



2018 Annual Water Quality Report

Sequatchie Valley
PWS ID: TN0000749

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda.
This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you if needed.

A Message from the Tennessee American Water President

To Our Valued Customer:

Tennessee American Water has been providing water to Chattanooga and the surrounding area for 130 years. Each year, we provide you with our Annual Water Quality Report. Like so many years prior, we are pleased to report that your water meets or surpasses all state and federal water quality regulations.



We know how important water is to your daily life. We appreciate that you expect your drinking water to be clean, safe, reliable, and affordable. This expectation motivates our employees to monitor and test every stage of the water treatment process, around-the-clock, to ensure your drinking water meets all quality standards. Our team of employees is proud of this commitment to you, as well as our mission to “Keep Life Flowing”.

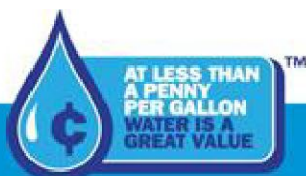
We are committed to maintaining the hundreds of miles of pipes, tanks, pump stations, treatment equipment and more. Each year we invest approximately \$20 million in the community’s drinking water system. We participate in the Partnership for Safe Drinking Water, a voluntary program adopting more stringent performance goals than those required by federal and state drinking water standards.

At Tennessee American Water, our customers are our top priority. We are committed to providing you with the highest quality drinking water and services possible. Please take the time to review this report. It provides details about the source and quality of your drinking water, using the data from water quality testing conducted from your local water system January through December 2018.

Thanks for allowing us to serve you.

Sincerely,

Valoria V. Armstrong
President, Tennessee American Water



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About American Water

With a history dating back to 1886, American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse U.S. publicly traded water and wastewater utility company. The company employs more than 7,100 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and market-based drinking water, wastewater and other related services to more than 14 million people in 46 states and Ontario, Canada. American Water provides safe, clean, affordable and reliable water services to our customers to make sure we keep their lives flowing. For more information, visit amwater.com and follow American Water on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About Tennessee American Water

Tennessee American Water, a subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water services to approximately 390,000 people in Tennessee and northern Georgia.

Environmental Stewardship

Water is one of the earth's most precious natural resources. Protecting the environment helps to ensure adequate water supply for generations and we believe that all of us play a part. Our efforts include student education, community partnerships and our environmental grant program.

We believe that all of us play a part in protecting our water and can do so through a variety of activities.

- Read this report
- Take a tour of the Tennessee American Water Plant
- Participate in Drug Take Back (more information below)
- Reduce plastic use to protect aquatic life. Choose reusable water bottles, straws and shopping bags.
- Install & properly maintain backflow prevention devices if you have an irrigation system (more information below)
- Practice water conservation by being "Water Smart" (more information below)

Source Water Information

Tennessee American Water-Sequatchie Valley draws surface water from the Sequatchie River. Our goal is to protect our water from contamination and we are working with the state to determine the vulnerability of our water source to potential contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water sources serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to potential contamination.

To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible (high), moderately susceptible (moderate) or slightly susceptible (low) based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. Tennessee American Water source is rated as reasonably susceptible to potential contamination.

An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed online at: <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html> or contact TDEC EAC at 1-888-891-8332 (1-888-891-TDEC) to obtain copies of specific assessments. Tennessee American Water can also be contacted at 1-866-736-6420 to obtain a copy of the source water assessment specifically for our company.



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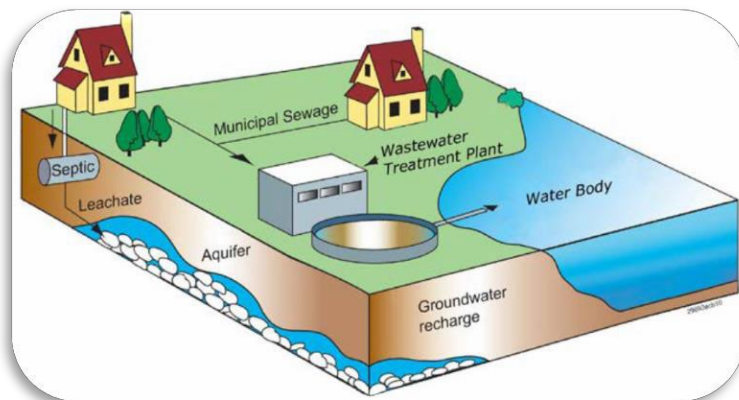
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Think before you flush! Drug Disposal Program

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of Tennessee's waterways by disposing in one of our permanent pharmaceutical take back bins. There are nearly 100 take back bins located across the state, to find a convenient location please visit:

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/sustainable-practices/documents/opsp_pharm_take-back-locations-updated.pdf

Included are the following local sites: Chattanooga Police Department (9am-4pm, 3204 Amnicola Hwy, Property Room), Hamilton County Sheriff's Department (9am-4pm, 2 locations – 6233 Dayton Blvd and 8395 Hickory Valley Road), Red Bank Police Department (9am-4pm, 3117 Dayton Blvd), East Ridge Police Department (7am-4pm, 4214 Ringgold Road), Signal Mountain Police Department (9am-4pm, 1111 Ridgeway Drive), Bradley County Sheriff's Office (2290 Blythe), Cleveland Police Department (100 Church Street NE), Whitwell City Hall (8:30am-5pm, 13671 Hwy 28).



Area wide Drug Take Back day is April 27, 2019. Look for more information on Facebook, Twitter or our website.

Community Participation

If you are interested in learning more about water quality at Tennessee American Water, please call us at (423) 771-4798. Our normal office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. We also encourage you to stay involved by:

- Reading the information provided in bill inserts and special mailings.
- Contacting the company directly with questions or to discuss issues and reviewing information on our website tennesseeamwater.com
- Attending events conducted by the company.
- Responding to survey requests.
- Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/tnamwater
- Follow us on Twitter @tnamwater

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the US. Although *Cryptosporidium* can be removed through commonly-used filtration methods, US EPA issued a rule in January 2006 that requires systems with higher *Cryptosporidium* levels in their source water to provide additional treatment.

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

How to Contact Us

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Michael Griffith, Field Operations Supervisor, at (423) 658-5615. For questions about your water bill, please call our Customer Service Center at (866) 736-6420.

Share This Report

Landlords, businesses, schools, hospitals and other groups are encouraged to share this important water quality information with water users at their location who are not customers of Tennessee American Water. Additional copies of this report are available by contacting us at (423) 658-5615.



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Water System Security

Following the events of September 11th, 2001, we realize that our customers are concerned about the security of their drinking water. We urge the public to report any suspicious activities at any utility facilities, including treatment plants, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to 1-866-736-6420.



Water Information Sources

- Tennessee American Water: <https://amwater.com/tnaw/>
- Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation: www.tn.gov/environment
- United States Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/safewater
- Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) 426-4791
- American Water Works Association: www.awwa.org

Remember to “Be Water Smart”

Wise Water Use Tips For Inside Your Home:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc
- Replace old fixtures; install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances
- Wash only full loads of laundry
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal
- Take shorter showers
- Do not leave water running while shaving or brushing teeth
- Soak dishes before washing
- Run the dishwasher only when full

Wise Water Use Tips for Outside Your Home:

- Use mulch around plants and shrubs
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses
- Use water-saving nozzles



Protecting Our Water Supply – Backflow Prevention

Tennessee American Water has a backflow prevention program that ensures proper installation and maintenance of thousands of backflow prevention devices throughout our system. These devices ensure hazards originating on the customers' properties and from temporary connections do not impair or alter the quality of water in our distribution system. For more information about Tennessee American Water's backflow prevention program, please visit our website at www.tennesseeamwater.com, or contact our Cross Connection Control Specialists at tawc.crossconnection@amwater.com or (423) 771-4701.



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Substances Expected to be in Drinking 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 call the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Tennessee American Water's water treatment processes are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern.

The source of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) includes 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 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, 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.
- **Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

How to Read the Water Quality Data Table

Tennessee American Water conducts extensive monitoring to ensure that your water meets all water quality standards. The results of our monitoring are reported in the following tables. While most monitoring was conducted in 2018, certain substances are monitored less than once per year because the levels do not change frequently. For help with interpreting this table, see the "Table Definitions" section.

Starting with a **Substance**, read across. **Year Sampled** is usually in 2018 or year prior. **MCL** shows the highest level of substance (contaminant) allowed. **MCLG** is the goal level for that substance (this may be lower than what is allowed). **Amount Detected** represents the measured amount (less is better). **Range** tells the highest and lowest amounts measured. A **Yes** under **Compliance Achieved** means that the government requirement was met. **Typical Source** tells where the substance usually originates.

Water Quality Statement

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations which 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.



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We are pleased to report that during the past year, the water delivered to your home or business met or exceeded all state and federal drinking water requirements. For your information, we have compiled a list in the table, showing what substances were detected in your drinking water during 2018. Although all of the substances listed below surpasses or meets all federal and state water quality regulations, we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water.

Table Definitions and Abbreviations

- **Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **BDL:** Below Detection Limit
- **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 disinfectant routinely allowed in drinking water. Addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** 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 contamination.
- **mrem/year:** Millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body).
- **NA:** Not applicable.
- **NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units:** Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of the water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTUs is just noticeable to the average person.
- **pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** Measurement of the natural rate of disintegration of radioactive contaminants in water (also beta particles).
- **ppm (parts per million) or mg/L (milligrams per liter):** One part substance per million parts water, or milligrams per liter, explained in terms of money as one penny in \$10,000.
- **ppb (parts per billion) or µg/L (micrograms per liter):** One part substance per billion parts water, or micrograms per liter, explained in terms of money as one penny in \$10,000,000.
- **TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Unregulated contaminants:** those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. For additional information, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Tennessee American Water – Sequatchie Valley - 2018 WATER QUALITY DATA (PWS ID # TN0000749)

Disinfection By-Products¹

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCLG	MCL	Amount Detected	Range	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source	Health Effects Language
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	2018	NA	80	44.1	22.0 - 60.5	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection	Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years could have problems with their liver, kidney, or central nervous systems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	2018	NA	60	36.7	19.4 - 46.7	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection	NA

¹ Disinfection by-products value reported for “amount detected” is the maximum locational running annual average. The range includes all samples analyzed during 2018.



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Regulated Substances

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCLG	MCL	Amount Detected	Range	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
E.Coli ²	2018	0	TT	0	0	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity ³ (NTU)	2018	NA	TT	0.11	0.03 - 0.11	Yes	Soil runoff
Chlorine ⁴ (ppm)	2018	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.46 (avg) 2.20 (max)	0.60 - 2.20	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2018	4	4	0.74 (avg)	0.67 - 0.82	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Cryptosporidium ⁵ (oocysts/L)	2018 2 nd Qtr	NA	TT	3.0	0 - 7	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon ⁶ (TOC, ppm)	2018	NA	TT	0.85 (avg)	0.69 - 1.18	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Nitrate (ppm)	2018	10	10	0.98 (avg)	0.92 - 1.04	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (ppm)	2018	NA	NA	4.3	3.6 - 4.9	NA	Erosion of natural deposits; Used in water treatment

²System is in compliance for E.Coli MCL unless it has E.coli positive repeat sample for total coliform positive routine sample, total coliform positive repeat sample for an E.coli positive routine sample, system fails to collect all required routine samples, or system fails to test all positive total coliform samples for E.Coli.

³Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system. During 2018, 100% of all samples taken to measure turbidity met water quality standard of less than 0.3 NTU.

⁴Chlorine levels as measured in the distribution system.

⁵Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite which is found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although Cryptosporidium can be removed by filtration, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Monitoring of our source water indicated the presence of cryptosporidium in 6 out of 7 samples tested. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals are able to overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people have more difficulty and are at greater risk of developing severe, life threatening illness. Immuno-compromised individuals are encouraged to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to prevent infection. For more information on Cryptosporidium, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)

⁶The treatment technique requirement for Total Organic Carbon was met 100% of the time in 2018

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from 20 households. None of the 20 homes exceeded the action level.

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	Action Level	MCLG	Amount Detected (90 th %tile)	Range of Detections	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	2018	1.3	1.3	BDL	All samples BDL (below detection level)	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2018	15	0	BDL	All samples BDL (below detection level)	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Lead in Drinking Water: 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. We take steps to reduce the potential for lead to leach from your pipes into the water. This is accomplished by adding a corrosion inhibitor to the water leaving our treatment facilities. There are steps that you can take to reduce your household's exposure to lead in drinking water. Tennessee American Water - Sequatchie Valley System 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 (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.



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