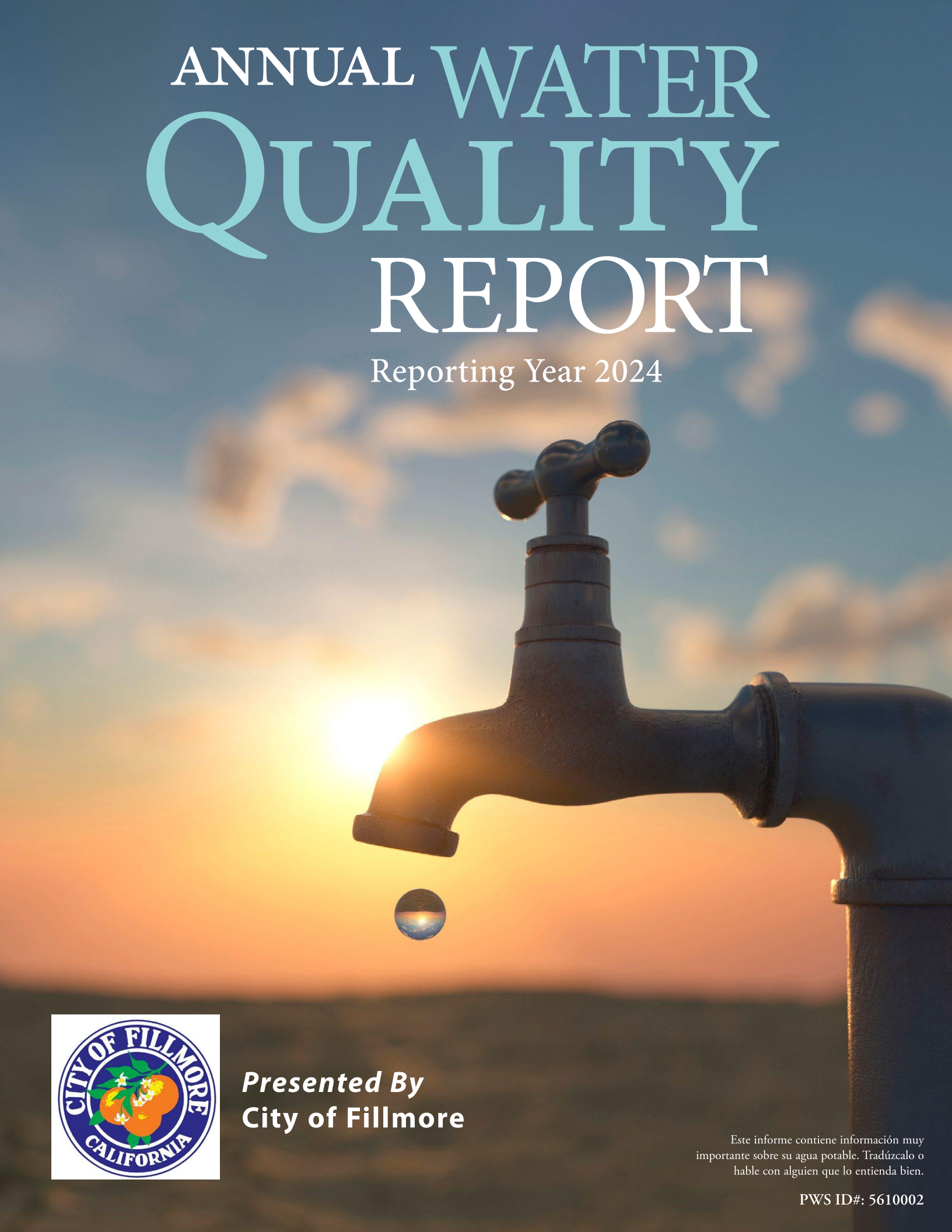
# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024



***Presented By***
**City of Fillmore**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

**PWS ID#: 5610002**

## Our Commitment to You

We are pleased to share this year's Annual Water Quality Report, which provides a snapshot of the water quality in 2024. This report covers all testing conducted between January 1 and December 31 and includes important information about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it measures up to state and federal drinking water standards.

Our top priority is to provide you with a safe and reliable supply of drinking water. We are dedicated to protecting our water sources and continuously improving our treatment processes. By sharing this information, we aim to keep you informed—because well-informed customers help us protect and preserve our shared water resources.

## Count on Us

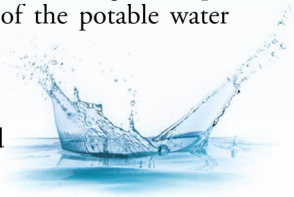
Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. 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.
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry.
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels.
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies.
- 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 each drop.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

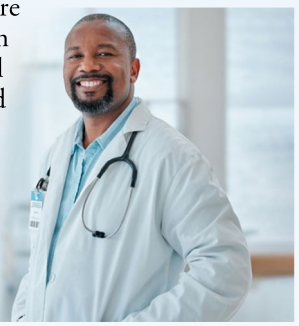
The City of Fillmore is fortunate to have a reliable and self-sustaining water supply sourced entirely from local groundwater. Our drinking water comes from two city-operated wells—Wells 7 and 8—located along the Sespe River. These wells provide 100 percent of the potable water used by our community. The city does not purchase or sell water to outside agencies; all water is produced, treated, and distributed locally by the City of Fillmore.



## Community Participation

We encourage you to take an active role in decisions affecting your drinking water. The Fillmore City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, located at 250 Central Avenue. These meetings provide an opportunity for you to share your questions, concerns, and feedback. For agendas, meeting details, and additional information, please visit fillmoreca.gov.

## Important Information for Vulnerable Populations Regarding Drinking Water Safety



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. Environmental Protection Agency (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.

## Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment was conducted on our wells in 2013. If you would like more information about the assessment results, please contact the district engineer at (805) 566-1326.

**QUESTIONS?** For more information about this report, or any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact Joe Bellomo at (805) 524-1500 ext. 235 or jbellomo@fillmoreca.gov, or visit our website at fillmoreca.gov.

## Important Notice About a Monitoring Violation

The Fillmore Water Department did not complete one required water quality monitoring sample during the first quarter of 2024 and was therefore in violation of state and federal drinking water regulations. While this was not an emergency, we believe it is important to keep our customers informed about what happened, what it means, and what we've done to address the issue.

Water systems are required to routinely collect and analyze samples for specific contaminants to ensure drinking water remains safe. In this instance, the Fillmore Water Department missed one scheduled sample for raw groundwater monitoring for total coliform bacteria. All other required samples for the quarter were completed on time, and this was the only missed sample.

We resumed sampling in the second quarter of 2024, and our most recent results confirm that our water continues to meet all current drinking water standards.

To prevent this from happening again, we have improved our internal tracking and scheduling procedures for water quality monitoring. These updates are designed to ensure all required samples are collected on time and in compliance with regulatory requirements.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Joe Bellomo at (805) 524-1500 ext. 235 or jbellomo@fillmoreca.gov.

## Benefits of Chlorination

Disinfection, a chemical process used to control disease-causing microorganisms by killing or inactivating them, is unquestionably the most important step in drinking water treatment. By far, the most common method of disinfection in North America is chlorination.

Before communities began routinely treating drinking water with chlorine (starting with Chicago and Jersey City in 1908), cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, and hepatitis A killed thousands of U.S. residents annually. Drinking water chlorination and filtration have helped to virtually eliminate these diseases in the U.S. Significant strides in public health are directly linked to the adoption of drinking water chlorination. In fact, the filtration of drinking water and the use of chlorine are probably the most significant public health advancements in human history.

**How chlorination works:**

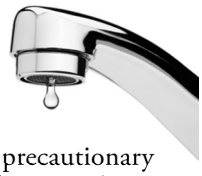
Potent Germicide: Reduction of many disease-causing microorganisms in drinking water to almost immeasurable levels.

Taste and Odor: Reduction of many disagreeable tastes and odors from foul-smelling algae secretions, sulfides, and decaying vegetation.

Biological Growth: Elimination of slime bacteria, molds, and algae that commonly grow in water supply reservoirs, on the walls of water mains, and in storage tanks.

Chemical: Removal of hydrogen sulfide (which has a rotten egg odor), ammonia, and other nitrogenous compounds that have unpleasant tastes and hinder disinfection. It also helps to remove iron and manganese from raw water.

## Water Treatment Process



The City of Fillmore sources all its water from underground aquifers. As part of our treatment process, chlorine is added as a precautionary measure to eliminate any potential bacteria that may remain. We carefully monitor chlorine levels and use the minimum amount necessary to ensure the safety of your drinking water—without affecting its taste.

## Understanding the Sources of Drinking Water and Potential 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 the 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 (FDA) 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).

## What's a Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air-conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection. For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 40 percent of bottled water is actually just tap water, according to government estimates.

The FDA is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to $1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water. For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, visit nrdc.org/stories/bottled-water-vs-tap-water.

## How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water can be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

## Tip Top Tap

The most common signs that your faucet or sink is affecting the quality of your drinking water are discolored water, sink or faucet stains, a buildup of particles, unusual odors or tastes, and a reduced flow of water. The solutions to these problems may be in your hands.

### Kitchen Sink and Drain

Handwashing, soap scum buildup, and the handling of raw meats and vegetables can contaminate your sink. Clogged drains can lead to unclean sinks and backed-up water in which bacteria (i.e., pink or black slime growth) can grow and contaminate the sink area and faucet, causing a rotten egg odor. Disinfect and clean the sink and drain area regularly and flush with hot water.

### Faucets, Screens, and Aerators

Chemicals and bacteria can splash and accumulate on the faucet screen and aerator, which are located on the tip of faucets and can collect particles like sediment and minerals, resulting in a decreased flow from the faucet. Clean and disinfect the aerators or screens on a regular basis.

Check with your plumber if you find particles in the faucet screen, as they could be pieces of plastic from the hot water heater dip tube. Faucet gaskets can break down and cause black, oily slime. If you find this slime, replace the faucet gasket with a higher-quality product. White scaling or hard deposits on faucets and showerheads may be caused by water with high levels of calcium carbonate. Clean these fixtures with vinegar or use water softening to reduce the calcium carbonate levels for the hot water system.

### Water Filtration/Treatment Devices

A smell of rotten eggs can be a sign of bacteria on the filters or in the treatment system. The system can also become clogged over time, so regular filter replacement is important. (Remember to replace your refrigerator filter!)

## FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)

You may not be aware of it, but every time you pour fat, oil, or grease (FOG) down your sink (e.g., bacon grease), you are contributing to a costly problem in the sewer collection system. FOG coats the inner walls of the plumbing in your house as well as the walls of underground piping throughout the community. Over time, these greasy materials build up and form blockages in pipes, which can lead to wastewater backing up into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains. These backups allow FOG to contaminate local waters, including drinking water. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public health hazard. FOG discharged into septic systems and drain fields can also cause malfunctions, resulting in more frequent tank pump-outs and other expenses.

Communities spend billions of dollars every year to unplug or replace grease-blocked pipes, repair pump stations, and clean up costly and illegal wastewater spills. Here are some tips that you and your family can follow to help maintain a well-run system now and in the future:

**NEVER:**
Pour FOG down the house or storm drains.

Dispose of food scraps by flushing them.

Use the toilet as a wastebasket.

**ALWAYS:**
Scrape and collect FOG into a waste container such as an empty coffee can, and dispose of it with your garbage.

Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid wastes.

Place a wastebasket in each bathroom for solid wastes like disposable diapers, creams and lotions, and personal hygiene products, including nonbiodegradable wipes.

## What Are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit bit.ly/3Z5AMm8.

## 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 Fillmore Water Department 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 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 Fillmore Water Department at (805) 524-1500 x235. 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. The lead service inventory may be requested by contacting the Fillmore Water Department at (805) 524-1500 ext. 235. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

## Water Quality Test Results

Your water is tested regularly for many different substances as part of a strict monitoring schedule. In this report, we've listed only the substances that were actually detected—rest assured, a full list of all test results is available upon request.

It's important to know that just because something is detected doesn't mean the water is unsafe. We follow all state and federal health standards and work hard to keep any detected substances well below the limits set for safe drinking water.

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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Chlorine** (ppm) | 2024 | [4.0 (as Cl2)] | [4 (as Cl2)] | 1.37 | 0.34–2.20 | No | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment |
| **Chromium, Total** (ppb) | 2023 | 50 | (100) | ND | ND–17 | No | Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits |
| **Fluoride** (ppm) | 2023 | 2.0 | 1 | 0.8 | 0.6–0.9 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| **Gross Alpha Particle Activity** (pCi/L) | 2023 | 15 | (0) | 6.5 | 3.18–12.6 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Nitrate [as nitrate]** (ppm) | 2024 | 45 | 45 | 3.1 | ND–6.4 | No | Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| **Nitrate [as nitrogen]** (ppm) | 2023 | 10 | 10 | 2.7 | 0.8–6.4 | No | Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| **Selenium** (ppb) | 2023 | 50 | 30 | 10 | ND–26 | No | Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive) |
| **TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]** (ppb) | 2024 | 80 | NA | 8 | 1–8 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| **Uranium** (pCi/L) | 2023 | 20 | 0.43 | 5.67 | 2.68–8.66 | 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 | 0.20 | NA | 0/30 | No | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| **Lead** (ppb) | 2024 | 15 | 0.2 | ND | NA | 0/30 | No | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; 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) | 2024 | 500 | NS | 36 | 22–50 | No | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence |
| **Iron** (ppb) | 2023 | 300 | NS | 50 | NA | No | Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |
| **Manganese** (ppb) | 2023 | 50 | NS | 10 | ND–30 | No | Leaching from natural deposits |
| **Specific Conductance** (µmho/cm) | 2023 | 1,600 | NS | 1,399 | 966–2,070 | No | Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence |
| **Sulfate** (ppm) | 2023 | 500 | NS | 415 | 272–633 | No | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |
| **Total Dissolved Solids** (ppm) | 2023 | 1,000 | NS | 1,037 | 690–1,590 | Yes | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits |

## 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.

**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.

**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.

**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).

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

## UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES [1]

| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | TYPICAL SOURCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **11-Chloroeicosafluoro-3-Oxaundecane-1-Sulfonic Acid [11Cl-PF3OUdS]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorodecanesulfonic Acid [8:2FTS]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid [4:2FTS]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [6:2FTS]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **4,8-Dioxa-3H-Perfluorononanoic Acid [ADONA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **9-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-Oxanonane-1-Sulfonic Acid [9Cl-PF3ONS]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Alkalinity** (ppm) | 2023 | 227 | 180–320 | NA |
| **Boron** (ppm) | 2023 | 1.1 | 0.8–1.5 | NA |
| **Calcium** (ppm) | 2023 | 142 | 91–214 | NA |
| **Hardness, Total [as CaCO3]** (ppm) | 2023 | 527 | 334–810 | Sum of naturally occurring polyvalent cations, generally magnesium and calcium |
| **Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid [HFPO-DA; GenX]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Lithium** (ppb) | 2024 | 58 | NA | NA |
| **N-Ethyl Perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid [NEtFOSAA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **N-Methyl Perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid [NMeFOSAA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Nonafluoro-3,6-Dioxaheptanoic Acid [NFDHA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluoro (2-ethoxyethane) Sulfonic Acid [PFEESA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluoro-3-Methoxypropanoic Acid [PFMPA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluoro-4-Methoxybutanoic Acid [PFMBA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluorobutanoic Acid [PFBA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluorodecanoic Acid [PFDA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluorododecanoic Acid [PFDoA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluoroheptanesulfonic Acid [PFHpS]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluoroheptanoic Acid [PFHpA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid [PFHxS]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluorononanoic Acid [PFNA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluoropentanesulfonic Acid [PFPeS]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluoropentanoic Acid [PFPeA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluorotetradecanoic Acid [PFTA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluorotridecanoic Acid [PFTrDA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Perfluoroundecanoic Acid [PFUnA]** (ppb) | 2024 | ND | NA | NA |
| **Sodium** (ppm) | 2023 | 75 | 53–95 | Naturally occurring |

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

## Fixtures With Green Stains

A green or blue-green stain on kitchen or bathroom fixtures is caused by tiny amounts of copper that dissolve in your home's copper plumbing system when the water sits unused overnight. Copper staining may be the result of a leaky faucet or a faulty toilet flush valve, so be sure your plumbing is in good working order.

Copper stains may also be caused by overly hot tap water. Generally speaking, you should maintain your water temperature at a maximum of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. You should consult the owner's manual for your heater or check with your plumber to determine your current heat setting. Lowering your water temperature will reduce the staining problem and save you money on your energy bill.

Also keep in mind that a tap that is used often throughout the day usually will not produce copper stains, so if you flush the tap for a minute or so before using the water for cooking or drinking, copper levels will be reduced.

## What Causes the Pink Stain on Bathroom Fixtures?

The reddish-pink color frequently noted in bathrooms on shower stalls, tubs, tile, toilets, sinks, and toothbrush holders and on pets' water bowls is caused by the growth of the bacterium Serratia marcescens. Serratia is commonly isolated from soil, water, plants, insects, and vertebrates (including humans). The bacteria can be introduced into the house through any of these sources. The bathroom provides a perfect environment (moist and warm) for bacteria to thrive.

The best solution to this problem is to clean and dry these surfaces to keep them free from bacteria. Chlorine-based compounds work best, but keep in mind that abrasive cleaners may scratch fixtures, making them more susceptible to bacterial growth. Chlorine bleach can be used periodically to disinfect the toilet and help eliminate the occurrence of the pink residue. Keeping bathtubs and sinks wiped down using a solution that contains chlorine will also help to minimize its occurrence. Serratia will not survive in chlorinated drinking water.

## Think Before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit bit.ly/3IeRyXy.

## What's Your Water Footprint?

You may have some understanding about your carbon footprint, but how much do you know about your water footprint? The water footprint of an individual, community, or business is defined as the total volume of freshwater that is used to produce the goods and services that are consumed by the individual or community or produced by the business. For example, 11 gallons of water is needed to irrigate and wash the fruit in one half-gallon container of orange juice. Thirty-seven gallons of water is used to grow, produce, package, and ship the beans in that morning cup of coffee. Two hundred and sixty-four gallons of water is required to produce one quart of milk, and 4,200 gallons of water is required to produce two pounds of beef.

According to the U.S. EPA, the average American uses over 180 gallons of water daily. In fact, in the developed world, one flush of a toilet uses as much water as the average person in the developing world allocates for an entire day's cooking, washing, cleaning, and drinking. The annual American per capita water footprint is about 8,000 cubic feet, twice the global per capita average. With water use increasing sixfold in the past century, our demands for freshwater are rapidly outstripping what the planet can replenish. To check out your own water footprint, go to watercalculator.org.

## Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA (epa.gov) and CDC (cdc.gov) websites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation, and public health. The SWRCB Division of Drinking Water website (waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/index.html) provides complete and current information on water issues in California, including valuable information about our watershed.