

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2025

Pocomoke City, Maryland

PWSID 0230006

April, 2026

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. 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.

Our water source is the Pocomoke Aquifer which is tapped by drilling wells and pumping the water to the surface for distribution. The depth of our wells is approximately 140 feet. The earth between the surface and this underground aquifer helps to purify the water before it reaches the aquifer, making it easier for us to treat before we pump it into our water distribution system.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

We have a source water protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. This plan is also available from Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) or in the Worcester County Public Library. ***Results of the assessment can be found on the MDE website:***

https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

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).

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Dominic Dilege** at (410) 957-3311. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Mayor and Council meetings. Please call (410) 957-1333 to confirm actual dates and times.

The City of Pocomoke routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2025. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter- one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The “Goal”(MCLG) is 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.

TEST RESULTS							
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (2025)	N	0.0023	ppm	2	2	Discharge from drilling waste; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	
Disinfection and Disinfection By- Products							
Chlorine (2025) Highest level Detected Range	N	1.8 1.5-1.8	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Highest level detected (2025) Highest ranges	N	34 23.2-44.5	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Highest level detected (2025) Highest Ranges	N	64 8-87.2	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Beta Particle activity (2024)	N	4.9	pCi/L	0	50	Decay of natural man-made deposits	
Lead and Copper	Violation Y/N	90 th Percentile	Range of Tap Sampling	Units	MCLG or MRDLG	(AL Limits) / # Sites Over	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (2021-2023) (distribution)	N	0.215	<0.005	ppm	1.3	AL= 1.3 Zero (0)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Lead (2021-2023) (distribution)	N	ND (<5)	<5	ppb	0	AL= 15 Zero (0)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
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Note: Test results are for 2025 unless otherwise noted; All contaminants do not require annual testing; these are the most recent available results.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring, or manmade. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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 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.

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. Pocomoke 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 Pocomoke at 410-957-3311. 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>.

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

An initial Service Line Inventory was submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment on 1/9/2025.. The report was late due to service line investigation. As a result, the Service Line Inventory requirement was fulfilled. The report is available upon request. For more information on our service line inventory please call 410-957-3311.

Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

The Maryland Rural Water Association’s State Circuit Rider assisted with the completion of this report.

Violation Table:

Violation Period	Analyte	Violation Type	Violation Explanation
10/17/2024 - 1/9/2025	LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS	LSL INVENTORY-INITIAL	We failed to complete and/or submit our initial service line inventory that was due to MDE by October 16, 2024. We returned to compliance for this violation upon submission of required documents on January 9, 2025.
10/17/2024 - 1/9/2025	LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS	LSL REPORTING-INITIAL	We failed to complete and/or submit our initial service line inventory that was due to MDE by October 16, 2024. We returned to compliance for this violation upon submission of required documents on January 9, 2025.

Please call our office if you have questions. **Pocomoke City Water Department – 410-957-2521**