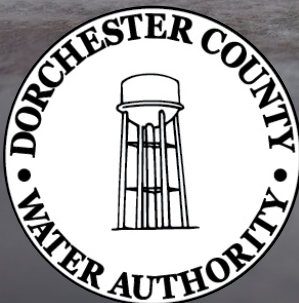


ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025



Presented By
Dorchester County Water Authority

PWS ID#: SC 1820001 - Knightsville; SC 1850009 -
Calomet; SC 1820003 - Tranquil



Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

I Live in Knightsville - Where Does My Water Come From?

Knightsville has a blended water system. In an effort to provide our customers with the highest-quality water at an economical price, Dorchester County Water Authority purchases some of our water from Summerville Commissioners of Public Works (CPW). Surface water from Summerville CPW is purchased from the Santee Cooper Lake Moultrie Regional Water System, which draws source water from Lake Moultrie, a 60,000-acre freshwater lake that is part of the Catawba-Santee water basin. Local well water is blended with the Knightsville system's supply, which is then distributed to your home.

I Live in Calomet Valley or Tranquil - Where Does My Water Come From?

The Calomet Valley and Tranquil water systems are master-metered, and your water is surface water purchased from the Summerville CPW. The Summerville CPW purchases water from the Santee Cooper Lake Moultrie Regional Water System drawn from Lake Moultrie.

For further review of our water quality information, you are encouraged to visit the Summerville Commissioners of Public Works website at www.summervillecpw.com/waterqualityreport. In accordance with SCDHEC requirements, our Consumer Confidence Reports are also available directly at dcwaonline.com/ccr-reports.

Community Participation

If you would like to learn more about your water provider, please attend any of our scheduled board meetings, held at 5:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month in our office at 967 Orangeburg Road, Summerville. Our meeting schedule is posted at dcwaonline.com, along with newsletters and previous water quality reports. If you have any questions, feel free to call our office at (843) 875-0140. Our office staff will gladly take a message and make sure you are contacted by personnel equipped to answer any questions you may have.

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. 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 at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater.



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.

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 goo.gl/Jxb6xG.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Richie Murdaugh at (843) 875-0140. You may also contact us at dcwaonline.com.

Substances That Could Be in 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, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally in the soil or groundwater or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and Herbicides, which 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and

Radioactive Contaminants, which can occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must 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 mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visiting epa.gov/safewater.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. Dorchester County Water Authority 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, or 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 it tested, contact your water provider for a list of certified labs. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Health Effects of Lead

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or worsen existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these negative health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney or nervous system problems.

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. Dorchester County Water Authority has partnered with 120Water to inventory the water distribution lines from our meters to the main lines. The lead service inventory and results may be viewed at pws-ptd.120wateraudit.com/dorchesterwaterauthority-SC. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment has been completed for the Santee Cooper Regional Water System. The purpose of the assessment is to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source to potential contaminant sources. The report includes background information and a relative susceptibility rating of higher, moderate, or lower. It is important to understand that a higher susceptibility rating does not imply poor water quality, only the system's potential to become contaminated within the assessment area. You may view more information on the source water assessment for Santee Cooper Regional Water System at des.sc.gov/sites/des/files/media/document/Santee%20WWQA_2013.pdf.



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.

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!)



Website Information

Scan this code to view DCWA's CCRs on our website.

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 perfluorooctane sulfonic 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 <http://bit.ly/3Z5AMm8>.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

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													
				Tranquil System-1820003		Knightsville System-1820001		Calomet Valley System-1850009		Summerville System			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2025	15	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.02	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/Photon Emitters (pCi/L))	2022	50 ¹	0	NA	NA	7.51	ND-7.51	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Decay of natural and human-made deposits
Chloramines (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.27	3.10-3.27	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	2.00	1.00-2.00	2.00	NA	2.30	1.90-2.30	3.8	1.2-3.8	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2022	5	0	NA	NA	0.0719	ND-0.0719	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
E. coli (positive samples)	2025	TT	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	ND	NA	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Fluoride ² (ppm)	2025	4	4	NA	NA	2.40	NA	NA	NA	0.64	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	16.00	13.00-14.60	13.00	ND-16.10	12.00	NA	15	11-15	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	10	10	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.28	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2025	50	50	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.3	NA	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	2025	TT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	ND	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment

REGULATED SUBSTANCES													
				Tranquil System-1820003		Knightsville System-1820001		Calomet Valley System-1850009		Summerville System			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (removal ratio)	2025	TT ³	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.35	1.2–2.5	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	33.00	23.60–33.20	28.00	10.00–33.60	31.00	NA	30	13–36	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity ⁴ (NTU)	2025	TT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.18	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2025	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community														
				Tranquil System-1820003			Knightsville System-1820001			Calomet Valley System-1850009				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2022	1.3	1.3	0.0072	0.0039-0.0099	0/10	0.0061 ⁵	0.0033-0.0093	0/30 ³	0.0072	0.0042-0.0092	0/5 ⁶	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2022	15	0	0.37	0.12-0.46	0/10	0.28 ⁵	ND-8.7	0/30 ³	0.33	0.019-0.4	0/5 ⁶	No	Lead service lines; corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES							
				Summerville System			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
pH (units)	2025	6.5–8.5	NA	7.93	NA	No	Naturally occurring
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2025	500	NA	72.5	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits



UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES						
		Knightsville System-1820001		Summerville System		
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alkalinity (ppm)	2025	NA	NA	19	NA	NA
Conductivity (µmho/cm)	2025	NA	NA	128.6	NA	NA
Hardness, Total [as CaCO ₃] (ppm)	2025	NA	NA	23	NA	NA
Lithium (ppb)	2025	7.58	ND-12.7	NA	NA	NA
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS] (ppb)	2025	0.00137	ND-0.0046	0.0040	0.0037-0.0044	NA
Perfluorobutanoic Acid [PFBA] (ppb)	2025	0.00042	ND-0.005	0.0026	ND-0.00561	NA
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid [PFHpA] (ppb)	2025	0.00025	ND-0.003	NA	NA	NA
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppb)	2025	0.00184	ND-0.0062	0.0055	0.0052-0.0059	NA
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS] (ppb)	2025	0.00239	ND-0.0081	0.0067	0.0048-0.0081	NA
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppb)	2025	0.00195	ND-0.0065	0.0057	0.0048-0.0062	NA
Perfluoropentanoic Acid [PFPeA] (ppb)	2025	0.00207	ND-0.0072	0.0062	0.0056-0.0066	NA
Sodium (ppm)	2025	NA	NA	10	NA	Naturally present in the environment
Temperature (°C)	2025	NA	NA	20.4	NA	NA

¹ The MCL for beta particles is 4 millirems per year. The U.S. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

² South Carolina has set an SMCL of 2 ppm for fluoride; the U.S. EPA MCL is 4 ppm. Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.

³ Amount detected is RAA. Treatment technique requires RAA removal ratio to be >1.0.

⁴ Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

⁵ Sampled in 2023.

⁶ Sampled in 2024.

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

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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 allow for a margin of safety.

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.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

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).

RAA: Running annual average.

Removal ratio: A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

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

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

