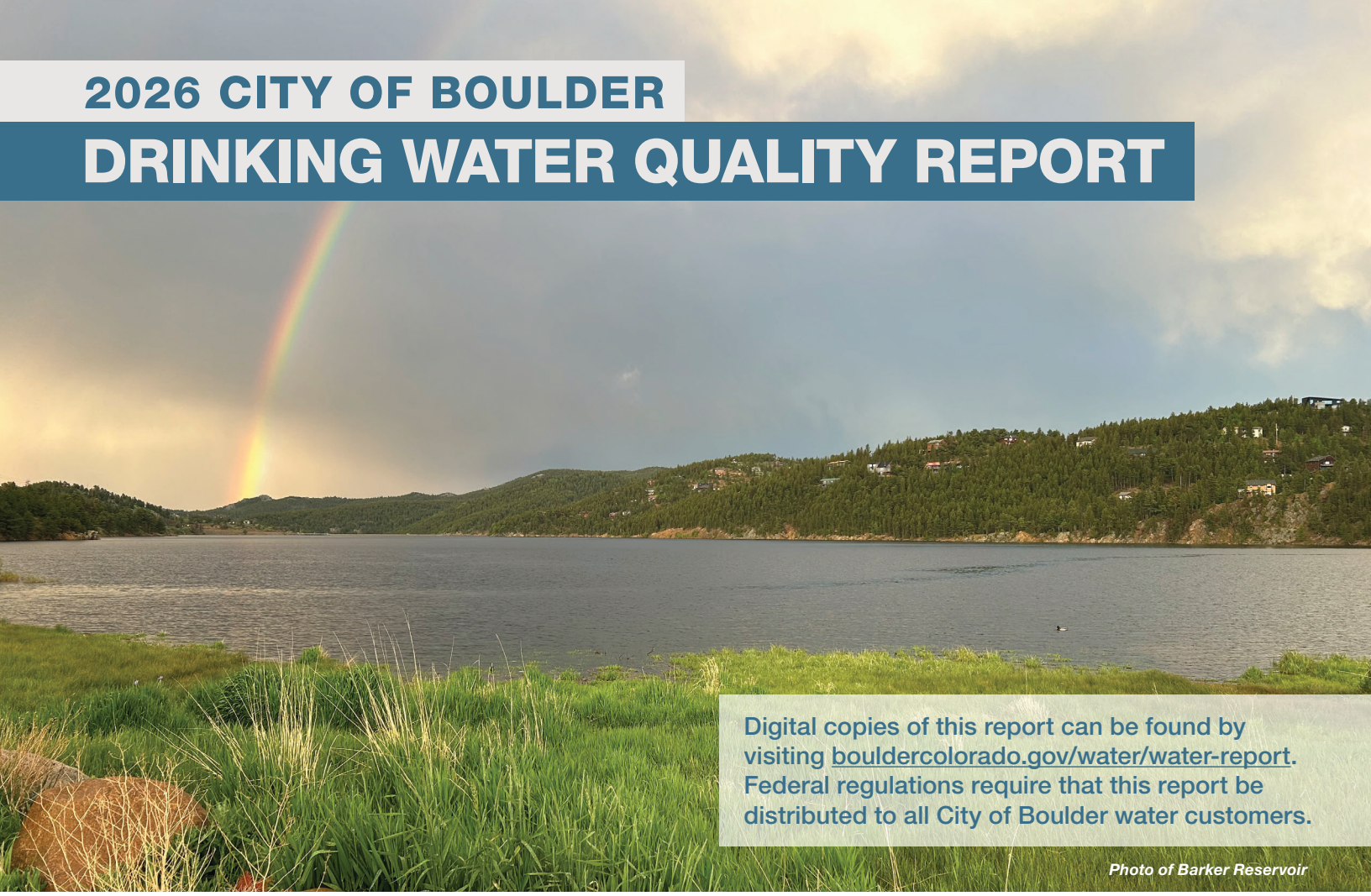
2026 CITY OF BOULDER
DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT



Digital copies of this report can be found by visiting bouldercolorado.gov/water/water-report. Federal regulations require that this report be distributed to all City of Boulder water customers.

Photo of Barker Reservoir

The City of Boulder 2026 Drinking Water Quality Report summarizes water quality testing results from the 2025 calendar year. The city is committed to providing customers with safe and high-quality drinking water.

Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Lea este informe en línea en español escaneando el código QR arriba o visitando bouldercolorado.gov/es/services/drinking-water-quality.

Learn More About Boulder's Water

If you have any questions about this report, please contact the city's Drinking Water Program at 303-441-3200 or the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) at 303-692-3500. For more information about Boulder's water, visit bouldercolorado.gov/services/drinking-water-quality or submit a question to inquireboulder.com. The city's Water Resources Advisory Board meetings are additional opportunities for the public to learn about drinking water. Board meetings are usually held on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. and may be virtual or in-person. For more information about the board, call 303-441-3200 or visit bouldercolorado.gov/government/boards-and-commissions/water-resources-advisory-board.

City of Boulder's Water Sources

The city's drinking water comes from several high-quality and high-elevation sources: Barker Reservoir, North Boulder Creek, Carter Lake and Boulder Reservoir. Water at your home or business may come from any of these sources, depending on the season. Source water protection has long been recognized as a necessary and cost-effective part of providing clean, safe drinking water for our community. The city closely monitors activities that could affect source water and implements an extensive water quality monitoring program, routinely partnering with land managers to protect water from source to tap. The city worked through a public engagement process to update the Source Water Protection Plan in 2023 to help guide priorities. This plan is available at bouldercolorado.gov/services/water-supply-and-planning or upon request by calling the Drinking Water Program at 303-441-3200. The protection plan identifies potential contaminant sources that could occur, but it does not mean these contaminants do occur.

City of Boulder Utilities

General Information About Drinking Water

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 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) or by visiting epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV-AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants, can be particularly at risk of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the national Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Sources of drinking water — including both tap and bottled water — may include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances associated with animals or humans. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Organic Chemical Contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production and also may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

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 & Herbicides that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.

Radioactive Contaminants that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Microbial Contaminants such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Water Quality Data Terms and Abbreviations

AVG ***Average:*** Typical value.

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

LRAA ***Locational Running Annual Average:*** The average of results for samples collected at a particular monitoring location during the most recent four calendar quarters.

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.

MRDL ***Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level:*** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is 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 disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

NE ***Not Established:*** A water quality regulatory threshold has not been set.

NTU ***Nephelometric Turbidity Units:*** units for turbidity.

ppb ***Parts Per Billion:*** same as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

ppm ***Parts Per Million:*** same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

RAA ***Running Annual Average:*** An average of monitoring results for the previous 12 calendar months or the previous four quarters.

TT ***Treatment Technique:*** A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water.

Drinking Water Quality Data

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, CDPHE prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

There were no violations in 2025. The City of Boulder routinely monitors for contaminants in drinking water according to federal and state laws. The data presented in this report are the result of monitoring for the period of Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2025, or from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations. CDPHE does not require the City of Boulder to monitor all contaminants each year, because the concentrations of some contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year or because the city's system is not considered vulnerable to that type of contaminant. Therefore, some of the data, though representative, may be more than one year old. Only detected contaminants sampled within the last five years appear in this report. A list of 500+ non-detect contaminants can be viewed on the city's website.

Disinfection	Units	MCL	MCLG	Result	TT Violation (Yes/No)	Sample Date	Typical Source
Chlorine	ppm	MRDL 4	MRDLG 4	Average: 0.89 Range: 0.31–1.36	No	At least 120 samples per month in 2025	Water additive used to control microbes

Inorganic Contaminants	Units	MCL	MCLG	Result	Violation (Yes/No)	Sample Date	Typical Source
Barium	ppm	2	2	Average: 0.011 Range: 0.008–0.013	No	2025	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	ppb	100	100	Average: 1.5 Range: 1.0–2.0	No	2025	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	Average: 0.54 Range: 0–0.84	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Sodium (secondary standard)	ppm	NE	NE	Average: 4.3 Range: 2.9–5.6	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	Average: 0.05 Range: 0–0.1	No	2025	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant	Units	TT Requirement	Level Found	Violation (Yes/No)	Sample Date	Typical Source
Turbidity	NTU	Not to exceed 1 NTU for any single measurement	Highest single measurement: 0.294 Range: 0.013–0.29 Average: 0.04	No	Daily 2025	Soil runoff
	NTU	At least 95% of month's samples must be ≤ 0.3 NTU	Lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting TT standard: 100%	No	Monthly 2025	

Chlorine	ppm	At least 95% of month's samples must be at least 0.2 ppm	Lowest period percentage of samples meeting TT standard: 100%	No	At least 120 samples per month in 2025	Water additive used to control microbes

Contaminant	Units	Tap Sample Range Low-High	AL	90th Percentile	Number of Sites Over AL	90th Percentile AL (Yes/No)	Time Period	Typical Source
Copper	ppm	0.02 to 2.19	1.3	0.17	1	No	June 5, 2024–July 25, 2024 *	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	ppb	0 to 11	15	2.0	0	No	June 5, 2024–July 25, 2024 *	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

*The city is on a reduced monitoring schedule due to consistently low results; the next sample period will be in 2027. More on lead testing can be found in the Lead Testing Information.

Disinfection Byproducts Sampled in the Distribution System

Contaminant	Units	MCL	MCLG	Average	Range of All Samples	Highest LRAA	Violation* (Yes/No)	Sample Date	Typical Source
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	N/A	30.4	17.01–38.73	33.71	No	Quarterly 2025	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	N/A	36.3	14.88–55.24	44.55	No	Quarterly 2025	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

*Compliance based on LRAA

Disinfection Byproduct Precursor - Total Organic Carbon Removal Ratio

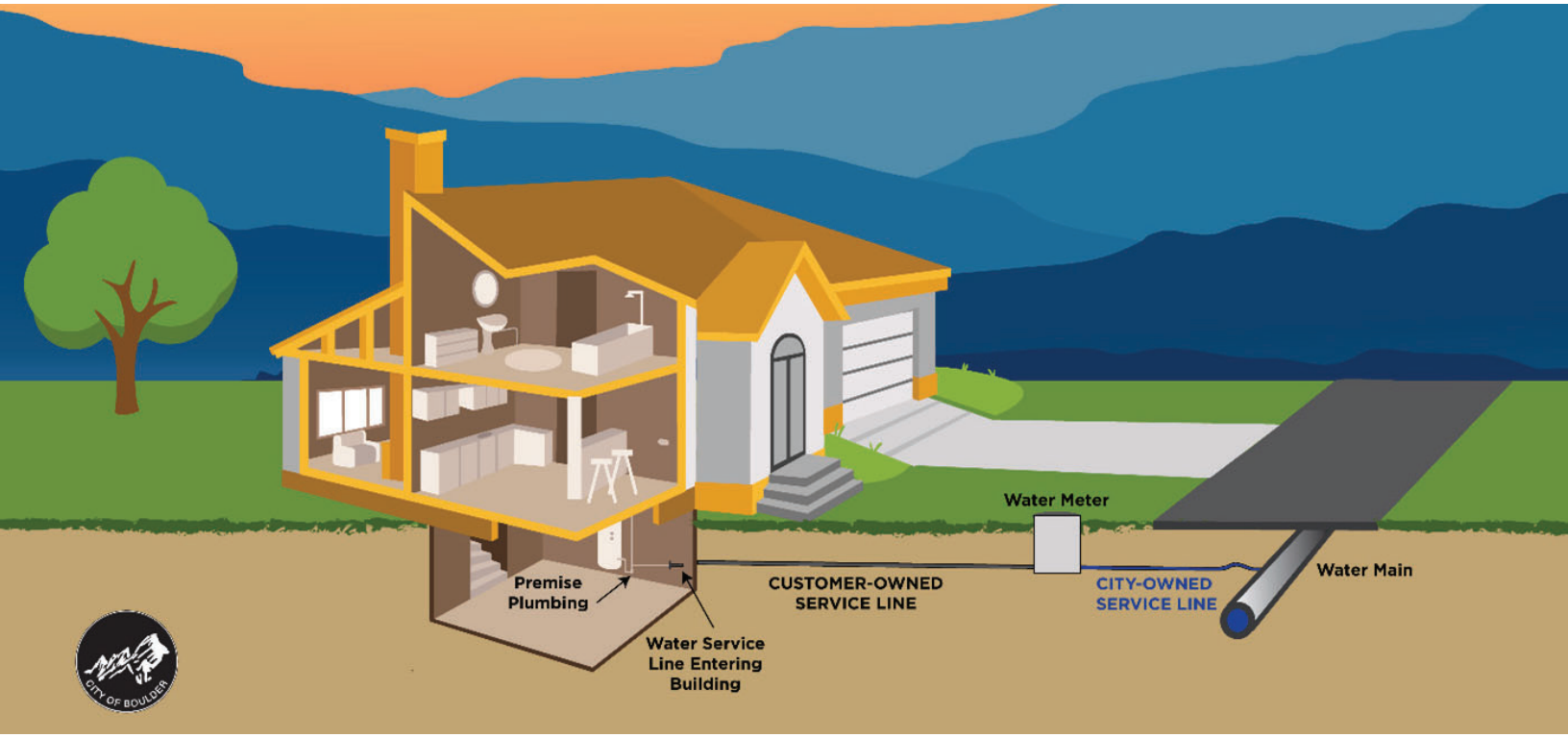
Water Treatment Plant (WTP)	Compliance Factor (Minimum TT Ratio)	Average	Range Low–High	Violation (Yes/No)	Sample Date	Typical Source
Betasso WTP	1.0	1.26	1.1–1.3	No	Quarterly 2025	Naturally present in environment
63rd WTP	1.0	1.20	1.1–1.5	No	Quarterly 2025	Naturally present in environment

New PFAS Drinking Water Regulations

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) is a common term for a group of human-made chemicals found in everyday products. They are found in everyday items such as carpet, clothing, cookware, food wrappers and furniture, and are resistant to water, grease and stains.

The EPA released new drinking water regulations for six PFAS chemicals in April 2024 and has since proposed to revise this rule. The city is closely following the revisions to EPA's proposed drinking water regulations. The new regulation would require water providers to monitor up to six PFAS chemicals including PFOS, PFOA, PFBS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFHxS. The city has tested drinking water for all of these chemicals, and they have not been detected. Because these PFAS chemicals have not been found in the city's drinking water, we anticipate that our drinking water will continue to be in compliance with the PFAS regulations without additional treatment.

To learn more, customers can visit the EPA's PFAS webpage.



Drinking Water Service Line Inventory

New state and federal laws require drinking water providers to inventory all water service lines in their service area to classify the material. In 2024, the city published an inventory of all water service lines and their material to comply with regulations. **The city continued efforts to inventory all water service lines in 2025, and no lead service lines were found during the investigation.**

Water service lines are underground pipes that bring water from the city water main into homes and businesses. The city owns the part of the pipe that connects the water main to the meter. Customers own the part of the pipe that connects the meter to the private property. Boulder's inventory includes both customer-owned and city-owned lines. You may view your property's service line material on our online map at bldr.fyi/waterinventory. If the material of your service line is labeled in the map as non-lead by statistical analysis, please visit bldr.fyi/mywaterserviceline to find out how you can identify your service material and submit that information to the city's water inventory, or contact us at drinkingwater@bouldercolorado.gov for assistance.

Lead Testing Information

The City of Boulder implements a Corrosion Control Program that treats water to reduce corrosion and reduce lead exposure from home plumbing. If present, lead can cause serious health problems, especially for children, infants who are either formula fed or breastfed, and those who are pregnant. Lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components associated with water service lines and home plumbing. The city is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in private plumbing components. 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.

Sample lead results in the city are consistently lower than federal standards. Because of this, the city is on reduced monitoring for lead, which means lead and copper samples need to be collected once every three years, rather than twice per year. The most recent samples were collected in 2024 and a summary of results is listed in the 2024 Drinking Water Quality Data section above. The city will collect samples again in the summer of 2027.

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 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. Flush your tap for 30 seconds to several minutes prior to drinking or cooking with water in your home or business if the water has been stagnant or not used for several hours. 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. This is a national best practice that can help to minimize potential for lead exposure. If you have a lead service line or galvanized line requiring replacement, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, please reach out to the city at drinkingwater@bouldercolorado.gov. If you wish to have your water tested, CDPHE offers a list of certified labs, available at cdphe.colorado.gov/laboratory-services/water-testing. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Environmental Protection Agency at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Water Conservation

6 easy ways to conserve water
Over the past winter, the Front Range has experienced extremely dry conditions.
When dry conditions stress local water supplies, every drop counts. The Boulder community uses about half of their water outdoors. Here are six simple ways you can reduce your outdoor water use.

1. Water grass less frequently — a full soak twice a week will make grass roots grow deeper.
2. Water before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m. to reduce water loss to evaporation. Boulder's daytime watering ban is in effect from May 1 through September 30.
3. When it rains, water accordingly. Try soil moisture or rain sensors to help you adjust watering schedules.
4. Let turf grass grow longer. If you have turf, cut it no lower than 3 to 3.5 inches.
5. Adjust sprinkler heads to make sure you're not watering roads and sidewalks.
6. Check your watering system monthly for broken sprinkler heads and leaks. Find more ways to save water at bldr.fyi/conservewater.

Photo of North Boulder Creek

Please share the above 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 hard copies.