BUCKSPORT WATER SYSTEM

Permit# SC2620003

2025 Consumer Confidence Report

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, January 1st - December31st, 2024. 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 people such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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?

Our water is produced through five production wells drilled over 600 feet deep into the Black Creek Aquifer. Aquifer is the name given to underground soil or rock through which ground water can easily move. We also have a connection with Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority to be used in emergency situations. Water from these wells is treated with chlorine to destroy any bacteria or microorganisms in the water and to prevent any recurrence within the distribution system. Wells are monitored daily to ensure security and to maintain proper equipment operation.

Source water assessment and its availability

Our Source Water Assessment Plan is available upon request. Please contact Water System Name at 843-248-3195 to arrange to review this document.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amounts of 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 number 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?

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-rate.

- 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 saving 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.

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.

Additional Information for Lead

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. BWS 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 BWS at 843-248-3195. 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.
A lead service line inventory was completed throughout our system, in 2024. For more information on this inventory please contact us at 843-248-3195.

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 the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. 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 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 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.

Test Results
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Lead and Copper – Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminants (unit of measure)	MCLG or MRDLG	AL	Your Water 90th Percentile	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL (Yes/No)	Sample Date	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.456 Range 0.0058-0.52	0	No	2025	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb)	0	15	2.45 Range 0-16	1	No	2025	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits.

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.

Disinfection & Disinfection By-Products

Contaminants (unit of measure)	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect in Your Water	Range	Violation (Yes or No)	Sample Date	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.0 RAA	0.52-0.98	N	2025	Water Additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	14.0	8.7-16.1	N	2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	84 Highest LRAA was at DPB 20	46.1-131	Y	2025	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Inorganic and Radionuclide Constituents

Contaminants (unit of measure)	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect in Your Water	Range	Violation (Yes or No)	Sample Date	Typical Source
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	3.4	3.4-3.4	N	2025	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sodium (ppm) **Unregulated	NA	NA	250	240-250	N	2025	Erosion of natural deposits.

CONTAMINANT	DETECTED LEVEL	RANGE OF DETECTION	GOAL (MCLG)	HIGHEST LEVEL ALLOWED (MCL)	UNIT OF MEASURE	VIOLATION Y/N	YEAR	POSSIBLE SOURCE
ATRAZINE	0.61	0-0.61	3	3	PPB	N	2023	Runoff from herbicide used on raw crops.
SIMAZINE	0.73	0-0.73	4	4	PPB	N	2023	Herbicide runoff

Unregulated contaminants are those for which U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2024 BWS participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). For a copy of the results please call Ashley C. Proctor at 843-248-3195.

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Detected contaminants that are sampled under the unregulated contaminant monitoring rule must be included in a separate table in the report for the year in which they were sampled. At a minimum, the table must contain the average of any monitoring results from the year, and the range of detections.
Additional information and reference concentrations can be included. Information about these contaminants can be found at https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-ruleand https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/data-summary-fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule See example 1 below for an example of an unregulated contaminants table.

TABLE OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS (Units)	Sample Year	Level Found	Range of Detections
Lithium (ppb)	2023 & 2024	13.3	6.5825-13.3

SCRWA

Total Trihalomethanes (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 systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MCL, LRAA	10/01/2025	12/31/2025	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.

E. Coli – Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these waters can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
Monitor GWR Triggered / Additional, Major	04/13/2026	04/27/2026	BWS failed to collect follow-up samples within 24 hours of learning of the total coliform-positive sample. These needed to be tested for fecal indicators from all sources that were being used at the time the positive sample was collected.

This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by Bucksport Water System, Inc. has a fluoride concentration of 4 mg/L.

Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that have been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.

Drinking water containing more than 4 mg/L of fluoride (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard) can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4 mg/L of fluoride, but we're required to notify you when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2 mg/L because of the cosmetic dental problem.

For more information, please call Ashley Procter of Bucksport Water System, Inc. at 843-248-3195. Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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/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).

Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by USEPA. The purpose of monitoring these contaminants is to help USEPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard.

Tables for Unit Descriptions and Important Drinking Water Definitions

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definition**
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.
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

For more information, please contact:

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