

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025



Presented By



PWS ID#: 1510019



Our Commitment

We are pleased to present this year's annual water quality report, which provides a summary of your drinking water quality for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2025. The purpose of this Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is to provide customers with information about the quality of their drinking water, including details on water sources, detected contaminants, and compliance with state and federal drinking water standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW).

Our goal is to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water that meets or exceeds all applicable regulatory requirements. We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water in accordance with federal and state laws. The results of this monitoring are included in this report.

We are committed to protecting our water sources, maintaining and improving our water system infrastructure, and ensuring the continued delivery of high-quality drinking water. We also remain committed to keeping our customers informed, as public awareness and understanding are vital to maintaining confidence in the water system.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The source of Shafter's drinking water is an underground aquifer. Groundwater is pumped to the surface by a system of wells. The aquifer is replenished through the natural runoff from the Sierra Nevada Mountains and seepage from the many irrigation canals that import water into the area from other regions of the state.

The City of Shafter owns and operates your domestic water supply and distribution systems, which include seven active groundwater wells, five aboveground water storage tanks with booster pumps, and approximately 141 miles of water distribution pipelines. Distribution is made possible by a combination of tanks, water mains, and booster pumps to deliver water to adequate flows and pressures for domestic use and fire suppression.

Water Treatment Process

Treatment at the city's wells is required to meet current health standards set by state and federal health officials. One treatment process is disinfection by chlorination to remove microbiological contaminants. City crews routinely test treated water to ensure it is free of bacteria that may contain these contaminants. There is occasional bacterial detection, usually cleared after retesting or adjusting chlorine dosage.

Another treatment process removes 1,2,3-trichloropropane (TCP), a contaminant left behind from past use of an agriculture pesticide. Although this pesticide has been banned, TCP detections remain throughout the Central Valley. As a result, domestic water suppliers must now install treatment systems that remove TCP from detectable levels. The city has installed TCP treatment systems at all active wells and developed a funding plan to include treatment systems at new wells.

Important Health Information

While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. 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 linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 parts per million (ppm) is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause "blue baby syndrome." Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant and detected nitrate levels are above 5 ppm, you should ask advice from your health-care provider.

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. 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 (800-426-4791) or epa.gov/safewater.



QUESTIONS?

Please call Public Works Director Alex Gonzalez at (661) 746-5004 for more information about this report or if you have any questions relating to your drinking water.

Substances That Could Be in 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 minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material 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, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, that 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 that 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, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants that can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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 indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Source Water Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources for the City of Shafter was initially completed by the state in 1999 and updated by the city in 2009. A copy of the complete assessment is available at City Hall, located at 336 Pacific Avenue. You may request a summary of the assessment by contacting the department at (661) 746-5004.

Lead in Home Plumbing

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The City of Shafter 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 it is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling 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, or doing laundry or a load of 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 and wish to have your water tested, contact the Public Works Department at (661) 746-5004. 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. Please go to <https://www.shafterca.gov/70/Water> if you would like more information about the lead survey.

Community Participation

The City Council of the City of Shafter meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, located at 336 Pacific Avenue, to discuss and take action on various matters that affect the community. Water quality, conservation, and system improvements are often on a meeting agenda. Public input is appreciated and considered before any formal actions are taken.



Test Results

Your drinking water is routinely monitored for a wide range of contaminants in accordance with federal and state requirements. The city conducts sampling on a strict schedule to ensure compliance with all applicable drinking water standards. This report presents the contaminants that were detected in your water during the 2025 calendar year. A complete set of analytical results is available upon request.

It is important to note that the presence of a detected contaminant does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. All detected constituents are evaluated against established maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) set by the U.S. EPA and DDW. Our goal is to ensure that all detected levels remain below these regulatory limits to protect public health.

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.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
1,2,3-Trichloropropane [1,2,3-TCP] (ppt)	2025	5	0.7	78	ND–222	No ¹	Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories; leaching from hazardous waste sites; cleaning and maintenance solvent, paint and varnish remover, and degreasing agent; by-product from production of other compounds and pesticides
Arsenic (ppb)	2025	10	0.004	5.4	1.0–7.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Bicarbonate [HCO3] (ppm)	2025	NS	NA	46	20–62	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Calcium (ppm)	2025	NS	NA	37	7–83	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4 (as Cl2)]	1.15	0.18–2.2	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Dibromochloropropane [DBCP] (ppt)	2025	200	3	6.26	ND–42	No	Banned nematocide that may still be present in soils due to runoff/leaching from former use on soybeans, cotton, vineyards, tomatoes, and tree fruit
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	2.0	1	0.14	ND–0.20	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2025	15	(0)	0.66	ND–3.9	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	0.38	ND–6.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2025	10	20	1.7	0.4–2.60	No	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2025	10	10	4.32	ND–8.70	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
pH (units)	2025	NS	NA	8.0	6.8–8.7	No	Inherent characteristic of water
Potassium (ppm)	2025	NS	NA	1.14	ND–3.0	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	2025	NS	NA	79.14	37–197	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Total Alkalinity [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2025	NS	NA	40.86	20–66	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Hardness [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2025	NS	NA	92.17	17–207	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	5.88	ND–26.00	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity ² (NTU)	2025	TT	NA	4.0	NA	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (pCi/L)	2020	20	0.43	0.9	ND–1.8	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community								
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2024	1.3	0.3	0.0085	ND–0.0085	0/38	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2024	15	0	ND	ND–ND	0/38	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES								
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE	
Chloride (ppm)	2025	500	NS	66.29	13–177	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence	
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	2025	1,600	NS	633	190–1,510	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence	
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	500	NS	147	11–415	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes	
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2025	1,000	NS	400	120–1,030	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits	

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES ³				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2025	0.875	ND–3.000	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromoform (ppb)	2025	3.63	ND–15.00	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2025	2.313	ND–8.000	By-product of drinking water disinfection

¹Result detected is for raw water. Water delivered has been treated to below detectable limits.

²Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

³Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the U.S. EPA and SWRCB determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

Level 1/2 Assessment Update

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year, we were required to conduct one (1) Level 1 Assessment, which has been completed. As part of this assessment, one (1) corrective action was identified and implemented, consisting of flushing the well and sample ports.

No Level 2 Assessments were required during this period.

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 (Regulatory 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.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

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 are set by the U.S. EPA.

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.

NS: No standard.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

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

PHG (Public Health Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California EPA.

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).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

µmho/cm (micromhos per centimeter): A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.