

# Water Quality

THE CITY OF



# 2025 REPORT

## The City of Kalamazoo

provides its customers with information about the quality of our drinking water each year in a Water Quality Report (sometimes referred to as a Consumer Confidence Report). Much of the information provided in this report, along with the additional monitoring and testing conducted throughout the year, is beyond what is required by the Safe Drinking Water Act and is provided as an extra service to our customers.

The 2025 water quality data in this report demonstrates that the water we provide to our customers exceeds the standards established by federal and state regulations.





# THE Kalamazoo WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

**DID YOU KNOW** that the Kalamazoo Water Supply System is the Largest Groundwater System in Michigan?

## Your Drinking Water Source

The City of Kalamazoo Public Water Supply System is the largest groundwater-based drinking water system and the fifth largest water utility in Michigan. It is also ranked among the lowest for water rates out of the 50 largest systems within the state.

Our system utilizes limited treatment through chlorine, fluoride, and phosphate additives. Two stations are equipped with water purification and iron removal capabilities.

## 2025 Kalamazoo Water Facts

**STORAGE:** 10 water storage facilities with 18.95 million gallons of treated water storage capacity

**SOURCES:**

- 13 active wellfields
- 13 point of entry treatment facilities
- 90 wells
- 20 million gallons per day produced on average
- 32.2 million gallons per day maximum in 2025
- 46 million gallons per day of treatment capacity

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- Approximately 200,000 customers served
- Service in 11 jurisdictions
- 880 miles of water main
- Approximately 7400 hydrants
- 11 pressure service districts

## THIS REPORT

Summarizes our efforts and commitment to provide safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water. Our facilities operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and are monitored continuously both on and off site by qualified, trained and licensed personnel.

## Upcoming Improvements for 2026 & Beyond

The City of Kalamazoo has planned a systematic Multi-Year Capital Improvement Program to continue our mission of providing high quality drinking water in compliance with all regulatory requirements. This program will include upgrades to existing pipes, new water main construction, station corrosion control optimization upgrades, new water storage facilities, new Type I Wells, additional lead service replacements, and new iron and PFAS removal capabilities.

**For more information scan the QR codes below.**





# PROTECTING **OUR** water

continued  
**CROSS-  
CONNECTIONS**

A backflow in the water system can be created in areas that experience a sudden loss of pressure.

As a City of Kalamazoo drinking water supply customer, you can help ensure that the water you are drinking within your home and business remains safe. Prevent cross-connections with the City of Kalamazoo's water supply by ensuring that all backflow prevention devices are installed, inspected and properly maintained by licensed and certified plumbers as required by state and local plumbing codes.

## What is a "cross-connection?"

Cross-connections are arrangements of piping or appurtenances through which a backflow of undesirable material could enter the potable (drinking) water system.

## What is a "backflow"?

Backflow is water flowing in the opposite direction of its normal flow. Backflow can allow contaminants to enter the drinking water system through cross-connections.

The undesirable material may come from sources connected to your own home or facility's internal or external plumbing. A backflow in the water system can be created in areas that experience a sudden loss of pressure. Pressure changes can occur as a result of water main breaks, fire department usage, or during times of hydrant flushing.

If any of these conditions occur in your area, you should flush your lines before using the water to minimize iron particles and other undesirable impurities that may be present. Flush your taps by starting in your restroom facility or utility sink and working out towards your food service area.



## Help prevent **cross-connections:**

- Do not submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, sinks or process tanks.
- Do not use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device. The chemicals used on your lawn are toxic and can be fatal if ingested.
- Do buy and install backflow prevention devices (hose bib vacuum breakers) for all threaded faucets around your home or business. They are inexpensive and available at hardware stores and home-improvement centers.
- Never install sprinkler systems, fire suppression systems, or boilers with chemical additives without proper backflow prevention devices.
- Ensure that your softener drain line has an air gap between the drain line and the receiving drain.
- Residential and Commercial establishments connected to the municipal water system must properly abandon all water wells onsite and provide abandonment information to the City of Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo Environmental Community Health Department.

# PROTECTING OUR water

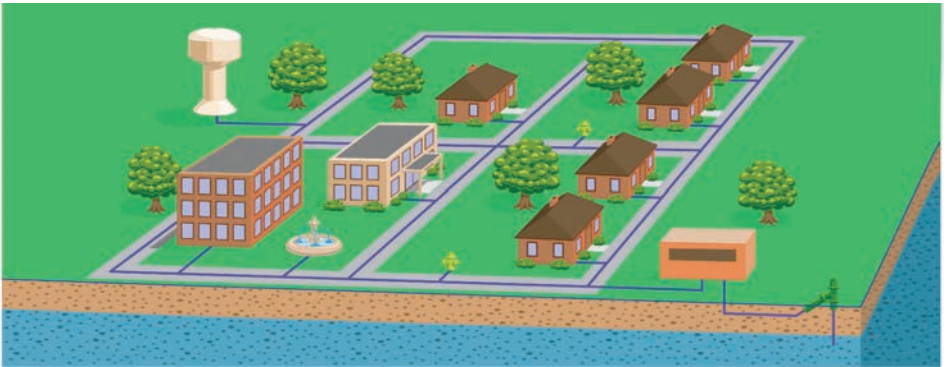


## Kalamazoo's Groundwater



Groundwater is the sole source of drinking water for private and municipal wells in Kalamazoo County. The City of Kalamazoo has many wellfields where groundwater is pumped from deep wells in the ground. It's treated for water quality, and stored in water towers waiting for you to turn on a faucet, take a shower or wash your dishes. Your municipal water supply is delivered to you by gravity through our underground distribution system.

The water distribution system is a large grid of buried water main pipes, usually running under the streets. Fire hydrants and water storage tanks are also part of this distribution system and serve important functions. Obviously, fire hydrants are used to extinguish fires, but they also serve to clean out sediments from water mains and to test flow capabilities. Above groundwater storage tanks serve as emergency water storage for power outages and firefighting but also provide appropriate pressure in the water distribution system.



**Groundwater is directly pumped from the deep aquifer underground.**

## Wellhead Protection



To protect the quality of our municipal water supply, the City must protect our water resource, GROUNDWATER! The City of Kalamazoo has a Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) approved Wellhead Protection Program to do just that. Through our extensive educational outreach, facility inspections, land-use regulations, operational policies, and best management practices, we're doing our part to provide safe, reliable, quality drinking water.

To learn more, visit <https://protectyourwater.net/about-protect-your-water-wellheadprotection/>

# PROTECTING OUR water



Nearly half of the U.S. population depends on groundwater for its drinking water supply.

## Stormwater Management

The watershed we live in is **CONNECTED DIRECTLY** to the GREAT LAKES! The City of Kalamazoo is a part of the Kalamazoo Stormwater Working Group (KSWG), a collaborative effort of outreach and education in the Kalamazoo County area for our interconnected Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s).



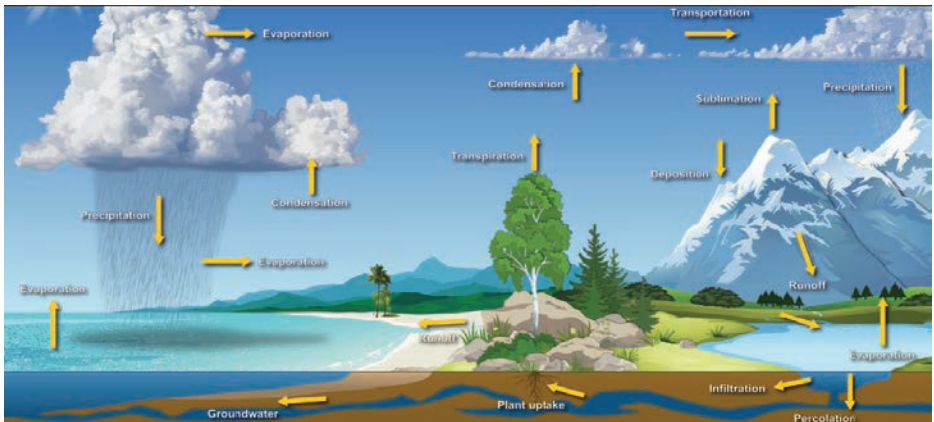
The City has a State of Michigan National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for the discharge of stormwater to the surface waters of the state, to improve water quality, provide guidelines for developers, and to consider additional controls to minimize localized flooding.

Citizens in our watershed can also influence the quality of our rivers, lakes, and streams. Pollutants, nutrients, and pathogens often accumulate from several different sources. Protecting our watershed is a collective effort. Remember, **What gets to the STREET, gets to the CREEK.**

To learn more, visit [Protectyourwater.net/KSWG](https://protectyourwater.net/KSWG)

## 2025-2026 Kalamazoo Stormwater Facts:

|        |                                |     |                     |
|--------|--------------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| 244    | Miles of pipe                  | 520 | Outfalls            |
| 11,829 | Catch/leaching basins & inlets | 238 | Culverts            |
| 4,910  | Manholes                       | 7   | Infiltration basins |
| 4,601  | Inlets                         |     |                     |



The City's Performance Standards for groundwater and stormwater can be found at <https://protectyourwater.net/groundwater-regulations/>

# WELL. Retention

*In February 2021, the City of Kalamazoo instituted a well retention policy to protect the City of Kalamazoo Municipal Water System from the backflow of a potentially contaminated water well into the municipal water supply that serves approximately 200,000 Kalamazoo County residents. This policy also applies when new wells are installed at properties that are currently connected to the Municipal Water System.*

The City of Kalamazoo will allow homeowners that connect to the City of Kalamazoo Municipal Water System to retain their potable wells for irrigation purposes consistent with local, state, and federal codes, ordinances, and regulations, pending Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department approval. A well may only be retained if the lateral pipe between the well and house is severed outside the homes foundation and all well equipment (pressure tanks, etc.) are removed from the home prior to or at the time of connection to the Municipal Water System. In no event shall water from more than one source enter or be plumbed to the same structure, unless otherwise approved by the City Engineer or their authorized representative.



**For further information go to  
[Kalamazoocity.org](http://Kalamazoocity.org) or call 311 or (269) 337-8000.**

# DID You Know?



## **The Kalamazoo Water Supply System**

*is the largest ALL ground-water system in Michigan and the 5th Largest overall water utility in the State. This is a large public system that continues to grow. The 500th mile of water main was placed in 1981, and 45 years later in 2026 we have 875 miles of water main. As we continue to grow, water sustainability will become more important as we all use, value and cherish Groundwater, a great resource.*



Learn more about the  
Development of the  
Kalamazoo Metro  
Water Supply System

**Did You Know?** 100% of Kalamazoo County residents use groundwater as the source of their drinking water.

(Source: Kalamazoo Wellhead Protection Committee, 2021)

**Did You Know?** A number of products used at home contain hazardous or toxic substances that can contaminate ground or surface waters, such as: Motor oil, Pesticides, Leftover paints or paint cans, Mothballs, Flea collars, Household cleaners, Many medications. (Source: EPA, 2023)

**Did You Know?** Groundwater supplies drinking water for 51% of the total U.S. population and 99% of the rural population.

(Source: The Groundwater Foundation)

**Did You Know?** Groundwater helps grow our food. 64% of groundwater is used for irrigation to grow crops. (Source: The Groundwater Foundation)

**Boil Water Advisories (BWAs)** are most commonly issued when a significant temporary loss of pressure to a defined area occurs or had a reasonable potential to have occurred due to a water infrastructure break, repair, or replacement. BWAs may be issued before a planned/scheduled repair or infrastructure replacement, or issued under emergency conditions, such as a water main break or when other water infrastructure is severely damaged.

## Boil Water Advisories & Orders



Although rare, BWAs can be issued under a variety of other situations, such as an act of vandalism, terrorism, or a known or unknown source of contamination in the water system. Please note that the BWA will

always describe the specific area affected, contact numbers, and any appropriate directions, such as boiling your water. The vast majority of these BWAs are precautionary and issued without any evidence of contamination.

More information on Boil Water Advisories and customer communications is available at:  
<https://www.kalamazoo.org/bwa>

# 2025 WATER QUALITY DATA

| Regulated Contaminant                  | MCL          | MCLG          | Level Detected | Results Range         | Violation Yes/No |
|--|--------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Sodium (mg/L) (2024)<br>Nitrate (mg/L) | No MCL<br>10 | No MCLG<br>10 | 75<br>1.1      | 6.8 - 75<br>ND - 1.10 | No<br>No         |
| Barium (ppm)                           | 2            | 2             | 0.11           | ND - 0.11             | No               |
| Arsenic (ppb)                          | 10           | NA            | 7.8            | NA                    | No               |

| Regulated Contaminant           | MCL    | MCLG   | Highest Annual Average | Results Range | Violation Yes/No |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Fluoride (ppm) (2024)           | 4      | 4      | 0.68                   | 0.26 - 0.68   | No               |
| Dibromochloromethane (ppb)      | 80     | 80     | 3.39                   | ND - 5.70     | No               |
| 2-Butanone (ppb)                | No MCL | No MCL | 4.49                   | ND - 9.60     | No               |
| 1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb) (2022) | 5      | 0      | 0.85                   | ND - 1.10     | No               |
| Cis-1,2- Dichloroethylene (ppb) | 70     | 70     | 0.71                   | ND - 1.20     | No               |

| Regulated Contaminant         | MRDL | MRDLG | Highest Running Annual Average | Results Range | Violation Yes/No |
|-------------------------------|------|-------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Chlorine (ppm)                | 4    | 4     | 1.02                           | ND - 2.32     | No               |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb) | 60   | NA    | 13.3                           | 7.04 - 13.6   | No               |
| Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)   | 80   | NA    | 33.8                           | 12.0 - 47     | No               |

| Contaminant subject to AL | Action Level | 90th Percentile | Sample Date                                | Number of Samples above AL | Range of Results   |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Lead (ppb)                | 12           | 3<br>5          | Jan 1-June 30, 2025<br>July 1-Dec 31, 2025 | 2<br>5                     | 0 - 21<br>0 - 35   |
| Copper (ppm)              | 1.3          | 0.8<br>0.7      | Jan 1-June 30, 2025<br>July 1-Dec 31, 2025 | 1<br>3                     | 0 - 1.4<br>0 - 2.3 |

**Thank you Environmental Services team for all your hard work and dedication!**



### Typical Source of Contamination

Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical aerospace and defense industries

Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes

### Typical Source of Contamination

Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Discharge from industrial chemical factories

Discharge from industrial chemical factories

Discharge from industrial chemical factories

Discharge from industrial chemical factories

### Typical Source of Contamination

Water additive used to control microbes

By-product of drinking water disinfection

By-product of drinking water disinfection

### Typical Source of Contamination

Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits

Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

**The City of Kalamazoo was in compliance for all treatment techniques in 2025**

### 2025 PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) MONITORING

| Regulated Contaminant                       | MCL, TT, or MRDI | MCLG or MRDLG | Highest Running Annual Average | Results Range | Violation Yes/No | Typical Source of Contaminant   |
|---|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------|---|
| Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppt)  | 420              | N/A           | 5.2                            | ND-11         | NO               | Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments                                  |
| Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) (ppt) | 51               | N/A           | 2.8                            | ND-3.7        | NO               | Firefighting foam; discharge and waste from industrial facilities   |
| Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppt)        | 400,000          | N/A           | 3.6                            | ND-4.3        | NO               | Firefighting foam; discharge and waste from industrial facilities   |
| Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)  | 16               | N/A           | 3.7                            | ND-5.3        | NO               | Firefighting foam; Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; discharge from electroplating facilities |
| Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)         | 8                | N/A           | 2.1                            | ND-2.2        | NO               | Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments                                  |



# Important Information About Your Drinking Water

## Reporting Requirements Not Met for City of Kalamazoo

We are required to deliver notification to customers with lead service lines, galvanized service lines previously connected to lead, or service lines of unknown lead status, and certify to the State that these notifications were sent.

We are required to deliver notification to customers with lead service lines, galvanized service lines previously connected to lead, or service lines of unknown lead status, and certify to the State that these notifications were sent.

Our system failed to certify to the State by July 1, 2025, that it delivered these annual notifications to affected consumers as required. Although the failure to comply with the reporting requirement does not create a risk to public health, we are required to inform you of this violation and provide additional information including what we did to correct the situation.

It is important for consumers to know if the water they are receiving has been delivered through a lead, galvanized previously connected to lead, or lead

status unknown service line so they can make decisions on whether and what actions to take to reduce their exposure to lead in drinking water.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. Remember, boiling water does not remove lead from water.

### WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The City of Kalamazoo provided the required notices to customers but failed to submit the certification to the State that these notices had been issued. The City of Kalamazoo immediately submitted certification to the State upon notification of the failure to certify.

For more information, please call 311 or 269-337-8000.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit the EPA's websites at

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water> and <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Additional resources can also be found <https://www.michigan.gov/mileadsafe/get-ahead-of-lead>.

*\*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially 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.\**



Did you know Michigan was the first state to start dosing fluoride in its city water supply? In 1944 the City of Grand Rapids approved a pilot fluoridation project.

## FLUORIDATION

The Kalamazoo Water Pumping Stations add small amounts of chlorine for disinfection, fluoride to keep your teeth healthy and a phosphate to help control iron and provide corrosion control in the water pipes.

## LET'S TALK FLUORIDE

### **Q: What is Water Fluoridation?**

A: In many community water systems, a controlled amount of Fluoride is added to the drinking water to promote dental health and reduce tooth decay. This practice is referred to as water fluoridation. The current recommended concentration for water fluoridation is 0.7 mg/L (milligrams per liter of water)

### **Q: What are the Benefits?**

A: Water fluoridation promotes oral health and reaches everyone in the community. Acid, produced by bacteria in the mouth, can create holes on the surface of the teeth. Fluoride helps protect and rebuild this surface, preventing about 25% of cavities. This saves communities and families money on dental treatment.

### **Q: Where Else is Fluoride Found?**

A: Fluoride also naturally occurs in groundwater. The concentration of Fluoride in groundwater can vary from region to region in the United States. Around Kalamazoo County, fluoride levels in groundwater are around 0.02 mg/L to 0.4 mg/L.

### **Q: How is Water Fluoridation Regulated?**

A: The type of Fluoride and concentration that may be added to community water systems is regulated by the State. The type of Fluoride and concentration that may be added to bottled water is regulated by the FDA.

### **Q: How Much is in My Water?**

A: In the Kalamazoo area, the community water system is the Public Services Municipal Water Supply. Our drinking water is fluoridated to the recommended level of 0.7 mg/L.

## **Michigan** *Community Water System Statistics*

- **7,379,404** persons are served by community water systems in Michigan.
- **6,605,118** of those persons receive fluoridated water from their community water system.
- This means, **89.5%** of the population of Michigan is receiving the benefits of fluoridated water through their community water system.



To visualize **0.7 mg/L**, imagine putting 3 small kool-aid canisters in an Olympic-Size swimming pool.

# Water Quality

## DATA TABLE

## DEFINITIONS

More than 38,000 tests were performed on our drinking water in 2025, and the City of Kalamazoo met or exceeded all state and federal drinking water standards.

The City of Kalamazoo monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The table is based on analyses conducted in 2025 and those tests conducted less frequently than once per year. The Water Quality Data Table lists only the contaminants that were detected. If the test was not performed in 2025, then the most recent analysis is listed. The City of Kalamazoo's state certified laboratory analyzes for the absence of microorganisms and levels of limited treatment chemicals (hexametaphosphate, orthophosphate, fluoride, and residual chlorine) in the City's water supply at several locations three to five days per week. All limited treatment chemicals are on automated feed control systems that are monitored 24/7 by City of Kalamazoo staff.

**AL (Action Level)** – The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**Contaminant** – A biological, chemical, physical, or radiological substance or matter in water.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal)** – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level)** – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**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 a drinking water disinfection below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**ND** – Non-detected

**pCi/L (Picocuries per Liter)** – A measure of radioactivity.

**PPB** – Part per billion; the equivalent of one microgram per Liter.

**PPM** – Part per million; the equivalent of one milligram per Liter.

**Trihalomethanes** – Compounds formed during the chlorination (disinfection) of drinking water.

**NA** – Not Applicable

**Monitoring for Unregulated Contaminants** – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) federal regulations affecting monitoring of unregulated contaminants at public water systems are known as the Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR). The purpose of monitoring for unregulated contaminants in drinking water is to provide data to support the EPA administrator's decisions concerning whether or not to regulate these contaminants in the future for the protection of public health.

## MEETING EPA STANDARDS

While your drinking water meets the U.S. EPA standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The U.S. EPA standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.



**ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION** – Sources of drinking water for both tap water and bottled water can include rivers, lakes, streams, pond 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 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

All 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 health risks. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

**Water Quality Reports from previous years**  
are available on the City of Kalamazoo's website at  
[www.kalamazoo.org/waterqualityreport](http://www.kalamazoo.org/waterqualityreport).

THE CITY OF KALAMAZOO'S

# Lead and Copper Program



Congratulations to our Lead Service Replacement Team for their hard work in 2025.

## The City of Kalamazoo

is committed to providing safe and reliable drinking water to Kalamazoo and its surrounding communities and has been consistently in compliance with the 1991 Safe Drinking Water Act Lead and Copper Rule and all revisions of the rule.

### Kalamazoo Drinking Water

The City of Kalamazoo does not have lead in its water mains or wells. However, lead can enter drinking water when it is in contact with pipes, solder, home/building interior plumbing, fittings and fixtures that contain lead.

### Safe Water Treatment

The City has utilized a corrosion control program since 1956 that works to reduce water corrosiveness to pipes, fittings and fixtures containing lead and copper. To ensure an optimized strategy, the City of Kalamazoo performs routine monitoring of corrosion control parameters within the water distribution system and testing for lead and copper in customers' homes. Our Public Services Department periodically evaluates the most effective corrosion control methods available and additional ways to further enhance this program.

### Lead Service Replacement

A proactive annual capital improvement program has been in place for over twenty years to address lead service replacements. In 2025 Kalamazoo replaced 1045 non-copper services with funding from the Foundation for Excellence, Michigan's Drinking Water Revolving Fund Program, and the City of Kalamazoo's Capital Improvements Projects Program. Lead service replacements are continuing in 2026 and beyond.

### Lead and Copper Monitoring

The City of Kalamazoo conducted two lead and copper monitoring programs in 2025 to comply with federal and state lead and copper regulations. These programs target homes that are likely to have the highest concentrations of lead in their drinking water and include those with lead service lines as well as homes with copper plumbing built before lead solder was outlawed in the late 1980s. Kalamazoo did not exceed the EPA Action level of 12 parts per billion (ppb) for lead or 1300 ppb for copper. Results of the testing can be found in the 2025 Water Quality Data table on pages 6-7. As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 the EPA action level for lead was reduced from 15 ppb to 12 ppb. The City of Kalamazoo has implemented these action levels on all lead reports.

**There are currently approximately 50,000 total service lines, with approximately 2866 known lead or assumed lead services that are being scheduled for replacement in our ongoing Capital Improvement Plan. The City of Kalamazoo is conducting a thorough inventory throughout the year and any updates to these numbers will be listed in future Water Quality Reports.**



## Our Commitment to Service

Kalamazoo has provided free lead and copper testing to customers for over 25 years. Lead filters are also provided at no charge to homes with a lead or un-defined service line.

## Health Effects

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. The City of Kalamazoo 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 at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned about

lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact City of Kalamazoo at 269-337-8000 or dial 311. 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>.

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

## Water Affordability Program

The City of Kalamazoo was awarded a grant from the State of Michigan to evaluate the customer need for assistance with utility payments, find funding sources, and plan a local program to help customers. The report below was prepared by Prein & Newhof to explore these areas.

For more information call 311 or 269-337-8000 or scan the QR Code Here



PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Kalamazoo, MI  
Permit No. 976



The City of Kalamazoo  
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www.kalamazoocity.org

*Printed copies of this report  
are available upon request  
at (269) 337-8000*

## CONTACTS

### Customer Views Welcome

If you are interested in learning more, have questions on the contents of the report or would like to comment on water issues, please feel free to contact the Public Services Programs Manager at 311 or (269) 337-8000. Contact information is listed below for issues related to water. If you would like to address issues in a public forum, the City of Kalamazoo Commission meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall at 241 West South Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007. We will update this report annually and keep you informed of any new developments or significant issues that occur throughout the subject-reporting year.

#### Utility Customer Service

**311 or (269) 337-8000**  
opening or closing  
accounts, billing,  
payments, meter  
readings, leaks, or other  
related questions

#### Water Testing for Lead & Copper

**(269) 337-8550**  
arrange to have your  
home or businesses  
water tested for free

#### Public Services Programs Manager

**311 or (269) 337-8000**  
questions regarding the  
Water Quality Report  
and laboratory data  
pertaining to water  
quality

#### Field Services Section

**311 or (269) 337-8000**  
report a water main  
break, get assistance  
determining if your  
property has lead  
plumbing components,  
report clogged catch  
basins or inlets  
[call (269) 337-8148 after  
business hours]

#### 24/7 Water/Sewer Emergency

**311 or (269) 337-8000**  
report an emergency  
outside of normal  
business hours

#### Illicit Discharge Elimination Hotline

**311 or (269) 337-8000**  
report illegal dumping  
of chemical or hazard  
materials

#### Water Operations

**311 or (269) 337-8000**  
report any issues with  
water quality  
(call (269) 337-8148 after  
business hours)

#### EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline

**(800) 426-4791**  
information and  
guidelines from the  
Environmental  
Protection Agency