



# Ross County Water Company

## ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

*Period Covered by Report: January 2025 through December 2025*

663 Fairgrounds Rd. Chillicothe, Ohio 45601-5690

Web Site: [www.rosscwater.org](http://www.rosscwater.org), Phone# (740)774-4117 or 1-800-837-7525 Fax# 1-740-772-6867, e-mail address: [blong@rosscwater.org](mailto:blong@rosscwater.org) Community Water Supply PWS ID: OH7101412

**R**oss County Water Company has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. This report is required as part of the Safe Drinking Water Act Re-authorization of 1996 and is to be delivered to our consumers by July 1, 2026. Included within this report are general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water, and water system contacts. Quality water is our commitment and our profession. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of potable drinking water. We have a current, unconditioned Ohio EPA license to operate our system. The purpose of this Annual Quality Water Report is to inform you about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. The source of raw water for R.C.W.C. is a well field consisting of eight production wells. This well field is part of the "Teays River Aquifer," one of three major underground aquifers in the State of Ohio. We use a combination of these eight wells to provide raw water to two 3.5 mgd (million gallon per day) water treatment plant facilities, which processes the water for delivery to you, the end user. R.C.W.C.'s only source of raw water is underground water. Our raw water supply is covered by a Well Head Protection Plan (WHPP). This plan was developed by R.C.W.C. to assess the vulnerability of the underground water source to contamination, and to establish a zone of protection around the well field to warn us of potential future contamination so we have time to protect this vital water source. In addition to the WHPP, the Ohio EPA has completed a susceptibility analysis for R.C.W.C. to fulfill requirements of the Source Water Assessment and Protection Program. The results indicated the aquifer that supplies drinking water to R.C.W.C. has high susceptibility to contamination, due to the sensitivity of the aquifer in which the well field is located and the existence of several potential contaminant sources within the protection zone. This does not mean that this well field will become contaminated, only that conditions are such that the ground water could be impacted by potential contaminant sources. Future contamination may be avoided by implementing protective measures, such as those resulting from the WHPP. More information is available by calling our office at 740-774-4117 or Ohio EPA at 1-740-385-8501.

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 activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife; (B) Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water run-off, industrial or domestic waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water run-off and residential uses; (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic contaminants, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off and septic systems; (E) radioactive contaminants, which 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations established limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

R.C.W.C. routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**In 2025 Ross County Water had an unconditioned license to operate our water system.**



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The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Ross County Water Co. conducted sampling for: bacteria, lead and copper, disinfection by-products, nitrates, inorganic contaminants, radioactive contaminants, and volatile organic contaminants in 2025. Samples were collected for several different contaminants, most of which were not detected in the water supply. We are pleased to report that there were no reportable contaminant violations as detailed in the Safe Drinking Water Act and there were no incidents where our contaminant levels exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level. The EPA requires us to monitor some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently, therefore some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old. Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the Ross County Water drinking water:

### TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant (units)	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation?	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminants
<b>Bacteriological</b>							
Total Coliform	0	<5%	<5%	n/a	No	2025	Naturally present in the Environment
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Alpha Total (pCi/L)	0	15	None Detected	n/a	NO	2025	Erosion of Natural Deposits.
Radium 228	0	5	None Detected	n/a	NO	2025	Erosion of Natural Deposits.
<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants, including Pesticides and Herbicides</b>							
Alachlor	2	0	None Detected	n/a	No	2024	Run off from herbicides used on row crops.
Atrazine	3	3	None Detected	n/a	No	2024	Run off from herbicides used on row crops.
Simazine	4	4	None Detected	n/a	No	2024	Run off from herbicides used on row crops.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.042	0.035-0.048	NO	2025	Discharge of drilling waste; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of Natural Deposits.
Beryllium (ppm)	0.004	0.004	0.0004	0.0001-0.0006	NO	2025	Discharge from metal refineries and coal burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace and defense industries.
Chromium (ppm)	0.1	0.1	0.002	0.000-0.002	NO	2025	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Cyanide (ppm)	0.2	0.2	0.001	0.001-0.001	NO	2025	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.92	0.76-1.17	NO	2025	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.83	0.00-0.83	NO	2025	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>							
	n/a	n/a	None Detected	n/a	NO	2025	
<b>Disinfectant and Disinfectant Byproducts</b>							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.10	1.04-1.13	NO	2025	Water additive used to control Microbes.
TTHMs (ppb) [Total Trihalomethane]	n/a	80	22.3	19.2-21.1	NO	2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
HAA5 (ppb) [Haloacetic Acids]	n/a	60	8.1	0.0-8.1	NO	2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination.



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### TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Lead and Copper							
Contaminant (units)	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	Individual Results over AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile value	Violation?	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminants
Lead (ppb)	15 ppb	0 ppb	none	1.8 ppb	NO	2025	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
	0 out of 30 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb.						
Copper (ppm)	1.3 ppm	0 ppm	none	0.90 ppm	NO	2025	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
	0 out of 30 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the lead action level of 1.3 ppm.						

As part of the federal 2024 PFAS drinking water rule, Public Water Systems were required to monitor finished drinking water for PFAS by April 26, 2027. We have started this monitoring by participating in the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR 5) program, which monitored multiple contaminants, including the six regulated PFAS: PFOA, PFOS, HFPO-DA, PFBS, PFHxS, and PFNA. For the results, refer to the next section titled "Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) Sampling".

### Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule UCMR Sampling:

Ross County Water Company also monitors specific unregulated contaminants as defined and required by EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulations.

Unregulated contaminants (UCMR) are those for which U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2025, Ross County Water Co. participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). For a copy of the results please call Shawn Haynes at 740-774-4117. A complete list of contaminants that were sampled in 2024 and 2025 can be found at [The Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule \(UCMR 5\) Fact Sheet](#).

Out of the 29 per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium tested at both treatment plants, listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the Ross County Water drinking water.

#### South Treatment Plant: EP001

Contaminant (units)	Sample Year	Average Level Found	MRL (Minimum Reporting Level)	Range of Detections	Sample Location
perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)	2024	0.0031	0.0030	n/a	Entry Point
	2025	None Detected	n/a	n/a	Entry Point

#### North Treatment Plant: EP002

Contaminant (units)	Sample Year	Average Level Found	MRL (Minimum Reporting Level)	Range of Detections	Sample Location
	2024	None Detected	n/a	n/a	Entry Point
	2025	None Detected	n/a	n/a	Entry Point



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### To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

**Maximum Contaminant Level Total Coliform**-The maximum contaminant level for total coliform-Presence of coliform bacteria is >5% of the monthly samples taken.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)**-The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

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

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

**\*Lead & Copper**-90th percentile of 30 samples - 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. Ross County Water Company 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 2 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 from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Our distribution system has no lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or lead status unknown service lines. To determine this, we used the following sources: historic records, visual inspections or other documentations that indicate the service line material. If you would like any additional information about the service line inventory conducted during 2024, please contact Aaron Hawk at 740-774-4117.

**TTHM** (Trihalomethanes)-Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, Bromoform, Dibromochloromethane.

**HAA5**-Monochloroacetic, Dichloroacetic, Trichloroacetic, Monobromoacetic, Dibromoacetic.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l)**-Units of measure for the concentration of contaminants. One part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter(mg/l)**- are units of measure for the concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.

**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 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.

**Symbol < Designation (<)**-This symbol means less than... A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

**Symbol > Designation (>)**-This symbol means greater than.

**Not Applicable (N/A)**-This symbol means "Not Applicable". This means that the sample was not required or that the contaminant does not have MCL's, MCLG's or detection ranges established as of this report.

**pCi/L**-Picocuries per Liter: A common measure of radioactivity.

**PFAS**: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals applied to many industrial, commercial and consumer products to make them waterproof, stain resistant, or nonstick. PFAS are also used in products like cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam called aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) which are used mainly on large spills of flammable liquids, such as jet fuel. PFAS are classified as contaminants of emerging concern, meaning that research into the harm they may cause to human health is still ongoing.



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If you have any questions about this report concerning your water quality, please contact Shawn Haynes, Plant Superintendent, or Brad Long, General Manager at 1-740-774-4117 weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. Public participation and comments are encouraged at any of our regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meetings. They are held every other week on Wednesday's at 3:30 PM at the Water Company offices, 663 Fairgrounds Road, Chillicothe, OH. The exact schedule can be found on the Ross County Water website at [www.rosscwater.org](http://www.rosscwater.org).

### **What does this mean to you as a consumer of our water?**

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. The above statement is provided to you for informational purposes and to assure you that there is no risk involved in the consumption of water from the R.C.W.C. utility service. We're proud to inform you that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State EPA requirements. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a million chance of having the described health effect. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected in our water. They, however, are below the MCL levels set by EPA.

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 on kidney dialysis machines, 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The Ross County Water Company Inc. is a Non-Profit, Member Owned organization serving the water needs to rural areas of Ross County and portions of Pike, Pickaway, Jackson, Hocking and Vinton Counties. We are an organization totally dedicated to improving the quality of life for the rural areas served by our distribution system. We are very aware of the need for good quality drinking water in the rural areas of Ohio and are constantly striving to grow and serve those needs in our immediate rural communities. The five Trustees and 42 employees are very proud of our accomplishments and the fact we can issue this report to inform you of the high quality of the water you drink. It is our desire to inform and educate our users about water and issuing this report is one way of accomplishing our goal. Please feel free to call our office if you have questions concerning any of the items in the above report. We at R.C.W.C. proudly work around the clock to provide top quality water to every water user. We ask that all our customers help us protect Ohio's water resources, which are at the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Thank you,  
**The Management & Staff**  
**Ross County Water Company Inc.**



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Listing of other water quality parameters after treatment by Ross County Water Company. Items listed cause no known health concerns in concentrations normally found in drinking water.

<b>Total Hardness</b> .....	120-140mg/l (7-8 grains/gallon)	<b>PH</b> .....	7.0-7.8
<b>Iron</b> .....	<0.10 mg/l	<b>Manganese</b> .....	<0.03 mg/l
<b>Alkalinity</b> .....	240-280 mg/l		

### R.C.W.C. KEY PERSONNEL

<b>President</b> Mike Riffle, (740)775-3104	<b>Trustee</b> Joe Fisher, (740)887-3220	<b>General Manager</b> Brad Long, (740)774-4117	<b>Plant Superintendent</b> Shawn Haynes, (740)774-4117
<b>Vice President</b> Dan Baxter, (740)286-4303	<b>Trustee</b> Brian Wisecup, (740)477-3095	<b>Trustee</b> Ed Stocklin, (740)655-2251	<b>Asst. General Manager</b> Aaron Hawk, (740)774-4117