The City of Ocean Springs received violations for failure to prepare and report the Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) to the MS State Department of Health, Bureau of Public Supply, by October 16, 2024, as required by the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. We are still in violation of this regulation, but we do plan to prepare and report the Initial Lead Service Line Inventory by July 1, 2026.

Additional Information for Lead

The City of Ocean Springs is currently performing a service line inventory to determine the presence of lead in existing services. Upon completion, this inventory will be available on the City of Ocean Springs official website.

Lead Educational Statement

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 Ocean Springs 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, 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 City of Ocean Springs Water Department at (228) 875-4176. 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>.

Lead Health Statement

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the calendar year of this report, or of the previous year. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDL G	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detected in your water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	0.9	0.61	0.96	2025	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	4.69	4.15	4.69	2025	No	JCUA-By- product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	42.9	2.93	42.9	2025	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	9.55	9.13	9.55	2025	No	JCUA-By- product of drinking water disinfection

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Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	1.0 ppb	ND	1.0	2025	No	JCUA-Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0038 ppb	ND	3.8	2025	No	JCUA- Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	1.5	ND	1.5 ppb	2025	No	JCUA - Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.2	0.0093	0.541	2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	389	381	389	2025	No	JCUA-Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	2	0.5	3.5	2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	20	NA	97.1	80.2	97.1	2024	No	Occurs naturally in groundwater; discharges from water softeners; human and animal waste disposal and leachate from landfills

Unregulated Contaminants

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that once every five years the EPA issue a list of unregulated contaminants (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)) to be monitored by public water systems (PWS). The City of Ocean Springs collected samples for 30 of these unregulated contaminants. Results from twenty-nine (29) of the thirty (30) sampled contaminants were below the minimum reporting levels (MRLs).

Contaminants	UCMR MRL	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detected in your water (Avg.)	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Lithium (ug/L)	9	N.A.	9.0	<MRL	14.8	2024	No	In coastal regions, seawater intrusion into freshwater aquifers

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	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.
MCL	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level
UCMR MRL	EPA-established UCMR Minimum Reporting Level. The lowest concentration that laboratories may report to the EPA during UCMR 5 monitoring. MRLs are not associated with health effects information. More specifically, an MRL is the quantitation limit for a contaminant that is considered achievable, with 95% confidence, by at least 75% of laboratories nationwide using a specified analytical method (recognizing that individual laboratories may be able to measure at lower levels.
90 th Percentile	Compliance with the lead and copper action levels is based on the 90 th percentile lead and copper levels. This means that the concentration of lead and copper must be less than or equal to the action level in at least 90% of the samples collected

For more information please contact:

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