First Utility District of Hardin County Water Quality Report for 2025

Is my drinking water safe?
Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. As you'll see in the chart on the back, we only detected seven of these contaminants. We found most of these contaminants at safe levels.

What is the source of my water?
Your water, which is surface water, comes from the Tennessee River. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants 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, moderately susceptible or slightly susceptible based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The First Utility District of Hardin County sources 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 you may contact the Water System to obtain copies of specific assessments.

Why are there contaminants in my 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

For more information about your drinking water, please call Ronald Smith at 731-689-4454.

How can I get involved?
Our Water Board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m.at the utility office. Please feel free to participate in these meetings. The Commissioners of First Utility District of Hardin County serve four year terms. The Board of Commissioners are elected by a vote of the utility district's customers. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners on customer complaints brought before the Board of Commissioners under the District's customer complaint policy may be reviewed by the Utility Management Review Board of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation pursuant to Section 7-82-702(7) of Tennessee Code Annotated.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?
The State and EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements. Results of unregulated contaminant analysis are available upon request. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

Other Information
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.
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, 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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. First Utility District of Hardin County's water treatment processes are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Lead in Drinking Water
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. First Utility District of Hardin County 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 a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact First Utility District of Hardin County at 731-689-4454. 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.

Lead Service Line Inventory
The utility has completed a lead service line inventory which is accessible by contacting our office during normal business hours.

Water System Security
Following the events of September 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, pumping stations, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to 731-689-3795.

Think before you flush!
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://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/

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W a t e r Q u a l i t y D a t a

What does this chart mean?

- MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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.
- MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, 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.
- MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
- MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfectant level goal. The level of a 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.
- AL - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Below Detection Level (BDL) - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a level that can be detected.
- Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – explained as a relation to time and money as one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.
- Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.
- Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- RTCR – Revised Total Coliform Rule. This rule went into effect on April 1, 2016 and replaces the MCL for total coliform with a Treatment Technique Trigger for a system assessment.
- TT - Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (RTCR)[1]	No	1		March 2025		0	TT Trigger	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity[2]	No	0.269	0.03 - 0.269	2025	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Copper[3]	No	0.0230 90th%	0.0031-0.0942	2023	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead[3]	No	0.3 90th%	0.2-0.83	2023	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	No	13.8	13.8*	2025	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
Sulfate	No	29.2	29.2*	2020	ppm	N/A	N/A	Naturally present in the environment
TTHM[4] [Total trihalomethanes]	**No**	**91.45**	**29.70 – 83.30**	**2025**	**ppb**	**n/a**	**80**	**By-product of drinking water chlorination**
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	48.00	23.00 – 69.00	2025	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Organic Carbon[5]	No	See Footnote 4		2025	ppm	TT	TT	Naturally present in the environment.
Chlorine	No	1.42	0.49 - 2.20	2025	ppm	MRDLG4	MRDL 4	Water additive used to control microbes.

*We are only required to collect one sample from a single location.

[1]During the month of March 2025 one of eight routine total coliform samples tested positive. All repeat samples were negative.

[2]All of our samples were below the turbidity limit. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

[3]During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, 0 out of 20 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level.

[4]While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for trihalomethanes, it does contain low levels. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes 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.

[5]We have met all treatment technique requirements for Total Organic Carbon removal.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

First Utility District of Hardin County recently violated a federal drinking water standard. Although this situation does not require that you take immediate action, you as a customer, have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what was done to correct this situation.

During the **April 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025** compliance period the water system's Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) at site #101, Gladden Road, for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) has been calculated to be **0.09145 mg/L**. This value exceeds the Maximum Contaminant Level of 0.080 mg/L set for this parameter.

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

Total Trihalomethanes are disinfection byproducts resulting from our chlorination of the water to minimize risk of microbial life in the drinking water. The EPA considers microbial contaminants as the greatest risk to the public. We are evaluating the results of the required disinfection and will continue to make an effort to reduce the disinfection byproducts without increasing the microbial risks.

Since this discovery was made, we have made extra efforts to increase flushing in the area.

You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

For more information, please contact us at 731-689-4454.

Please share this information with everyone who may drink this water, including those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by First Utility District of Hardin County.
PWSID# TN0000546
Date distributed: 8-22-2025

Unregulated Contaminants:

Contaminant	Level Found	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement
PFBA	0.009	0.0074-0.009	2023,2024	ppb
PFBS	0.0059	0.003-0.0059	2023,2024	ppb
PFHxA	0.0055	0.0039-0.0055	2023,2024	ppb
PFOA	0.0173	0.0048-0.0173	2023,2024	ppb
PFOS	0.0259	0.011-0.0259	2023,2024	ppb
PFHpA	0.0042	<MRL-0.0042	2023	ppb
PFHxS	0.0036	<MRL-0.0036	2023	ppb
PFPeA	0.0031	<MRL-0.0031	2023	ppb

MRL – Minimum Reporting Level is the lowest analyte concentration that meets Data Quality Objectives that are developed based on the intended use of this method.
Unregulated contaminants are 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.

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