



## **2025 Drinking Water Quality Report**

**City of Dover Department of Water & Wastewater  
5 E Reed Street, Dover, DE 19901**

**PWSID#: DE0000571**

**May 29, 2026**

The Safe Drinking Water Act was amended, in 1996, to ensure consumers are provided with an Annual Water Quality Report containing this important information about their drinking water. The City of Dover is pleased to present our Annual Water Quality Report for the 2025 calendar year. Our goal as a public water purveyor is to provide a healthy and dependable supply of drinking water to our customers, many of which are family and friends of the dedicated people entrusted with the production, treatment, distribution and sampling of our water each and every day of the year. We want our customers to understand the continuous efforts we are making to improve the City's water treatment process and to protect our customers, families and friends, as well as our precious water resources. The City of Dover is committed to providing the highest quality drinking water possible. Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. Additional copies are available at the City of Dover's Public Works and Water & Wastewater office and Dover Library.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health 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 health care providers. More information about contaminants and potential health effects, as well as EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants, can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

An average of over 1,800 routine analyses are performed every month on samples drawn every day from various locations throughout the city. The table below shows the results of the City's regulated contaminant monitoring for the reporting period of **January 1<sup>st</sup> thru December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.**

Regulated Contaminant Test Results								
Contaminant	Year Sampled	Violation (Yes/No)	Range Detected	Highest Level	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Arsenic (As)	2025	No	0 – 3.8	3.8	ppb	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics wastes.
Chlorine (Cl)	2025	No	0.37– 0.82	0.82	ppm	MRDLG= 4	MRDL= 4	Water additive used to control microbes.
Fluoride (F)	2025	No	0.44 – 0.90	0.90	ppm	2.0	2.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth.
Nitrate (NO <sub>3</sub> )	2025	No	0 – 4.34	4.34	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks & sewage.
Nitrite (NO <sub>2</sub> )	2025	No	0 – 0.28	0.28	ppm	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks & sewage.
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Alpha emitters	2025	No	0.75 – 1.65	1.65	pCi/l	n/a	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium-226	2025	No	-0.02 – 0.21	0.21	pCi/l	n/a	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium-228	2025	No	0.09 – 0.29	0.29	pCi/l	n/a	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>								
TTHM's (Total Trihalomethanes)	2025	No	6.7 – 40.7	40.7	ppb	n/a	80	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
HAA5's (Total Haloacetic Acids)	2025	No	0 – 15.1	15.1	ppb	n/a	60	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - one part per million or one milligram per liter corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000<sup>00</sup>.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l)** - one part per billion or one microgram per liter corresponds to one minute in two millennia or a single penny in \$10,000,000<sup>00</sup>.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - the "Maximum Contaminant Level" is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in your drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - the "Goal" is 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 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 contamination.

**Arsenic (As):** While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

**Nitrates (NO<sub>3</sub>) & Nitrites (NO<sub>2</sub>):** The City of Dover did not exceed the maximum contaminant level for these particular contaminants; however the dominant land use for the City of Dover's wellhead protection areas is cropland requiring us to pay special attention to nitrate and nitrite levels. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm or nitrite in drinking water at levels above 1 ppm is a health risk for Infants of less than six (6) months of age. High nitrate or nitrite levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate and nitrite levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

In the summer of 2024, the City of Dover obtained 34 water samples from our customers to comply with the requirements of the Lead & Copper Rule. These samples were analyzed by an independent private laboratory. The City of Dover will perform another round of sampling in 2027.

2024 Lead & Copper Rule Test Results									
Contaminant	Year Sampled	Violation (Yes/No)	Number of sites above Action Level	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Unit	Range Detected	MCLG	AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead (Pb)	2024	No	0	2.0	ppb	0 – 4.2	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (Cu)	2024	No	0	0.110	ppm	0.004 – 0.160	1.3	1.3	

**Action Level (AL)** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Per EPA requirements for all public water systems, The City of Dover has completed a preliminary water service line material inventory of our water system.

This inventory can be accessed at: <https://pws-ptd.120wateraudit.com/doverwaterdept>. When you click this link, you can enter your address in the search bar at the top right-hand side of the web page.

**Lead (Pb):** 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 Dover 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 Dover, Department of Water and Wastewater at (302) 736-7025. 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>.

Secondary maximum contaminant levels are not federally enforceable but are intended as guidelines for contaminants in drinking water that primarily affect the aesthetic qualities relating to the public acceptance of drinking water and represent reasonable goals for drinking water quality. The table below shows the results of the City's unregulated inorganic contaminant monitoring (Delaware Secondary Standards) for the reporting period of **January 1<sup>st</sup> thru December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025**.

Delaware Secondary Standards Test Results					
Contaminant	Year Sampled	Range Detected	Average Level	Unit	Delaware SMCL
Alkalinity	2025	77.4 – 334.6	211.2	ppm	N/A
Chloride	2025	5.2 – 45.6	9.8	ppm	250
Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	2025	25.2 – 113.5	65.0	ppm	N/A
Manganese*	2025	0 – 81.0	30.7	ppb	50
pH	2025	7.5 – 7.9	7.7		6.5 – 8.5
Sodium	2025	11.6 – 199.0	64.0	ppm	N/A
Sulfate	2025	1.7 – 48.9	10.9	ppm	250
Total Dissolved Solids	2025	164 – 396	248.9	ppm	500

**Additional Monitoring:** The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) utilizes advances in sampling technology in programs such as the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR). The purpose of the UCMR program is to determine the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in finished drinking water and use that data in regulatory decision making. The City of Dover participated in the UCMR program during the 2023-2025 study period (UCMR5). The contaminants detected in the drinking water samples drawn by the City of Dover are listed in the table below. Information regarding these results can be obtained by contacting Kate L. Mills, P.E., Water Production Manager, or John Sisson, Water Production Supervisor, at (302) 736-7025.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation Test Results				
Contaminant	Year Sampled	Range Detected	Average level	Unit
Lithium	2024 - 2025	0 – 37.2	23.3	ppb

In addition to the UCMR5 monitoring, which focused on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and Lithium, the USEPA has established legally enforceable levels for specific PFAS compounds: PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, PFBS and HFPO-DA (GenX). The City of Dover is completing the initial monitoring requirements for these contaminants, which will be wrapping up in December of 2026. Even though none of these compounds have been detected in the City of Dover's drinking water to date, it is important to ensure our residents are able to stay informed about these emerging contaminants. For more information on PFAS and how the USEPA is addressing them, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>. For information on how Delaware is addressing PFAS, Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) has put together a very informative presentation which can be reached at the following web address <https://dnrec.delaware.gov/waste-hazardous/remediation/pfas/>.

**Source Water:** 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 materials and, in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up 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, 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

The City of Dover's water supply system uses groundwater from 9 wells in the confined Cheswold aquifer, 6 wells in the confined Piney Point aquifer, and 6 wells in the unconfined Columbia aquifer. The 15 wells in the confined aquifers have a low vulnerability to contaminants while the 6 wells in the unconfined aquifer have a high vulnerability to contaminants. The Division of Public Health, in conjunction with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) Division of Water Resources, has completed the Source Water Assessment for the public water supply wells of the City of Dover which contains detailed information on the potential sources of contamination located within Dover's wellhead protection areas including 9 underground storage tank facilities, 2 wastewater outfall sites, 1 salvage yard, and 1 superfund site. Contact the City of Dover's Public Works office at 302-736-7025 regarding the availability of the Source Water Assessment and how to obtain a copy. You may also review it on-line at: <http://delawaresourcewater.org/assessments/>.

**Source Water Protection:** The City of Dover adopted its Source Water Protection Ordinance, on November 26, 2007, updated March 24, 2008, which is designed to protect our most valuable resource at its source. The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure that groundwater is adequately protected, minimizing contamination of the aquifer to protect public health and safety and to ensure that the aquifer is properly maintained and supplied with clean water through the reduction of impervious surfaces and control of hazardous material use. This ordinance (Appendix B, Article 3, Section 29 - Source Water Protection Overlay Zone) can be viewed at [https://library.municode.com/de/dover/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/de/dover/codes/code_of_ordinances). Please contact the City of Dover Planning office at 302-736-7196 with questions regarding this ordinance.

Additionally, the City of Dover is working closely with DNREC and Delaware Geological Survey (DGS) to monitor various parameters in these aquifers and improve the City's water production operations accordingly with the goal of better protecting these water sources for future generations.

Interested customers can also attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings. These meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 15 E. Loockerman Street, Dover, Delaware. The open forum segment of these meetings begins at 6:15 p.m.

The City of Dover staff would like to thank our customers for helping us in our efforts to provide the highest quality drinking water possible while meeting the challenges of maintaining an adequate supply of clean water for future generations.

If you have any questions concerning the information contained in this report, please contact **Kate L. Mills, P.E., Assistant Director of the Dept. of Water & Wastewater, or John Sisson, Water Production Supervisor, at (302) 736-7025.**