



# Georgetown County Water and Sewer District

“6-Time Winner of Best Tasting Water in South Carolina!”

## 2025 Water Quality Report

Georgetown County Water & Sewer District (GCWSD) PWS

Waccamaw Neck (SC 2220010)  
Garden City Point (SC 2220011)  
Plantersville (SC 2220004)  
Carvers Bay (SC 2220013)

Wedgfield (SC 2220006)  
Red Hill (SC 2220007)  
Kilsock (SC 2220002)



### Consumer Confidence Report CY2025

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

#### Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (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).

#### Where does my water come from?

- GCWSD Waccamaw Neck WTP obtains its water from the Waccamaw River near Pawleys Island.
- GCWSD Garden City Point purchases water through a master meter from Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority which obtains its water from the Waccamaw River's Bull Creek.
- GCWSD Kilsock (East Zone) purchases water through a master meter from the City of Georgetown which obtains its water from the IP Canal.
- GCWSD's other water systems are supplied by groundwater sources.

#### Source water assessment and its availability:

Surface water sources are most susceptible to contamination from runoff or environmental conditions. Source water protection areas are for public drinking water supply intakes. A distance of 15 miles upstream from the surface water intake is the designated protection area (SWPA). SCDES has completed a source water assessment for this system. Contact GCWSD for more information.

#### Source Water Protection Tips:

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team



#### Why are there contaminants in my 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 calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. 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 (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

#### Water Conservation Tips:

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They are inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

#### Water Quality Data Table:

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Georgetown County Water & Sewer District works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap and performs required operations and maintenance of its water infrastructure. We respectfully ask that all our customers do their part to help us protect our valuable water sources. For any questions regarding GCWSD's Water Systems, please contact Customer Service at (843) 546-8408.



# Georgetown County Water and Sewer District

## "6-Time Winner of Best Tasting Water in South Carolina!"

### 2025 Water Quality Report



GCWSD is proud to report that the drinking water supplied to our customers throughout the 2025 calendar year met or exceeded state and federal health and safety standards. This report provides a detailed analysis of your drinking water based on the GCWSD's most recent sampling results for nearly 100 substances and elements regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. All drinking water, bottled water included, may be reasonably expected to contain at least minor traces of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health hazard.

If you have any questions after reviewing the report, please contact the GCWSD Customer Service Department at 843-546-8408.

#### 2025 WATER QUALITY SAMPLING RESULTS - SURFACE WATER SYSTEMS

##### WACCAMAW NECK

SUBSTANCE(Unit of Measure)	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST SAMPLE LEVEL	RANGE	VIOLATION	POSSIBLE SOURCE	YR SAMPLED	SUBSTANCE	ACTION LEVEL	90TH PERCENTILE	RANGE	# OF SITES OVER AL	VIOLATION	POSSIBLE SOURCE	YR SAMPLED	
NITRATE (PPM)	10	10	0.77	0.77	No	Runoff from fertilizer use	2025	COPPER (PPM)	1.3	0.17	0.0049 - 0.55	0 of 30 sites	No	Corrosion of household plumbing	2024	
SODIUM (PPM)	n/a	n/a	18	18	No	Erosion of natural deposits	2025	LEAD (PPB)	15	6.9	0 - 27	1 of 30 sites	No	Corrosion of household plumbing	2024	
TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON	TT	min removal 45-50%	59.2 - 83.1%	59.2 - 83.1%	No	Leaching from vegetation	2025	<b>2024-25 UCMR5 Sampled Contaminants</b>		AVERAGE	RANGE	<i>Unregulated contaminants are those for which US EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether further regulation is warranted. In 2024-2025, GCWSD WACCAMAW NECK SC2220010 participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). For a copy of the results, please call Customer Service at (843)546-8408.</i>				
TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (PPB)	n/a	80 LRAA	LRAA: 49	27.1 - 89.2	No	By-product of water disinfection	2025	PFBA (PPT)	1.7	0 - 6.8						
TURBIDITY (NTU)	TT	<0.3 for 95%	0.09	< 0.3 for 100%	No	Soil run-off	2025	PFBS (PPT)	3.1	0 - 5.1						
HALOACETIC ACIDS (PPB)	n/a	60 LRAA	LRAA: 28	15.5 - 53.6	No	By-product of water disinfection	2025	PFHxA (PPT)	2.0	0 - 4						
CHLORAMINES (PPM)	4	4	3.0	3	No	Additive used to control microbes	2025	PFHxA (PPT)	4.0	0 - 6.1						
								PFOA (PPT)	5.8	0 - 9.5						
								PFOS (PPT)	6.1	0 - 9.1						
								PFPeA (PPT)	5.5	0 - 8.8						

##### GARDEN CITY POINT

*(Purchased Water from Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority)*

SUBSTANCE(Unit of Measure)	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST SAMPLE LEVEL	RANGE	VIOLATION	POSSIBLE SOURCE	YR SAMPLED	SUBSTANCE	ACTION LEVEL	90TH PERCENTILE	RANGE	# OF SITES OVER AL	VIOLATION	POSSIBLE SOURCE	YR SAMPLED
NITRATE (PPM)	10	10	0.72	0 - 0.72	No	Runoff from fertilizer use	2025	COPPER (PPM)	1.3	0.084	0.0043 - 0.21	0 of 10 sites	No	Corrosion of household plumbing	2025
FLUORIDE (PPM)	4	4	1.16	0.19 - 1.16	No	Erosion of natural deposits	2025	LEAD (PPB)	15	0.35	0 - 2	0 of 10 sites	No	Corrosion of household plumbing	2025
TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (PPB)	n/a	80 LRAA	LRAA: 22	13.7 - 20.9	No	By-product of water disinfection	2025								
TURBIDITY (NTU)	TT	<0.3 for 95%	0.126	0.024 - 0.126	No	Soil run-off	2025								
HALOACETIC ACIDS (PPB)	n/a	60 LRAA	LRAA: 22	7.4 - 24.1	No	By-product of water disinfection	2025								
CHLORAMINES (PPM)	4	4	2.2	2.1 - 2.2	No	Additive used to control microbes	2025								
CHLOROBENZENE (PPM)	100	100	0.5	0.5	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops	2025								
GROSS ALPHA EXCLUDING RADON AND URANIUM (pCi/L)	0	15	0.622	0.396 - 0.622	No	Erosion of natural deposits	2023								
METOLACHLOR (PPM)	n/a	n/a	0.01	0.01	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops	2025								
DICAMBA (PPB)	n/a	n/a	0	0	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops	2025								
SODIUM (PPM)	n/a	n/a	17	17	No	Erosion of natural deposits	2025								

#### 2025 WATER QUALITY SAMPLING RESULTS - GROUND WATER SYSTEMS

##### PLANTERSVILLE

SUBSTANCE(Unit of Measure)	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST SAMPLE LEVEL	RANGE	VIOLATION	POSSIBLE SOURCE	YR SAMPLED	SUBSTANCE	ACTION LEVEL	90TH PERCENTILE	RANGE	# OF SITES OVER AL	VIOLATION	POSSIBLE SOURCE	YR SAMPLED
FLUORIDE (PPM)	4	4	0.63	0.63	No	Erosion of natural deposits	2024	COPPER (PPM)	1.3	0.066	0.0055 - 0.15	0 of 10 sites	No	Corrosion of household plumbing	2025
CHLORINE (PPM)	4	4	2	2	No	Additive used to control microbes	2025	LEAD (PPB)	15	2.9	0 - 3	0 of 10 sites	No	Corrosion of household plumbing	2025
TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (PPB)	n/a	80 LRAA	LRAA: 60	57.5 - 61.6	No	By-product of water disinfection	2025								
HALOACETIC ACIDS (PPB)	n/a	60 LRAA	LRAA: 18	11.6 - 23.5	No	By-product of water disinfection	2025								
COLIFORM BACTERIA	0	1 positive monthly sample	0	0	No	Naturally present in environment	2025								
SODIUM (PPM)	n/a	n/a	160	160	No	Erosion of natural deposits	2024								

##### CARVERS BAY\*

SUBSTANCE(Unit of Measure)	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST SAMPLE LEVEL	RANGE	VIOLATION	POSSIBLE SOURCE	YR SAMPLED	SUBSTANCE	ACTION LEVEL	90TH PERCENTILE	RANGE	# OF SITES OVER AL	VIOLATION	POSSIBLE SOURCE	YR SAMPLED
FLUORIDE (PPM)	4	4	3.2	2.8 - 3.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits	2025	COPPER (PPM)	1.3	0.062	0.0054 - 0.16	0 of 10 sites	No	Corrosion of household plumbing	2025
SODIUM (PPM)	n/a	n/a	230	210 - 230	No	Erosion of natural deposits	2022	LEAD (PPB)	15	0.43	0 - 0.47	0 of 10 sites	No	Corrosion of household plumbing	2025
CHLORINE (PPM)	4	4	1	1	No	Additive used to control microbes	2025								
TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (PPB)	n/a	80	LRAA: 75	51 - 106.2	No	By-product of water disinfection	2025								
HALOACETIC ACIDS (PPB)	n/a	60	LRAA: 24	18.3 - 40.9	No	By-product of water disinfection	2025								
COMBINED RADIUM 226/228(pCi/L)	0	5	0.025	0 - 0.25	No	Erosion of natural deposits	2021								

Violations Table:

**Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) and Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)**

*Some people who drink water containing HAA5 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

*Some people who drink water containing TTHM in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
Monitoring, Routine (DBP), Major	01/01/2025	03/31/2025	Our drinking water was not tested for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. *

*\* Some samples were delayed getting to lab; therefore analysis could not be performed within the required hold time. SCDES staff were unable to recollect samples within Q1 2025. One sample was successfully analyzed during this quarter and met standard limits. All remaining samples were collected according to schedule for the remainder of 2025 with no violations triggered.*



ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS WATER QUALITY REPORT	GUIDE TO ASTERISKS IN SAMPLING TABLES	ABOUT LEAD	INVENTORY OF WATER SERVICE LINES		
<p><b>MCLG</b> - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.</p> <p><b>MCL</b> - 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.</p> <p><b>mrem/year</b> - millirems per year: A measure of radiation absorbed by the body</p> <p><b>PPM</b> - Parts per Million: The equivalent of one penny in \$10,000, or one minute in two years.</p> <p><b>PPB</b> - Parts per Billion: The equivalent of one penny in \$10,000,000 or one minute in 2,000 years.</p> <p><b>PPT</b> - Parts per Trillion: The equivalent of one penny in \$10,000,000,000 or one minute out of 2 million years.</p> <p><b>pCi/L</b> - Picocuries Per Liter: The measure of radioactivity in water.</p> <p><b>ug/L</b> - Micrograms Per Liter: The equivalent to PPB.</p> <p><b>NTU</b> - Nephelometric Turbidity Units: A measure of the clarity in water.</p> <p><b>90th Percentile</b>: Of all samples analyzed, 90 percent were at or below this detection level.</p> <p><b>RAA</b> - Running Annual Average.</p> <p><b>LRAA</b> - Locational Running Annual Average: The RAA of one individual sample site.</p> <p><b>AL</b> - Action Level: The concentration of contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.</p> <p><b>TT</b> - Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.</p> <p><b>ND</b> - None Detected. <b>n/a</b> - Not Available.</p> <p><b>WTP</b> - Water Treatment Plant</p>	<p>*The Carvers Bay, Red Hill, and Kilssock water systems exceeded the secondary standard for fluoride in samples taken during 2025. Fluoride occurs naturally in some areas and is present in varying concentrations in the source water. This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 ppm of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). Dental fluorosis in its moderate or severe forms may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums. Children under the age of nine should be provided with alternate sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining or pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of products containing fluoride. Older children and adults may safely drink the water. Drinking water containing more than 4 ppm of fluoride (US EPA's drinking water standard) can increase your risk of bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4 ppm of fluoride, but we are required to notify you when we discover that fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2 ppm because of this cosmetic dental problem. For more information, please call Michael Yip, Operations Director of Georgetown County Water and Sewer District at 843-237-9727. To learn more about available water treatment units to remove fluoride from drinking water, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP. ** The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta/positron emitters.</p>	<p>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. GCWSD 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 GCWSD Customer Service at (843)546-8408. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead">http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead</a>.</p>	<p>Under the guidance of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES), Georgetown County Water and Sewer District (GCWSD) completed inventory of all drinking water service line materials in its service area. Various investigative methods were used to identify the pipe materials of service lines, including historical records and an SCDES-approved statistical methodology model. Based on this data and results from routine lead and copper sampling, GCWSD found no lead service lines present in the Waccamaw Neck, Garden City, Plantersville, Carvers Bay, Wedgefield, Red Hill, or Kilssock Water Systems. For a complete Water Service Line Inventory for our water service area link: <a href="https://www.gcsd.com/copy-of-lead">https://www.gcsd.com/copy-of-lead</a>. For additional information on LCRR, please click on the links below: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/revise-lead-and-copper-rule">https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/revise-lead-and-copper-rule</a> <a href="https://des.sc.gov/">https://des.sc.gov/</a></p>	<p><a href="#">The public is invited to attend any of the monthly Board of Directors' meetings scheduled for the second Thursday of each month at 6:00pm at the Pawleys Island Administrative office at 456 Clearwater Drive, and at the Georgetown Administrative office at 445 Highmarket Street during the months of March, June, September and December. Please visit our website for additional information at <a href="http://www.gcsd.com">www.gcsd.com</a>.</a></p>	