



FOUNTAIN VALLEY

2026 Water Quality Report

This brochure is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State and Federal standards.

Your 2026 Water Quality Report

Since 1990, California public water utilities have been providing an annual Water Quality Report to their customers. **This year's report covers drinking water quality testing and reporting for 2025.** The City of Fountain Valley Water Department (City) vigilantly safeguards your water supply, and as in years past, the water delivered to your home or business meets or exceeds the water quality standards required by federal and state regulatory agencies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) are the agencies responsible for establishing and enforcing drinking water quality standards.

Under the California Safe Drinking Water Act, the City monitors over 100 contaminants in your water supply. This report includes only the contaminants actually detected in the water. In some cases, the City goes beyond what is required by testing for unregulated contaminants that may have known health risks but do not have drinking water standards. Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA and DDW determine where certain contaminants occur and whether new standards need to be established for those contaminants to protect public health.

Through drinking water quality testing programs carried out by the Orange County Water District (OCWD) for groundwater, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC) for treated surface water, and the City for the water distribution system, your drinking water is constantly monitored from source to tap for contaminants that are regulated and unregulated. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of our results, though representative of current conditions, are more than a year old.

Sources of Supply

Fountain Valley's water supply is sourced from six City wells and one imported water connection. The City's wells pump groundwater from a natural underground aquifer that is replenished from the Santa Ana River, local rainfall, recycled Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) water, and imported water. The groundwater basin, which is managed by OCWD, is 350 square miles. It lies beneath north and central Orange County from Irvine to the Los Angeles County border and from Yorba Linda to the Pacific Ocean. A total of 19 cities and retail water districts draw from the basin to provide water to homes and businesses. The imported water connection provides water via the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) that is imported by MWDSC from Northern California and the Colorado River. **In 2025, the City only provided groundwater, which is reflected in the tables in this report.**

Important Health Information

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 (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 (1-800-426-4791) or [epa.gov/safewater](https://www.epa.gov/safewater).



Source Water Assessment

Groundwater Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources for the City was completed in February 2003 and updated in October 2016 for Wells 6, 9, and 10. The groundwater sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with detected contaminants: dry cleaners, gas stations, historic gas stations, NPDES/WDR-permitted discharges, and sewer collection systems. A copy of the complete assessment is available at State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, Santa Ana District, 2 MacArthur Place, Suite 150, Santa Ana, CA 92707. You may request a summary of the assessment by contacting Oliver Pacifico at (714) 558-4410.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Traducirlo, o hablar con alguien que lo entienda.

Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Dịch nó, hoặc nói chuyện với người hiểu nó.



Quality Water is Our Priority

Turn the tap and the water flows, as if by magic. Or so it seems. The reality is considerably different. Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers is a scientific and engineering feat that requires considerable effort and talent to ensure the water is always there and safe to drink. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment and distribution operators must be licensed.



Our licensed water professionals have an understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water;
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions;
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results;
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies; and
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind every drop.

Orange County's Water Future

For years, Orange County has benefited from an abundant and high-quality water supply. As statewide water demand increases, it is essential to use this precious natural resource efficiently and invest in long-term water sustainability. OCWD and MWDOC work collaboratively to develop and implement innovative water management and supply programs, including:

- Water reuse and recycling
- Wetlands expansion and recharge facility construction
- Groundwater cleanup projects
- Ocean and brackish water desalination
- Surface water storage and stormwater capture
- Water use efficiency programs and incentives

These initiatives are enhancing countywide water reliability and water quality while ensuring a sustainable water future for generations to come.

Groundwater Replenishment System

The Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) is a joint project of the Orange County Water District and Orange County Sanitation District. The GWRS is the world's largest water purification system for indirect potable reuse. Every day, this state-of-the-art water purification project can produce up to 130 million gallons of high-quality water that meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. This helps decrease Southern California's dependence on imported water from the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta and the Colorado River.

While other Southern California counties rely mostly on imported water supplies to meet their water needs, Orange County does not. We have a vast groundwater aquifer basin from which we draw a substantial amount of our water. And the GWRS helps supply about 35 percent of the water that refills the basin each year. The GWRS is leading the way in water recycling, creating a locally controlled, reliable supply of high-quality water that is drought-resilient. For more information visit ocwd.com/gwrs/.

Want to Learn More About Water?

There's a wealth of information on the internet about drinking water quality and water issues in general, especially water use efficiency and conservation. Some good sites, both local and national, to begin your research are:

- **City of Fountain Valley:** fountainvalley.gov
- **Orange County Water District:** ocwd.com
- **Metropolitan Water District of Southern California:** mwdh2o.com
- **U.S. EPA:** epa.gov/safewater
- **California Department of Water Resources:** water.ca.gov
- **The Water Education Foundation:** watereducation.org
- **Water Conservation Tips and Rebate Information:** ocwatersmart.com

We Invite You to Learn More About Your Water's Quality

For information or concerns about this report, or your water quality in general, please visit the City's website at FountainValley.gov or contact the Water Quality Technician, at (714) 593-4600. You may also address your concerns at the regularly scheduled City Council meetings held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 10200 Slater Avenue. Please feel free to participate in these meetings. The City firmly believes in the public's right to know as much as possible about the quality of their drinking water and the health of their watershed. Your input and concerns are very important to us.

About Lead in Tap Water

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 Fountain Valley Water Department 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 Water Quality Technician, at (714) 593-4600. 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 Service Line Inventory

Per the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) published by the U.S. EPA, all water systems were required to complete a service line inventory by October 16, 2024, of both utility-owned and privately-owned service lines, to identify lines that contain or possibly contain lead. The City of Fountain Valley completed its Lead Service Line Initial Inventory (LSLI) in accordance with the U.S. EPA's LCRR and determined it has no lead or galvanized service lines requiring replacement in its distribution system. For more information about Fountain Valley's lead service line inventory, please visit fountainvalley.gov/1579/Lead-Service-Line-Inventory.

Water Conservation

Water is a limited natural resource that needs to be used efficiently in both wet and dry years. That's why the City of Fountain Valley has permanent water conservation requirements in place to promote the efficient use of water and reduce or eliminate waste. These requirements are in effect at all times, and additional requirements may be implemented in response to water shortages. To learn about current restrictions, visit fountainvalley.gov/532/Water-Restrictions.

Drinking Water Contaminants

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 DDW 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) or visiting their website at epa.gov/safewater.



Award Winning Water



The City of Fountain Valley is proud to provide our customers with high quality, great tasting water straight from the tap. Our water was voted the “Best of the Best” and “People’s Choice” for taste at the 2025 American Water Works Association California-Nevada Section conference.



Cross Connections

In cooperation with the DDW, the City’s major goal is to ensure the distribution of a safe potable water supply to all domestic water users. For the City to achieve this goal, a Cross-Connection Control Management Plan (CCCMP) was developed with an effective date of July 1, 2025. The City’s CCCMP was developed pursuant to the requirements set forth in the Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPh), which replaced California Administrative Code title 17, sections 7583 through 7605 and applies to all California public water systems, as defined in California’s Health and Safety Code (CHSC, section 116275(h)).

Drinking Water Fluoridation

Fluoride occurs naturally in the City’s water supplies. In addition to the natural levels, the City’s water system adds a small concentration of sodium fluoride to the water to promote dental benefits as a result of a majority vote in the community.



Fluoridating the water helps to prevent tooth decay, especially in children. Because of the dramatic health benefits of fluoridating drinking water, a 1997 assembly bill in California mandated that all large water suppliers begin fluoridating their systems. In 2007 MWDSC began fluoridation of its water supply. The City’s water is fluoridated to the DDW optimal range between 0.6 and 1.2 parts per million (ppm).

Additional Information

For more details on water fluoridation, please visit:

- **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):** cdc.gov/fluoridation or (800) 232-4636
- **State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water:** waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html
- **American Dental Association:** ada.org
- **American Water Works Association:** awwa.org

For specific inquiries about MWDSC’s fluoridation program, please contact MWDSC directly at (800) 225-5693.

Chloramines

The City did not import water in 2025, but it can import water as needed from MWDSC, which produces water using chloramines, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, as its drinking water disinfectant. Chloramines are effective killers of bacteria and other microorganisms that may cause disease. Chloramines form fewer disinfection by-products and have no odor when used properly.

People who use kidney dialysis machines may want to take special precautions and consult their physician for the appropriate type of water treatment. Customers who maintain fish ponds, tanks, or aquaria should also make necessary adjustments in water quality treatment, as these disinfectants are toxic to fish.

For more information, or if you have any questions about chloramines, please call (714) 593-4600.



2025 City of Fountain Valley Drinking Water Quality

For more information about the health effects of the listed contaminants in the following tables, call the U.S. EPA hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visit epa.gov/safewater.

2025 CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER QUALITY					
	MCL (MRDL/ MRDLG)	AVERAGE AMOUNT	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	MCL VIOLATION?	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
Disinfection Byproducts					
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	(4 / 4)	0.46	0.29 - 0.7	No	Disinfectant added for treatment
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	3	ND - 1	No	Byproducts of chlorine disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	10	ND - 10	No	Byproducts of chlorine disinfection
Aesthetic Quality					
Color (color units)	15*	1	1	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3*	1	1	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5*	ND	ND - 0.69	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Eight locations in the distribution system are tested quarterly for total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids; thirty are tested monthly for color, odor and turbidity. **MRDL** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; **MRDLG** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal; **NTU** = nephelometric turbidity units; **ND** = not detected. *Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color).

LEAD AND COPPER ACTION LEVELS AT RESIDENTIAL TAPS							
	ACTION LEVEL (AL)	PUBLIC HEALTH GOAL	90TH PERCENTILE VALUE	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	SITES EXCEEDING AL / NUMBER OF SITES	AL VIOLATION?	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	0.14	ND - 0.22	0 / 33	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	6	ND - 7.6	0 / 33	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

For the sampling event, 33 residences were tested for lead and copper at-the-tap. The most recent set of samples was collected in 2024. Lead was detected in 5 samples, none of which exceeded the Action Level (AL). Copper was detected in 18 samples, none of which exceeded the Action Level (AL). A regulatory AL is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Drinking Water Definitions

What are water quality standards?

Drinking water standards established by U.S. EPA and DDW set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water.

The tables in this report show the following types of water quality standards:

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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.
- 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.
- Secondary MCLs** are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS):** MCLs, MRDLs, and treatment techniques (TTs) for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements.
- Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

What is a water quality goal?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, U.S. EPA and DDW have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices.

The tables in this report include three types of water quality goals:

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** 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.
- 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.
- Public Health Goal (PHG):** 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.

How are contaminants measured?

Units	Units	Equivalence
ppm = parts per million	mg/L = milligrams per liter	1 second in 11.5 days
ppb = parts per billion	µg/L = micrograms per liter	1 second in nearly 32 years
ppt = parts per trillion	ng/L = nanograms per liter	1 second in nearly 32,000 years

2025 CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY DRINKING WATER QUALITY, LOCAL GROUNDWATER

CONTAMINANT	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	AVERAGE LOCAL GROUNDWATER	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	MCL VIOLATION?	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
Radiologicals - Tested in 2023 and 2024						
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	3	1.9 - 4.5	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Inorganic Contaminants - Tested in 2024 and 2025						
Fluoride (ppm) naturally-occurring	2	1	0.4	0.31 - 0.45	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Fluoride (ppm) treatment-related	2	1	See Footnote 1		No	Water Additive for Dental Health
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	10	0.02	1	0.17 - 2.4	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits; Industrial Discharge
Nitrate as N (ppm)	10	10	1.4	0.76 - 2	No	Agriculture Runoff and Sewage
Nitrate and Nitrite as N (ppm)	10	10	1.4	0.76 - 2	No	Agriculture Runoff and Sewage
Secondary Standards* - Tested in 2024 and 2025						
Chloride (ppm)	500*	n/a	38	30 - 52	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600*	n/a	585	507 - 666	No	Substances that Form Ions in Water
Sulfate (ppm)	500*	n/a	75	60 - 96	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000*	n/a	363	262 - 426	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5*	n/a	0.1	ND - 0.4	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Unregulated Contaminants - Tested in 2022, 2023, and 2025						
Alkalinity, total as CaCO₃ (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	168	149 - 186	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	66	52 - 81	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total as CaCO₃ (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	217	171 - 256	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total (grains/gallon)	Not Regulated	n/a	13	10 - 15	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	12	9.6 - 14	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (ppt)	NL = 3**	n/a	ND	ND - 3.4	n/a	Industrial Discharge
pH (pH units)	Not Regulated	n/a	7.9	7.9 - 8	n/a	Hydrogen Ion Concentration
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	2.6	1.7 - 3.7	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	41	36 - 45	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits

ppm = parts-per-million; **ppb** = parts-per-billion; **ppt** = parts-per-trillion; **pCi/L** = picoCuries per liter; **NTU** = nephelometric turbidity units; **µmho/cm** = micromhos per centimeter; **ND** = not detected. **MCL** = Maximum Contaminant Level; **(MCLG)** = federal MCL Goal; **n/a** = not applicable; **PHG** = California Public Health Goal; **NL** = Notification Level

*Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color)

**Effective October 29, 2025, the Notification Level for perfluorohexane sulfonic acid was revised to 3.0 ppt.

(1) The Fountain Valley water system treats your water by adding fluoride to the naturally occurring level in order to help prevent dental caries in consumers. The fluoride levels in the treated water are maintained by the City within a control range of 0.6 ppm to 1.2 ppm.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS REQUIRING MONITORING

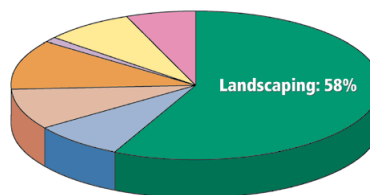
CONTAMINANT	NOTIFICATION LEVEL	PHG	AVERAGE AMOUNT	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	MOST RECENT SAMPLING DATE
Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (ppt)*	3	n/a	ND	ND - 3.5	2025

* Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid was also included as part of the unregulated contaminants requiring monitoring.



Where Do We Use Water the Most?

Outdoor watering of lawns and gardens makes up approximately 60 percent of home water use. By reducing your outdoor water use by either cutting back on irrigation or planting more drought-tolerant landscaping, you can dramatically reduce your overall water use. Save the most where you use the most—make your outdoor use efficient.



● Showers & Baths: 8% ● Toilets: 11%
● Clothes Washers: 9% ● Leaks: 7%
● Dishwashers: 1% ● Faucets: 6%

Data is representative of average consumption; your water usage may vary.

Track Your Water Usage

As part of the City's efforts to help customers manage their water usage and save money, residents and businesses can monitor their water consumption through the Water Usage Customer Portal. Customers can use the portal to view their water consumption data online and sign up to receive email alerts. The portal gives customers access to up-to-date data regarding their hourly, daily, weekly, and monthly water usage so they can identify potential problems, manage their water use, and aid in water conservation efforts. Simply visit fountainvalley.gov and click Water Usage to set up your Water Usage Customer Portal account. All you need is the name on your water bill and your email address, account number, and customer identification number.

Tips To Make Every Drop Count

Do you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day? That's 100 gallons per person per day! Luckily, there are many low- and no-cost ways to conserve water. **Here are a few ideas to get you started, because even small changes can make a big difference.**

- **Take short showers.** A five-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water, compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- **Turn off the water** while brushing your teeth, washing your hair, and shaving to save up to 500 gallons a month.
- **Use a water-efficient showerhead.** They are inexpensive, easy to install, and can save up to 750 gallons a month.
- **Fix leaking 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.
- **Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when full** to save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- **Water plants only when necessary, and adjust sprinklers** to water your lawn—not the sidewalk or street.
- **Water before 9:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m.** to reduce evaporation.
- **Limit watering to 15 minutes or less** per station to prevent runoff.



City of Fountain Valley
Field Services - Water Department

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FountainValley.gov



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MannyNunezAerial.com