

City of Del Mar

2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

This report is a snapshot of the quality of the water the City of San Diego provided to the City of Del Mar during calendar year 2025. We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. EPA and State drinking water health standards. The City of Del Mar vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again, we are proud to report that our system has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

Where does my water come from?

The City of Del Mar purchases untreated water from the San Diego County Water Authority ([sdcwa.org](https://www.sdcwa.org)), which purchases water from multiple sources⁽¹⁾, including the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California ([mwdh2o.com](https://www.mwdh2o.com)). The City of San Diego treats the water for the City of Del Mar at the Miramar Water Treatment Plant. The treated water is pumped to and stored in the City's four potable water reservoirs.

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 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Board prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health. In 2024 as in past years, your tap water not only met, but parameters were less than all U.S. Environment Protection Agency and State of California regulatory limits for drinking water health standards.

Important Health Information

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. EPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791). During calendar year 2025, the water supply to each of the City's purveyor water treatment plants was monitored for *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*, and neither was detected.

LEAD AND COPPER

If present, elevated levels of 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 Del Mar is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at www.epa.gov/lead or from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

Lead and copper enter drinking water primarily through plumbing materials. Exposure to lead and copper may cause health problems ranging from stomach distress to brain damage. In 1991, the EPA published the Lead and Copper Rule to control lead and copper in drinking water. The rule requires the City to monitor drinking water at customer taps. If lead concentrations exceed an Action Level (AL) of 15 ppb, or copper concentrations exceed an AL of 1.3 ppm in more than 10 percent of taps sampled, i.e. the 90th percentile, the City would be required to undertake a number of additional actions to inform the public and control corrosion.

In 2024, 18 customers (plus 'the Winston School') provided a total of 20 samples from their taps to the City of Del Mar for Lead and Copper analysis. The results of these tests are presented here, and in the tables, hereunder. None of the 20 sites had a result above the AL for Copper. Because none of our results were above the AL for lead and copper, no additional actions are required.

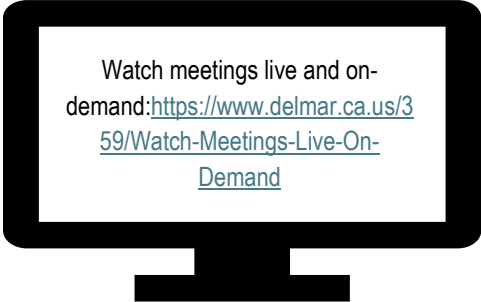
In 2025, the City of Del Mar collected five (5) additional samples from customers' taps for the lead and copper analysis. All five (5) results were below the AL for lead and copper. The next lead and copper testing will be conducted in 2027. Residents interested in volunteering for the copper and lead sampling may contact the Public Works Department at (858) 755-3294. Participants will be asked to provide water samples to support water quality reporting and regulatory compliance efforts.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of material's used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and/or flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

City Council meetings are regularly scheduled on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 4:30PM and are held in the Council Chambers, 1050 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, CA 92014. Members of the public can participate in public meetings by either submitting a written red dot comment via email to cityclerk@delmar.ca.us and/or by providing comment in-person.

For more information about City Council and how to participate in public meeting, please visit: <https://www.delmar.ca.us/620/Public-Participation>



Watch meetings live and on-demand: <https://www.delmar.ca.us/359/Watch-Meetings-Live-On-Demand>

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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 US EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791. For a list of action levels, visit the website of the SWRCB-DDW State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water at www.waterboards.ca.gov

How to Read the Tables

The tables below list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The State Board allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

These tables summarize monitoring from 2025, with exceptions (see table footnotes). SWRCB mandates monitoring radioactive contaminants every three years. The lead and copper testing was conducted in July 2024 and August 2025, and is monitored every three years. The levels of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Definition of Terms

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Location-based Running Annual Average (LRAA): The average of the most recent four quarters of monitoring performed at a distinct location in the distribution system. LRAAs are calculated quarterly using twelve months of data and may include values obtained in previous Calendar Year 2023.

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 or technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs are set by the U.S. EPA.

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.

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

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

Abbreviations

A: Absent

CA SMCL: California Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level

SWRCB-DDW: California State Water Resources Control Board - Division of Drinking Water

CSD MDL: City of San Diego Water Quality Laboratory

Method Detection Limit: Lowest quantifiable concentration of a measured analyte detectable by the laboratory.

CU: Color Units

DLR: Detection Limit for Reporting

gr/Gal: Grains per Gallon

ml: Milliliter

MWD: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

N/A: Not Applicable

ND: Not detected at testing limit

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units

OU: Odor Units

pCi/L: Picocuries per Liter (a measure of radiation)

ppb: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppm: Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

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

µS/cm: Micro-siemens/cm

< Less than > Greater than

TABLE 1 – DETECTED REGULATED CCR CONTAMINANTS WITH PRIMARY MCLs

PRIMARY STANDARDS (MANDATORY HEALTH RELATED STANDARDS)-INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

CHEMICAL PARAMETERS	UNITS	MCL	PHG	DDW DLR	CITY OF SAN DIEGO - MIRAMAR TREATMENT PLANT		
					AVERAGE	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Barium	ppm	1.0	2	0.1	0.1	ND - 0.1	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (naturally occurring)	ppm	2.0	1	0.1	0.2	0.2 - 0.3	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (treatment-related)*	ppm	2.0	1	0.1	0.7	0.6-0.8	Water additive that promotes strong teeth

*Optimal Fluoride Level as established by US Dept. of Health and Human Services and State Water Resources Control Board is 0.7 ppm.

Primary Standards (Mandatory Health Related Standards) - RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS

RADIOACTIVE PARAMETERS	UNITS	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	DDW DLR	CITY OF SAN DIEGO - MIRAMAR TREATMENT PLANT		
					AVERAGE	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Gross Beta Particle Activity	pCi/L	50*	(0)	4	5	Single Sample	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Uranium	pCi/L	20	0.43	1	2.1	Single Sample	Erosion of natural deposits

*The State Water Resources Control Board considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

LEAD AND COPPER RULE

CITY OF DEL MAR - SAMPLES TAKEN AT THE TAP OF 20 RESIDENTS

LEAD AND COPPER STUDY	UNITS	ACTION LEVEL	PHG	DDW DLR	90th PERCENTILE CONCENTRATION	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Copper	ppm	1.300	0.3	0.05	0.410	0.069 - 1.16	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	ppb	15	0.2	5	2.26	ND - 3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Note: Monitoring mandated every three years. City of Del Mar most recent monitoring was conducted in July 2024 and August 2025.

The combined results were below Action Level (A.L.). The next lead and copper will be conducted in 2027.

TABLE 2 -- DETECTED REGULATED CCR PARAMETERS WITH SECONDARY MCLs (AESTHETICS STANDARDS)

	UNITS	CA SMCL	CSD MDL (DLR)	MIRAMAR TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT CONCENTRATION		
				AVERAGE	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Chloride	ppm	500	0.5	90.2	80.8-99.8	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1600	N/A	833	753-985	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate	ppm	500	0.5	162	124-215	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	(10)	533	474-611	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

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TABLE 2 -- DETECTED REGULATED CCR PARAMETERS WITH SECONDARY MCLs (AESTHETICS STANDARDS) continued

	UNITS	SMCL	(MCLG)	CSD	CITY OF DEL MAR - DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AVERAGE		
		[MRDL]	[MRDLG]	MDL(DLR)	AVERAGE	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Color, Visual	CU	15	----	1	0.06	ND - 2	Naturally occurring organic materials.
Turbidity	NTU	5	----	0.1	0.06	ND - .25	Soil runoff

Note: Color, Visual was recorded at 2 CU in a single sample collected in June 2026, which is below the SMCL of 15 CU.

TABLE 3 -- DETECTED UNREGULATED CCR PARAMETERS REQUIRING MONITORING

	UNITS	NOTIFICATION	DDW	MIRAMAR TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT CONCENTRATION		
		LEVEL	DLR (PHG)	AVERAGE	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Boron	ppm	1	N/A	0.1	0.1 - 0.1	--
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA)	ppt	10	(3)	N/A	N/A	--

* The DLR of 0.1 ppb and the MCL of 10 ppb for hexavalent chromium became effective 10/1/2024.

TABLE 4 -- DETECTED DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS, DISINFECTANT RESIDUAL AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCT PRECURSORS

Treatment Plant Effluent	UNITS	MCL	PHG	DDW	MIRAMAR TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT CONCENTRATION		
		[MRDL]	PHG	DLR	AVERAGE	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Total Organic Carbon [TOC]*	ppm	TT	N/A	0.7	2.4	2.0-2.8	Various natural and manmade sources

*TOC is a precursor for the formation of disinfection byproducts

Distribution System Results	UNITS	MCL	PHG	CSD	CITY OF DEL MAR - DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AVERAGE		
		[MRDL]	[MRDLG]	DLR	AVERAGE	RANGE**	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Disinfectant Residual [Chloramines as Cl2]	ppm	[4.0]^	[4]	0.1	1.81	1.08-2.82	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5]	ppb	60*	N/A	----	Max LRAA = 7	4.20-7.9	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs]	ppb	80*	N/A	----	Max LRAA = 25	18.4-32.4	By-product of drinking water chlorination

NOTES: * Total Trihalomethane and HAA5 compliance is based on quarterly Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA)

** Ranges and average are based upon individual 2025-Q4 sample results.

^Compliance is determined by Distribution System Running Annual Average.

TABLE 5 -- ADDITIONAL CONSTITUENTS - SODIUM, TOTAL HARDNESS, AND TURBIDITY

	UNITS	MCL	PHG	CSD	MIRAMAR TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT CONCENTRATION		
		[MRDL]	[MRDLG]	MDL	AVERAGE	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Sodium	ppm	N/A	N/A	20	86.2	76.6-98.4	Naturally present in the environment
Total Hardness	ppm	N/A	N/A	10	242	200-285	Naturally present in the environment
Total Hardness	gr/Gal	N/A	N/A	0.6	14.1	11.7-16.6	Naturally present in the environment
Alkalinity - Total as CaCO3	ppm	N/A	N/A	20	110	95.6-126	--
pH	pH	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.27	7.74-8.64	--
Turbidity	NTU	TT= 1 NTU TT=95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	N/A	---	Max. Level found = 0.10 NTU		Soil runoff
				---	100% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU		

TABLE 6 -- DETECTED UNREGULATED PARAMETERS REQUIRING MONITORING

UCMR5 PARAMETERS ¹	UNITS		UCMR4 MRL		MIRAMAR TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT CONCENTRATION		
					AVERAGE	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Lithium	ppb	----	9	----	49.5	33.0 - 65.0	--

¹Note: UCMR5 City of San Diego samples were collected in 2023.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The 2020 Watershed Sanitary Survey containing information about the City of San Diego's source water was completed on March 1, 2021. The report contains information on source water and its vulnerability to potential sources of contamination, such as stormwater runoff, Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs), leaking underground storage tanks. The report is available at:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/public-utilities/water-quality/watersheds/sanitary-survey>



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This report is also available online at City's website at: <http://www.delmar.ca.us/ccr>