

Joiner Rural Waterworks

2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, and we want you to understand and be involved in the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

Our water system exceeded the lead action level during the 2025 monitoring period. This report includes the 90th percentile lead result, the range of sample results, required public notification, and the corrective actions taken. We also received a violation for failing to complete the required public education following the lead action level exceedance. A public notice regarding the exceedance is included in the final two pages of this report. Additionally, our water system had a significant deficiency related to a storage tank that was not inspected on schedule. The significant deficiency has been resolved.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, or if you would like us to provide you with a paper copy of this report, please contact Brandon Haynes, Water Operator, at 870-815-9691. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at City Hall.

How Safe Is the Source of Our Drinking Water?

Our water source is one well that pumps from the Wilcox Group Aquifer. The Arkansas Department of Health completed a Source Water Vulnerability Assessment for Joiner Rural Waterworks in 2002. The assessment summarizes the potential for contamination of our source of drinking water and can be used as a basis for developing a source water protection plan. Based on the various criteria of the assessment, our water source has been determined to have a low susceptibility to contamination. You may request a summary of the Source Water Vulnerability Assessment from our office.

What Types of Contaminants Might Be Found in Drinking Water?

Both tap water and bottled water come from 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. The water can also pick up and transport substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. These substances are also called contaminants.

Contaminants are any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water. 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, and wildlife. *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally in the soil or groundwater 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. *Radioactive contaminants*, which can occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To protect public health, the Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in tap water provided by public water systems. The 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 contaminants does not necessarily mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by contacting the Environmental Protection Agency by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or visiting the website [epa.gov/safewater](https://www.epa.gov/safewater).

Am I at Risk?

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 healthcare providers. EPA/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 on EPA's website [epa.gov/safewater](https://www.epa.gov/safewater).

Lead and Drinking Water

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Joiner Rural Waterworks is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to

ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or washing dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have it tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Corrosion of pipes, plumbing fittings, and fixtures may cause metals, including lead and copper, to enter drinking water. To assess corrosion of lead and copper, Joiner Rural Waterworks conducts tap sampling for lead and copper at selected sites annually. We are currently conducting a study of corrosion control to determine if any changes to treatment methods are needed to minimize the corrosivity of the water.

TEST RESULTS

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The test results table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2025. In the table, you might find terms and abbreviations you are not familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we’ve provided the following definitions:

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.

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 Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) – unenforceable public health 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.

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – 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

Parts per billion (ppb) – a unit of measurement for detected levels of contaminants in drinking water. One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per million (ppm) – a unit of measurement for detected levels of contaminants in drinking water. One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

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

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit	MCLG (Public Health Goal)	MCL (Allowable Level)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Fluoride	N	0.11	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

• 2004 was our last monitoring period for fluoride.

LEAD AND COPPER TAP MONITORING

Contaminant	Number of Sites over Action Level	90 th Percentile Result	Range Detected	Unit	Action Level	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	1	0.018	0 – 0.030	ppm	0.015	Corrosion from household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	1	2.145	0 – 3.12	ppm	1.3	

! Our water system exceeded the action level for lead. Please read this report for an explanation of the exceedance, steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water, and the steps we are taking to address the exceedance. A consumer notice for the action level exceedance is included in the last two pages of this report.

- This report includes only the 90th percentile values and the range of sample results for lead and copper. Contact our office if you would like to review the full set of lead and copper tap sampling data.
- As part of our ongoing efforts to comply with federal regulations, we are currently developing a service line inventory to identify potential lead service lines within our system.

REGULATED DISINFECTANTS

Disinfectant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit	MRDLG (Public Health Goal)	MRDL (Allowable Level)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Chlorine	N	Highest Running Annual Average: 1.08 Range: 0.6 – 1.2	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

BY-PRODUCTS OF DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit	MCLG (Public Health Goal)	MCL (Allowable Level)
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids]	N	Highest Running Annual Average: 26 Range: 0 – 15.4	ppb	0	60
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes]	N	Highest Running Annual Average: 9 Range: 1.59 – 9.63	ppb	NA	80

SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY

Under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, each Water Treatment System must be surveyed (audited) by the Arkansas Department of Health, and all uncorrected Significant Deficiencies must be identified, corrected, and reported to the public. The following was reported on March 6, 2025, upon inspection.

Nature of Deficiency

The water storage tank had not been inspected within the past 5 years.

Progress to Date

The tank has since been inspected, and the inspection reports were submitted to and accepted by the Arkansas Department of Health on March 26, 2026.

VIOLATION

TYPE: Lead and Copper Rule

Failed to conduct Lead Public Education by the required date

FROM:

12/1/2025

TO:

Current

CORRECTIVE ACTION:

We have included the public education materials in this report.

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Joiner Rural Water

Sampling shows elevated lead levels in some homes and buildings.

Joiner Rural Water found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Joiner Rural Water may also have tested your home or building. If they did, you should receive or may have already received these results. These results are specific to your home/building and may be different from the results taken in other locations. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

What is an Action Level?

The lead action level is a measure of the effectiveness of the corrosion control treatment in water systems. The action level is not a standard for establishing a safe level of lead in a home. To check if corrosion control is working, EPA requires water systems to test for lead at the tap in certain homes, including those with lead service lines. Systems compare sample results from homes to EPA's action level of 0.015 mg/L (15 ppb). If 10 percent of the samples from these homes have water concentrations that are greater than the action level, then the system must perform actions such as public education, adjusting treatment, and lead service line replacement.

What Happened?

In September 2025, we collected 5 samples from homes and buildings on our water system and analyzed them for lead. The results of more than 10 percent of our samples exceeded the action level for lead.

Joiner Rural Water is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community; however, lead from service lines and lead plumbing and fixtures can dissolve or break off into water and end up at the faucet. Lead enters drinking water primarily through corrosion of household plumbing materials and service lines. This does not mean that every property that receives drinking water from Joiner Rural Water has lead in the drinking water. It does mean that you should understand how to reduce your exposure to lead through water. Keep in mind that drinking water is not the only potential source of lead exposure, since lead can be found in air, soil, and paint. For more information on all sources of lead, visit [epa.gov/lead](https://www.epa.gov/lead).

Health Effects of Lead

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.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water

Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead from drinking water.

- **Use your filter properly.** Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge, and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, visit EPA's website at [epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/home-drinking-water-filtration-fact-sheet](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/home-drinking-water-filtration-fact-sheet) and EPA's Consumer Tool for Identifying Drinking Water Filters Certified to Reduce Lead.

- **Clean your aerator.** Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.
- **Use cold water.** Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- **Run your water.** The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home. Residents may contact us at 870-537-4252 for recommendations about flushing times in their community.
- **Learn what your service line material is.** Contact us at 870-537-4252 or a licensed plumber to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead, galvanized, or other materials. Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead is EPA's online step-by-step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home.
- **Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Contact us at 870-537-4252 to find out about any construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line if present.
- **Have your water tested.** Contact Eurofins Arkansas at 501-224-5060 to have your water tested.

Get Your Child Tested to Determine Lead Levels in His or Her Blood

A family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide information about the health effects of lead. State, city, or county departments of health can also provide information about how you can have your child's blood tested for lead. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that public health actions be initiated when the level of lead in a child's blood is 3.5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) or more. For more information and links to CDC's website, please visit [epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water).

What is Being Done?

In addition to the information mentioned above that we will provide to residents at locations we sampled, we will also be following up with additional public education to all our customers by December 1, 2025.

We are conducting additional lead and water quality monitoring to better understand the extent of the issue. Our system is also evaluating corrosion control treatment options to identify the most effective method for reducing lead levels. A corrosion control plan will be completed by March 30, 2026, as required by federal regulations. In addition, we are working with the Arkansas Department of Health to develop an inventory of service line materials throughout our distribution system.

For more information, please contact Mayor Michelle Williams at 870-537-4252. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk from lead in drinking water are available from EPA's website [epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water).