

**Spruce Tree Village**  
**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**  
**2025**

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water 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 are continuing to make improvements to our water system as needed to assure our water is safe for our consumers. As part of the improvements in 2025 we replaced a pressure tank in the water plant. There were no EPA or health department violations in 2025

“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 at [stuohio.com](http://stuohio.com) or stop in at the office during open hours.

Our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements and we have a current, unconditional license to operate our water system. This report shows our water quality and what it means. Public participation and comments are encouraged. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact your office or call Richard Jackson at 330-201-0377. If there is any emergencies or meetings about your water system you will be notified at your public notice location, hand delivered to each resident or in your monthly statement.

This Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) reflects changes in drinking water regulatory requirements during 2016. All water systems were required to comply with the Total Coliform Rule from 1989 to March 31, 2016, and begin compliance with a new rule, the Revised Total Coliform Rule, on April 1, 2016. The new rule maintains the purpose to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of total coliform bacteria, which includes *E. coli* bacteria. The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under the new rule, as it requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. As a result, under the new rule there is no longer a maximum contaminant level violation for multiple total coliform detections. Instead, the new rule requires water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences to conduct an assessment to determine if any significant deficiencies exist. If found, these must be corrected by the public water system.

The sources for both tap water and bottled water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, and wells. Our water source is ground water and we operate from two wells. Our wells draw water from an aquifer of sandstone and sandy shell of Cuyahoga formation and Pottsville group. It is then sent through water softeners to remove iron, manganese and hardness after that it is chlorinated for protection in case any disease-causing organisms that may enter the system.

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.

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. 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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorder, some 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).

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. Most contaminants were not detected in the water supply. We tested for many contaminants as required by EPA. If a contaminant was detected it is listed in the table below. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year therefore some of our sample results in the table could be more than one year old.

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

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

**Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

**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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** 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.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

**Table of contaminants that were found in the drinking water at Spruce Tree Village**

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as C12) (ppm)	4	4	1.2	1.1	1.2	2025	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Fluoride	4	4	0.13	0.13	0.13	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water Additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Copper - level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.03	2023	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1.1	2023	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

**Lead educational 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. Spruce Tree Village 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 drinking and cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline At <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Ohio EPA completed a study of Spruce Tree Village source of drinking water, to identify potential contaminant sources and provide guidance on protecting the drinking water source. According to this study, the aquifer {water-rich zone} that supplies water that supplies water to Spruce Tree Village has a high susceptibility to contamination. This is based on the following: 1.Lack of a protective layer of clay/shale/other overlying the aquifer. 2. Presence of significant potential contaminant sources in the protected area.3. Shallow depth to water {12 feet}.

This susceptibility means that under currently existing conditions, the likelihood of the aquifer becoming contaminated is relatively high. This likelihood can be minimized by implementing appropriate protective measures. More information about the source water assessment or what consumers can do to help protect the aquifer is available by calling Richard Jackson at 330-201-0377 or by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Other ways to protect your drinking water is by the use of backflow devices you can use on and around you home, we have included information on backflow prevention for you to review. If you have any questions about backflow devices, please call me at 330-201-0377.

Sincerely  
Richard Jackson  
Plant Operator

### What is a cross-connection?

Any physical connection created between a possible source of contamination and any drinking water system piping.

### What is backflow?

It is the flow through a cross-connection from a possible source of contamination back into the drinking water system. It occurs when a cross-connection is created and a pressure reversal, either as backsiphonage or backpressure, occurs in the water supply piping.

### Why be concerned?

- All cross-connections pose a potential health risk.
- Backflow can be a health hazard for your family or other consumers. If contaminated water enters your water supply plumbing system and is used for drinking, cooking or bathing, Chemical burns, fires, explosions, poisonings, illness and death have all been caused by backflow through cross-connections.
- Backflow occurs more often than you think.
- You are legally responsible for protecting your water supply plumbing from backflow that may contaminate drinking water, either your own or someone else's. This includes complying with the plumbing code and not creating cross-connections.

### What causes backsiphonage?

Backsiphonage occurs when there is a loss of pressure in a piping system. This can occur if the water supply pressure is lost or falls to a level lower than the source of contamination. This condition, which is similar to drinking from a glass with a straw, allows liquids to be siphoned back into the distribution system.

### What causes backpressure?

Backpressure occurs when a higher opposing pressure is applied against the public water system's pressure. This condition allows undesirable gases or liquids from another system to enter the drinking water supply. Any pumping system (such as a well pump) or pressurized system (such as steam or hot water boilers) can exert backpressure when cross-connected with the public water system.

### What can I do?

- Be aware of and eliminate cross-connections.
- Maintain air gaps. Do not submerge hoses or place them where they could become submerged.
- Use hose bib vacuum breakers on fixtures (hose connections in the basement, laundry room and outside).
- Install approved, testable backflow preventers on lawn irrigation systems.
- Do not create a connection between an auxiliary water system (well, stream, body of water) and the water supply plumbing.

### What are some common backflow hazards that threaten the homeowner and other consumers?

- Hose connections to chemical solution separators to feed lawn and shrub herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers.
- Lawn irrigation systems.
- Chemically treated heating systems.
- Hose connections to a water outlet or laundry tub.
- Swimming pools, hot tubs, spas.
- Private and/or non-potable water supplies located on the property.
- Water-operated sump drain devices.
- Feed lots/livestock holding areas or barnyards fed through jilbes or hoses from your water supply plumbing.

### What are examples of cross-connection and backflow scenarios?

- Sippy water or other cleaning compounds backsiphon into the water supply plumbing through a faucet or hose submerged in a bucket or laundry basin.
- Pool water backsiphons into the water supply plumbing through a hose submerged in a swimming pool.
- Fertilizers/pesticides backsiphon into the water supply plumbing through a garden hose attached to a fertilizer/pesticide sprayer.
- Chemicals/pesticides and animal feces drawn into the water supply plumbing from a lawn irrigation system with submerged nozzles.
- Backflow chemicals/additives in a boiler system backsiphon into the water supply plumbing.
- Waste water pumped from a private well applies backpressure and contaminates the public water supply through a connection between the private well discharge and the potable water supply plumbing.

### What must be done to protect the public water system?

The public water supplier must determine potential and actual hazards. If a hazard exists at a customer's public water supply service connection, the customer will be required to install and maintain an appropriate backflow preventer\* at the meter and/or at the source of the hazard.

\*Check with your water supplier to verify which backflow preventer is required before purchase or installation.

### Who is responsible?

In Ohio, the responsibility for preventing backflow is divided. In general, state and local plumbing inspectors have authority over plumbing systems within buildings while Ohio EPA and water suppliers regulate protection of the distribution system at each service connection.

Water customers have the ultimate responsibility for properly maintaining their plumbing systems. It is the homeowner's or other customer's responsibility to ensure that cross-connections are not created and that any required backflow preventers are tested yearly and are in operable condition.

### What is the law?

Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3745-95 requires the public water supplier to protect the public water system from cross-connections and prevent backflow situations. The public water supplier must conduct cross-connection control inspections of their water customers' property to evaluate hazards. Local ordinances or water department regulations may also exist and must be followed in addition to state regulations.