

Water Quality Report 2025

OHIO COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Spanish (Español) Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Water System ID: KY0920332



GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Clean, safe drinking water is essential to public health, quality of life, and economic stability in Ohio County. In 2025, the Ohio County Water District again met and exceeded all state and federal drinking water regulations, reflecting our continued commitment to protecting public health and providing reliable service.

OCWD serves more than 23,000 residents through over 7,500 connections and operates one of the largest water systems in Kentucky, ranking sixth statewide in both miles of distribution main maintained and gallons of water produced. Our membrane filtration water treatment plant continued to perform at an exceptional level, earning a 100% score under Kentucky's Area-Wide Optimization Program (AWOP). Only 20 of more than 200 treatment plants statewide achieved this distinction.

The District also made strong financial and operational progress. OCWD received a clean audit opinion for fiscal year 2024, with no material weaknesses or disagreements noted, and our net position has increased for four consecutive years. Since 2021, we have secured more than \$7.1 million in grants, principal forgiveness, and reimbursements, significantly

reducing long-term ratepayer impact while advancing critical infrastructure improvements.

In 2025, engineering advanced on the North IPE Transmission Main Project, one of the most important long-term reliability projects in our system, alongside continued line replacements, pump station upgrades, and service extensions across the county. Our work was recognized with a Kentucky House of Representatives Citation of Achievement and the KRWA Wooden Bucket Award, naming OCWD the top water or sewer utility among more than 700 systems statewide.

I am proud of the work our employees do each day and grateful for the leadership of our Board of Commissioners. I am truly blessed to serve this community and to work alongside a dedicated team committed to continuous improvement and responsible stewardship of the system we all depend on.



Sincerely,
Eric Hickman, P.E.
General Manager

TEST RESULTS: We are only required to test for some contaminants periodically, so the results listed in this report may not be from the previous year. Only detected contaminants are included in this report. For a list of all contaminants we test for please contact us. Copies of this report are available upon request by contacting our office at 270-298-7704.

REGULATED CONTAMINANT TEST RESULTS

Contaminant (code) (units)	MCL	MCLG	Report Level	Range of Detection	Date of Sample	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0	0.3	0.3 to 0.3	May-20	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (10/10) (ppm)	2	2	0.026	0.026 to 0.026	Aug-25	No	Drilling wastes; metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (10/25) (ppm)	4	4	0.84	0.84 to 0.84	Aug-25	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate (10/40) (ppm)	10	10	0.89	0.89 to 0.89	Feb-25	No	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Atrazine (2/50) (ppb)	3	3	0.25	BDL to 0.5	Jun-25	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops

DISINFECTANTS/DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS AND PRECURSORS

Total Organic Carbon (ppm) (measured as ppm, but reported as a ratio)	TT*	N/A	1.67 (lowest average)	1.12 to 2.05 (monthly ratios)	2025	No	Naturally present in environment.
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	1.68 (highest average)	0.68 to 2.5	2025	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
HAA (ppb) (Stage 2) (Haloacetic acids)	60	N/A	53 (high site average)	21 to 59 (range of individual sites)	2025	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
THM (ppb) (Stage 2) (Total Trihalomethanes)	80	N/A	60 (high site average)	27 to 76 (range of individual sites)	2025	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

*Monthly ratio is the % TOC removal achieved to the % TOC removal required. Annual average must be 1.00 or greater for compliance.

HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING CONTAMINANTS

Copper (ppm)	AL = 1.3	1.3	0.128 (90th percentile)	0.012 to 0.456	Jun-23	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb)	AL = 15	0	0 (90th percentile)	0 to 8	Jun-23	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

OTHER CONSTITUENTS

Turbidity (NTU) TT*	Allowable Levels	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly %	Violation	Likely Source of Turbidity
Representative samples	No more than 1 NTU* Less than 0.3 NTU in 95% of monthly samples	0.07	100	No	Soil runoff

SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS

Secondary contaminants do not have a direct impact on the health of consumers. They are being included to provide additional information about the quality of the water.

Contaminant	Maximum Allowable Level	Report Level	Range of Detection	Date of Sample
Chloride	250 mg/L	9.4	9.4 to 9.4	May-25
Copper	1.0 mg/L	0.043	0.043 to 0.043	May-25
Corrosivity	Noncorrosive	-1.14	-1.14 to -1.14	May-25
Fluoride	2.0 mg/L	0.64	0.64 to 0.64	May-25
Odor	3	1	1 to 1	May-25
pH	6.5 to 8.5	7.1	7.1 to 7.1	May-25
Sulfate	250 mg/L	7.1	7.1 to 7.1	May-25
Total Dissolved Solids	500 mg/L	108	108 to 108	May-25

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 may be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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.

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/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).

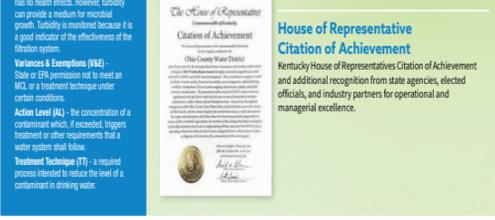
Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.
During the past year we were required to conduct two Level 1 assessments. Two Level 1 assessments were completed. In addition, we were required to take two corrective actions and we completed two of these actions.
During the past year one Level 2 assessment was required to be completed for our water system. One Level 2 assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action and we completed one action.

Where Do We Get Our Drinking 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 may 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, (sewage plants, septic systems, livestock operations, or wildlife). Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, (naturally occurring or from stormwater runoff, wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming). Pesticides and herbicides, (stormwater runoff, agriculture or residential use). Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, (by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, or from gas stations, stormwater runoff, or septic systems). Radioactive contaminants, (naturally occurring or from oil and gas production or mining activities). In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water to provide the same protection for public health.
Source Information: The Ohio County Water District treats surface water from Green River. An analysis of the susceptibility of the water supply to contamination indicates that this susceptibility is generally moderate. However, there are a few areas of high concern. Potential contaminant sources of concern include major roads and statewide coverage of row crops. These are rated as high because of the contaminant type, their proximity, and the high chance of release. The potential contaminant sources of medium susceptibility include areas of forest and woodlands, oil and gas wells, and coverage of pasture and hay. The Complete Source Water Assessment is available for review during normal business hours at the Ohio County Water District.

AWOP Certification
Our membrane filtration water treatment plant continues to perform at a high level, and in 2025, it achieved a 100% Gold Standard score under Kentucky's Area-Wide Optimization Program (AWOP). Only 20 of more than 200 water treatment plants statewide earned this distinction, placing OCWD in the top tier of drinking water utilities in Kentucky.

House of Representative Citation of Achievement
Kentucky House of Representatives Citation of Achievement and additional recognition from state agencies, elected officials, and industry partners for operational and managerial excellence.



Information about Lead:

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. Your local water system 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 your local water system. 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>.
Service Line Inventory Information: To address lead in drinking water, EPA requires that all community water systems develop and maintain a service line inventory of service line materials. We have completed a service line inventory (SLI) and it is available for review at our office or <https://www.ocwdky.org/lead-service-inventory>
Lead Sample Results Availability Information: We are required to periodically sample water from customer taps to determine lead and copper levels. EPA sets the lead action level at 0.015 mg/L (15 ppb). For a water system to be in compliance, at least 90% of tap water samples must have lead levels below this limit. This report contains the 90th percentile and range of our most recent sampling. The individual results for each location sampled can be reviewed at our office.
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Wooden Bucket Award

2025 Wooden Bucket Award – Recognized by the Kentucky Rural Water Association as the #1 water or sewer utility in Kentucky, selected from 713 utilities statewide, reflecting excellence in operations, financial management, asset management, workforce development, and public outreach.



Community Engagement & Public Outreach:

2025 Christmas Parade
Continued strong community involvement through plant tours, school engagement, customer assistance, and participation in local events, including Christmas parades featuring a Wooden Bucket-themed float.



Fun Fact Friday
Launched and expanded the "Fun Fact Friday" social media series to improve customer education, with strong growth in views, reach, interactions, and followers during 2025.

Congratulations to the 2025 OCWD Scholarship Recipients!

The Scholarship Program continued for its third year, awarding scholarships to three recipients in 2025 and reinforcing OCWD's commitment to education and community investment.



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 your local water system. 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>.

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GET INVOLVED:
Meeting location and time:
124 E Washington St. Hartford, KY
www.ocwdky.org/boardmeetings
4th Monday each month at 5:00 PM (except Holidays)

Manager: Eric Hickman, P.E.
CCR Contact: Jason Chinn
Phone: 270-274-3676
P.O. Box 207, Hartford, KY 42347