VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON
Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report For 2025

The Village of Bluffton has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of your drinking water. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

License to Operate (LTO) Status

In 2025, the Village of Bluffton was issued a license to operate our water system.
License (0200112-1670094-2025) "Green," pursuant to ORC §6109.21, expires January 30, 2026.

What's the source of your drinking water?

The Village of Bluffton receives its drinking water from the Village of Ottawa. We have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system. The Village of Ottawa Public Water System draws its drinking water from the Blanchard River, which runs south of the Water Treatment Plant. For the purposes of source water assessments in Ohio, all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination and require extensive treatment before being used as drinking water. By their nature, surface waters are readily accessible and can be contaminated by chemicals and pathogens, which may rapidly arrive at the public drinking water intake with little warning or time to prepare. The Village of Ottawa's drinking water source protection area contains potential contaminant sources such as agriculture, home construction, septic systems, combined sewer overflows, wastewater treatment discharges, commercial and industrial sources, roadways, and railways.

The Village of Ottawa's Public Water System treats the water to meet drinking water quality standards, but no single treatment technique can address all potential contaminants. Implementing measures to protect the Blanchard River can further decrease the potential for water quality impacts. More detailed information is provided in the Village of Ottawa's Drinking Water Source Assessment report, which can be obtained by calling (419)523-5020.

What are sources of contamination to drinking water?

The sources 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: (A) Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife; (B) 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; (C) Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) 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; (E) Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for the 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 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 (1-800-426-4791).

Who needs 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 and the elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infection. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

Lead Education Information

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. The Village of Bluffton 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 at 800-426-4791 or at http://epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Per the Lead and Copper Rules, Public Water Systems were required to develop and maintain a Service Line Inventory. A service line is the underground pipe that supplies your home or building with water. To view the Service Line Inventory, which lists the material type(s) for your location, you can visit the Bluffton Town Hall at 154 N. Main St. or call 419-358-2066.

About your drinking water:

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Village of Ottawa conducted sampling for total coliform bacteria, inorganics, and synthetic and volatile organic contaminants during 2025. Samples are collected for more than 80 different contaminants, most of which were not detected above minimal amounts in the Village of Ottawa's water supply. The Ohio EPA requires the Village to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though accurate, may be more than one year old. The data presented within the Consumer Confidence Report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Division of Drinking and Ground Water regulations.

The Village of Ottawa routinely monitors its drinking water for contaminants to ensure drinking water safety. The following pages contain summarized information on those agents for which testing has been done. The EPA requires certain terminology and abbreviates, and that specific calculations be performed for different contaminants. To help better understand these terms, definitions have been provided. The analytical results presented in the tables are the most recent testing results done in accordance with regulations.

The value reported under the "Level Found" section for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is the lowest ratio between the percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC removal required by the EPA. A value of greater than (1) indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements, whereas a value of less than one (<1) indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

Turbidity

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and an indication of the effectiveness of the filter system. The turbidity limit is set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the daily samples and shall not exceed 1.0 NTU at any time. As reported on the spreadsheet, the Village's highest recorded daily turbidity result for 2025 was 0.23 NTU and the lowest percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100.0%. Meaning Ottawa's filtration system is highly effective in limiting turbidity (cloudiness) in your drinking water.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

As part of the federal 2024 PFAS drinking water rule, Public Water Systems were required to monitor finished drinking water for PFAS by April 26, 2027. The Village of Ottawa completed this monitoring by participating in the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR 5) program, which monitored multiple contaminants including the six regulated PFAS: PFOA, PFOS, HFPO-DA, PFBS, PFHxS, and PFNA. For the results, refer to the "UCMR 5 Results — 2024 Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Report" section below. Bluffton's results are also included in the table. The Village is in compliance with the 2024 PFAS drinking water standards.

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comments are encouraged at regular meetings of Council which meet the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall at 154 N. Main Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817. If you would prefer to address your concerns in letter form, you may send it to:

Jesse Blackburn, Administrator
P.O. Box 63
Bluffton, OH 45817-0063

Or call: 419-358-2066 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The following definitions and tables contain information about the contaminants that were found in the drinking water *in 2025.*

Definitions

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

Cyanotoxin: Toxin produced by cyanobacteria. These toxins include liver toxins, nerve toxins, and skin toxins. Also sometimes referred to as "algal toxin."

Cyanobacteria: Photosynthesizing bacteria, also called blue-green algae, which naturally occur in marine and freshwater ecosystems, and may produce cyanotoxins which at sufficiently high concentrations can pose a risk to public health.

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.

Microcystins: Liver toxins produced by a number of cyanobacteria. Total microcystins are the sum of all the variants/congeners (forms) of the cyanotoxin microcystin.

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 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.

n/a: Not applicable.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units; A measurement of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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

"<" symbol: A symbol which means "less than." A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

ppb / µg/L: Parts per Billion or Micrograms per Liter; units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

ppm / mg/L: Parts per Million or Milligrams per Liter; units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.

pCi/L: Picocuries per liter; A common measure of radioactivity.

PFAS: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals applied to many industrial, commercial and consumer products to make them waterproof, stain resistant, or nonstick. PFAS are also used in products like cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam called aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) which are used mainly on large spills of flammable liquids, such as jet fuel. PFAS are classified as contaminants of emerging concern, meaning that research into the harm they may cause to human health is still ongoing.

2025 Table of Water Quality Test Results

Data is from the most recent testing done in accordance with Ohio EPA regulations.

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Viol?	Year	Typical Source
Microbiological Contaminants							
				Results from Bluffton Distribution System			
Total Coliform Bacteria	*See Note	0	0	0-1	No	2025	
				Results from Ottawa Distribution System			
Microcystins (µg/L)	AL=0.3	n/a	< 0.240	n/a	No	2025	Produced by naturally occurring cyanobacteria.
Total Organic Carbon	TT	n/a	1.860	1.47–2.28	No	2025	Naturally present in the environment.
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	n/a	0.23	0.03–0.23	No	2025	Soil runoff
Turbidity (% meeting std)	TT	n/a	100%	n/a	No	2025	Soil runoff

*Total Coliform Bacteria MCL: Systems that collect fewer than 40 samples per month, one (1) positive sample.

Inorganic Contaminants				**Results from Ottawa Distribution System**			
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.016	n/a	No	2025	Discharge of drilling wastes; metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.075	n/a	No	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Zero out of 25 samples exceeded the copper Action Level of 1.3 ppm.							
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0	< 2.0	n/a	No	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Zero out of 25 samples exceeded the lead Action Level of 15.0 ppb.							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.12	0.83–1.30	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive for strong teeth; fertilizer & aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	3.0	0.53–3.0	No	2025	Fertilizer runoff; septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	0	3.61	3.61–3.61	No	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-228 (pCi/L)	5	0	<1	<1.0–<1.0	No	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Residual Disinfectants				**Results from Bluffton Distribution System**			
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	1.870	1.05–2.73	No	2025	Water additive used to control microbes
Volatile Organic Contaminants				**Results from Bluffton Distribution System**			
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	60	n/a	32.5	20.4-45.3	No	2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM] (ppb)	80	n/a	46.2	29.8-69.0	No	2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Unregulated Contaminants				**Results from Ottawa Distribution System**			
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	n/a	n/a	28.1	9.2–28.1	No	2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	n/a	n/a	13.7	5.6–13.7	No	2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform (ppb)	n/a	n/a	1.6	0.6–1.6	No	2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform [trichloromethane] (ppb)	n/a	n/a	87	22.5–87.0	No	2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination

UCMR 5 Results — 2024 Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Report (UCMR)

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining occurrence and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2024, the Village of Ottawa participated in UCMR 5. Sampling was conducted March, June, September, and December 2024. Results below:

Results from Ottawa Distribution System					
Compound	MCLG (ng/L)	MCL (ng/L)	Avg Level (ug/L)	Range (ug/L)	Notes
Lithium	No Limit	No Limit	10.727	0–11.9	Unregulated
PFOA	zero	4	< MRL	< MRL	Not detected — compliant with 2024 PFAS rule
PFOS	zero	4	< MRL	< MRL	Not detected — compliant with 2024 PFAS rule
PFHxS	10	10	< MRL	< MRL	Not detected
PFNA	10	10	< MRL	< MRL	Not detected
HFPO-DA	10	10	< MRL	< MRL	Not detected
PFHxA	No Limit	No Limit	0.029	0.015–0.052	Unregulated. Detected 3 of 4 events.
PFPeA	No Limit	No Limit	0.049	0.018–0.090	Unregulated. Detected 3 of 4 events.
PFBS	No Limit	No Limit	0.006	0.003–0.008	Unregulated. Detected 3 of 4 events.
PFBA	No Limit	No Limit	0.011	0.009–0.012	Unregulated. Detected 2 of 4 events.

UCMR 5 Results — 2025 Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Report

In 2025, Bluffton participated in UCMR 5. Sampling was conducted in February, May, August and November of 2025. Results below:

Results from Bluffton Distribution System					
Compound	MCLG (ng/L)	MCL (ng/L)	Avg Level (ug/L)	Range (ug/L)	Notes
Lithium	No Limit	No Limit	5.25	0 - 11	Unregulated
PFOA	zero	4	< MRL	< MRL	Not detected
PFOS	zero	4	< MRL	< MRL	Not detected
PFHxS	10	10	< MRL	< MRL	Not detected
PFNA	10	10	< MRL	< MRL	Not detected
HFPO-DA	10	10	< MRL	< MRL	Not detected
PFHxA	No Limit	No Limit	0.025	0.0099 – 0.055	Unregulated.
PFPeA	No Limit	No Limit	0.054	0.015 – 0.14	Unregulated.
PFBS	No Limit	No Limit	0.00545	0.0030 – 0.0084	Unregulated.
PFBA	No Limit	No Limit	0.00685	0 – 0.015	Unregulated.

"< MRL" means the contaminant was not detected above the minimum reporting level. Detection of unregulated contaminants does not mean the water is unsafe. PFOA and PFOS are regulated PFAS with MCLs of 4 ng/L each; all results were non-detect. PFHxA, PFPeA, PFBS, PFBA, and lithium are unregulated — no federal MCL is established at this time.