



# City of Traverse City

## 2025 WATER QUALITY REPORT



# 2025 Water Quality Report

This report covers the drinking water quality for the Traverse City Water System for the calendar year 2025. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2025. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and state standards.

## Drinking Water Source

Your water is surface water and comes from the East Arm of Grand Traverse Bay. The State performed an assessment of our source water in 2004. Our source water geology, intake location, water chemistry, and potential contaminant sources within the source water area were reviewed to determine sensitivity and susceptibility to contamination. The State has determined that our source water is under a moderate geologic sensitivity with a moderate susceptibility to contamination. A copy of this report, [Source Water Assessment Report for the City of Traverse City Water Supply April 2004](#) may be reviewed on the City of Traverse City website or by contacting the Traverse City Utility Accounting Office at the Governmental Center located at 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, MI 49684 (231) 922-4431.

### Contaminants and Their Presence in Water

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 **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791**.

### Vulnerability of Sub-populations

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 healthcare 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**.

### Sources of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. Our water comes from Lake Michigan. 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

**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 be naturally occurring or 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 and residential uses.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes, petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide the same protections for public health.

# Information About Lead

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 Traverse City Water Treatment Plant 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 the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water 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, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned about lead in your

water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Traverse City Water Treatment Plant at (231) 922-4920. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://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. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

There are no known fully lead service lines in the City of Traverse City and one known remaining lead gooseneck (3 feet long piece of lead pipe used to transition from the threaded brass connector on the water main to the threaded galvanized pipe). The city is making great progress replacing approximately 759 private galvanized water services that were connected to a lead gooseneck and have about 168 remaining to replace.

## Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2025 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing performed from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025. Monitoring for certain contaminants occurs less than once per year because the concentrations are not expected to vary significantly over time. All the data is representative of our water quality, but some of the data is more than one year old.

## Samples Collected at the Water Plant

Regulated Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Detected in Your Water	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.66	NA	2025	No	Water additive that promotes strong teeth; erosion
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.24	NA	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)	4	0	2.0	ND - 2.0	2025	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	4	0	2.0	ND - 2.0	2025	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments
Combined Radium (226 & 228) (pCi/L)	5	0	0.789	NA	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	0	ND	NA	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Secondary and Unregulated Contaminants	SMCL	Detected in Your Water	Range	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminant		
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA) (ppt)	NA	1.0	ND - 2.0	2025	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments		
Chloride (ppm)	250	14	NA	2025	Erosion of natural deposits		
Sodium (ppm)	NOT REGULATED	9.2	NA	2025	Erosion of natural deposits		
Sulfate (ppm)	250	24	NA	2025	Erosion of natural deposits		

## Samples Collected in the Distribution System

Regulated Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest LRAA	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
TTHM - Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	NA	29.6	13.9 - 41.1	2025	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 - Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	NA	8.8	6.9 - 12	2025	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Regulated Contaminant	MRDL	MRDLG	Highest RAA	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	0.75	0.20 - 0.96	2025	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Unregulated Contaminants			Detected in Your Water	Range	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminant	
HAA5 Group (ppb)			10.7	9.4 - 10.7	2020	By-products of drinking water disinfection	
HAA6Br Group (ppb)			10.1	7.9 - 10.1	2020	By-products of drinking water disinfection	
HAA9 Group (ppb)			19.9	16.3 - 19.9	2020	By-products of drinking water disinfection	

## Samples Collected at Customer Tap

Regulated Contaminant	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Range of Individual Results	Year Sampled	Number of Samples Above AL	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	12	0	4	ND - 33	2025	1	No	Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.2	ND - 0.3	2025	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

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

**Combined Filter Effluent (CFE):** Treated water after filtration.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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 (MCLG):** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**NA:** Not Applicable

**ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter

**ppt:** parts per trillion or nanograms per liter

**ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter

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

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** EPA does not enforce secondary maximum contaminant levels. They are established as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color, and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health at the SMCL.

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

**Unregulated Contaminants:** Contaminants for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

# Service Line Material Present in Distribution System

Lead	Galvanized with Previous Lead	Unknown Likely Lead	Unknown Likely Not Lead	Unknown	No Lead or Galvanized Previous Lead	Total
1	168	0	0	0	6746	6915

Out of a total of 6915 service lines, there is 1 known service with a lead gooseneck. 168 services are galvanized with previous lead. If you would like to know more about this report, please visit <https://pws-ptd.120wateraudit.com/traversecity>.

## Water Treatment Plant Capital Improvements

In 2025, the City completed the following improvements to the Water Treatment Plant and Water Distribution System. These improvements help to protect public health, safety and welfare and serve to enhance water reliability. 2025 projects included:

### **Crib Intake Inspection and Cleaning:**

The Traverse City Water Treatment Plant had the crib intake structure cleaned and inspected as the intake pipe is prone to Zebra mussel infestation. Structure was prepared for the replacement of wooden slats scheduled to be replaced in spring of 2026. Cost: \$15,710.

### **High and Low Service Upgrades**

High Service Pump #5 and Low Service Pump #4 were upgraded, including motor replacements and refurbishment of the pumps. A variable frequency drive (VFD) was also installed on Low Service Pump #4. These improvements allow operators to better regulate water flow through the treatment plant while increasing energy efficiency and reducing electrical costs. Cost: \$260,275.

### **Lagoon Dredging and Removal of Dried Solids**

The south lagoon was dredged, and the material was transferred to the water treatment plant's drying bed. Sediment from approximately eight years of filter backwashing had accumulated to a level requiring removal. Existing material in the drying bed was also cleared and hauled to a landfill.

This marks the first lagoon dredging since the plant transitioned to ferric sulfate as its coagulant. Under the previous treatment process, lagoon dredging was typically required every other year. Cost: \$31,800.

### **Continued implementation of the Project Plan (5 year plan for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF):**

Aligns water infrastructure improvement projects with EGLE's low-interest loan program for an estimated total of \$14,927,000. The DWSRF Project Plan can be reviewed at <https://www.traversecitymi.gov/projects/water-and-sewer-improvements.html>. Unfortunately, no funding was awarded to the city in 2025 for capital projects.

### **Awarded construction contract for \$4.5M (\$3,510,500 DWSRF loan and \$1,504,500DWI Grant):**

Between 2023 and 2025, the city replaced 591 private galvanized water services and will continue to replace up to 168 more in 2026 to comply with EGLE's Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). In addition to the DWSRF funds noted above, the City was awarded a \$2M Earmark Grant. Galvanized water services that "are or ever were" connected to a lead gooseneck must be replaced at the Utility's expense per the LCR.

### **Division Street Water Main Lining Project:**

Project included lining 3,251 lineal feet of aged 12-inch cast iron water main, replaced 6 hydrants and 5 main line valves and extended the life of the water main by 70 years by investing \$1.35 million in the city's water distribution system

## ***Additional Information***

The State of Michigan and the U.S. EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We met all the monitoring and reporting requirements for 2025.

We will update the Water Quality Report annually and will keep you informed if there are any issues that occur during the year, as required. Copies of this report are available at the Governmental Center at 400 Boardman Avenue, the Traverse City Water Plant at 2010 Eastern Avenue and the Department of Public Services Building at 625 Woodmere Avenue in Traverse City.

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. City Commission meetings are conducted on the first and third Mondays of each month in the Commission Chambers of the Governmental Center at 400 Boardman Avenue, where public comment is welcome.

For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact Jacqueline Johnson, Water Plant Superintendent at (231) 922-4920 ext. 5 or email at [jjohnson@traversecitymi.gov](mailto:jjohnson@traversecitymi.gov). For more information about safe drinking water, visit the US Environmental Protection Agency at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-your-home>.

