2026 Water Quality Report
Lewes Board of Public Works
107 Franklin Ave., Lewes, DE 19958
PWS ID# DE0000602
June 15, 2026

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 this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Spanish (Espanol): Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

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?
Your water is groundwater that comes from the unconfined Columbia Group – Pocomoke aquifer.

Source water assessment and availability
Our source water assessment is available through: http://delawaresourcewater.org/assessments/

The Source Water Assessment's Summary of Our System's Susceptibility to Contamination
Overall, Lewes BPW is exceedingly susceptible to nutrients, metals, and other inorganic compounds based on the analytical data. It has a very high susceptibility rating for petroleum hydrocarbons based on discrete sources and the analytical data. It has a high susceptibility for pathogens, pesticides, PCBs, and other organic compounds from land use activities.

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. 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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 byproducts 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.

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 women 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.

How can I get involved?
If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please call (302) 645-6228. We hold regularly scheduled meetings the 4th Wednesday of each month at 107 Franklin Ave., Lewes, DE 19958. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

Additional information about lead
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 Lewes Board of Public Works 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 washing 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 our water tested, contact Lewes Board of Public Works at (302) 645-6228. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at: http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

Information on the lead service line inventory:
The Lewes Board of Public Works has completed an initial water service line inventory to be in compliance with federal law and continues to plan for lead line replacement. To access the water service line inventory, follow this link: (https://dhss.120water-ptd.com/) then enter an address in the search bar, or contact the office at (302)645-6228

Additional health effects information
Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

For more information, contact:
Robin Davis
107 Franklin Ave.
Lewes, DE 19958
(302) 645-6228

Water Quality Data Tables

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 of 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 actually 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 in the tables below.

Definitions

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definition**
AL	Action level. The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
n/a	n/a: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	**Definition**
MCLG	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.
MCL	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.
SMCL	SMCL: Suggested Maximum Contaminant Level for aesthetic contaminants.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit. A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
RAA	Running Annual Average

Table of Regulated Contaminants Utilizing 2025 Test Results

Lead and Copper	Sample Date	Units	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile	# sites over AL	Range of tap sample results	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead	10/8/25	ppb	n/a	15	23	2	5-32	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	10/8/25	ppm	n/a	1.3	0.2	0	0.03-0.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing system.

Regulated Contaminants	Units	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level	Range	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Haloacetic acids (HAA5)	ppb	n/a	60	2	1-2	9/23/25	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	n/a	80	29	29	11/18/25	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	1.5	0.9-1.5	2025	N	Water additive to control microbes.
Fluoride	ppm	2	2	1	0-2	2025	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.1	0.1	4/11/23	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Beryllium	ppb	4	4	1	1	4/11/23	N	Discharge from metal refineries and coal burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	ppm	10	10	5	5	2025	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	ppb	50	50	1	1	4/11/23	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.

Delaware Secondary Drinking Water Standards

Contaminants	Units	State SMCL	Average	Range
Alkalinity	ppm	n/a	62	62
Chloride	ppm	250	25	24-25
Sodium	ppm	n/a	41	41
Sulfate	ppm	250	17	13-20

The EPA uses the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) to collect data for contaminants that are suspected to be present in drinking water and do not have regulatory standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The monitoring provides the EPA and other interested parties with nationally representative data on the occurrence of contaminants in drinking water, the number of people potentially being exposed, and an estimate of the levels of that exposure. These data can support future regulatory determinations and other actions to protect public health.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

Contaminants	Units	MRL	Average	Range
PFHxS	µg/L	0.003	0.004	0.004
PFOA	µg/L	0.004	0.006	0.006
PFOS	µg/L	0.004	0.008	0.005-0.010

We, at Lewes Board of Public Works, work around the clock to provide top-quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future. This CCR Report was prepared in collaboration with Delaware Rural Water Association and Lewes Board of Public Works.

DRWA

Lewes BPW
electric, water and sewer utility