



CITY OF COUNTRYSIDE

ILLINOIS

2024 Consumer Confidence Report
Public Water Supply Facility ID: IL0310570
Sean R. McDermott, Mayor
Don Decker, Water Plant Operator

June 2025

Mark Benson, Chairman Infrastructure Committee
Water Department (708)485-2470

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Dear Countryside Water Customer,

This Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is being issued by the City of Countryside, in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), and in conjunction with the Village of McCook and the City of Chicago, covering the monitoring period from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. This report provides critical information about the quality and source of drinking water. Throughout 2024, the City of Countryside remained committed to delivering drinking water that adheres to the monitoring and testing standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Illinois EPA (IEPA).

How do I get involved?

We prioritize in keeping our valued customers informed about their water quality. The City Council meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Room at the City of Countryside Municipal Complex, (803 Joliet Road, Countryside, Illinois) and these meetings are open to the public. Additionally, you can contact USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

If you have any questions about this report or your water system, please contact **Don Decker, Water Plant Operator, (708) 485-2470** or call the **City of Countryside Municipal Complex at (708) 354-7270**. Additional information pertaining to our community water system, such as City Water Infrastructure projects can be found at: <https://www.countryside-il.org/>.

I would like to share this information with my neighbors or loved ones:

Please share this information with all other individuals who drink this water, particularly those who may not have received this notice directly, such as residents of apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses. You can accomplish this by posting the notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. Copies of this report are also available at the Countryside Municipal Complex located at 803 Joliet Road | Countryside, Illinois 60525.

Lawn Case Recommendations and City Sprinkling Code:

To maintain a healthy lawn, the City of Countryside suggests watering deeply but infrequently. Ideally, you should aim for one inch of water per week. Over-watering not only wastes your money but also removes essential plant nutrients from the soil and can lead to disease problems in your lawn.

Restrictions on Sprinkling: The outside (outdoors) use of water between May 15 and September 15 is subject to the following restrictions:

1. The use of water for the purpose of sprinkling lawns and gardens is prohibited between the hours of twelve o'clock (12:00) noon and six o'clock (6:00) P.M.
2. During those hours when the use of water for the purpose of sprinkling lawns and gardens is permitted, such sprinkling may occur upon properties whose addresses end in an odd numbered digit only upon those dates which end with an odd numbered digit, and such sprinkling shall occur upon those properties whose addresses end with an even numbered digit only upon those dates which end with an even numbered digit. Sprinkling at any time or place not permitted hereby is prohibited and constitutes a violation punishable under section 7-6-13 of this chapter.
3. The mayor is hereby authorized to declare an emergency water shortage within the city and based thereupon, to temporarily ban all outside use of water for the duration of such shortage.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day, or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference. If you would like to learn more, please visit www.epa.gov/watersense.

- Consider replacing faucets and toilets with ones that have a WaterSense label. WaterSense-labeled products are designed to use less water without sacrificing performance.
- Check for toilet leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 15 minutes. (Make sure to flush as soon as the test is done, since food coloring can stain the tank.)
- Repair dripping faucets and showerheads. A drip rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year..
- A full bathtub can require up to 70 gallons of water, while a 5-minute shower uses only 10 to 25 gallons. Turning off the tap while brushing your teeth can save up to 8 gallons per day.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes, or lower the water settings for smaller loads.
- Water your lawn or garden during the cool morning hours instead of midday to reduce evaporation. Look for sprinklers that produce droplets, not mist, or use soaker hoses or trickle irrigation for trees and shrubs.
- Set sprinklers to water lawns and gardens only. Make sure you're not watering the street or sidewalk. Try not to overwater your landscaping—learn your plants' water needs and water different types appropriately.

About My Community's Water Supply

In 2024, the City of Countryside purchased approximately 545 million gallons of treated water from the Village of McCook. McCook sources its water from Chicago's Jardine Water Purification Plant, drawing from Lake Michigan. The water is delivered to Countryside through McCook's 56th Street Reservoir and Pumping Station Complex, then distributed to local and retail customers via Countryside's 30-mile water main system.

The City of Chicago, which supplies water to McCook, draws its drinking water from Lake Michigan—the only Great Lake located entirely within the United States, bordered by Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Water is treated at two major facilities: the Jardine Water Purification Plant, serving northern areas, and the Sawyer Water Purification Plant, serving southern areas. Lake Michigan, the second-largest Great Lake by volume, holds about 1,180 cubic miles of water. Because Chicago relies on this surface water source, water quality is closely monitored through regular assessments conducted by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA).

Source Water Assessment Summary

The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intake with no protection only dilution. This is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Chicago's offshore intakes are located at a distance that shoreline impacts are not usually considered a factor on water quality. At certain times of the year, however, the potential for contamination exists due to wet-weather flows and river reversals. In addition, the placement of the crib structures may serve to attract waterfowl, gulls and terns that frequent the Great Lakes area, thereby concentrating fecal deposits at the intake and thus compromising the source water quality. Conversely, the shore intakes are highly susceptible to storm water runoff, marinas and shoreline point sources due to the influx of groundwater to the lake.

The Illinois EPA implemented a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) to assist with watershed protection of public drinking water supplies. The SWAP inventories potential sources of contamination and determined the susceptibility of the source water to contamination. The Illinois EPA has completed the Source Water Assessment Program for our supply.

Further information on our community water supply's Source Water Assessment Program is available by calling DWM at (312)742-2406 or by going online at <https://dataservices.epa.illinois.gov/swap/factsheet.aspx>.

Mandatory Water Testing:

The City of Countryside, the Village of McCook and City of Chicago, conduct water sampling as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Chicago, as the source water provider, tests for a broader range of contaminants, in accordance with EPA specifications.

The City of Countryside tests the water supply for chlorine content daily to maintain the optimum levels for the consumers' needs. On a monthly basis, bacteriological samples are taken. On a yearly basis, samples are submitted for Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) Analysis. Samples are also provided for lead and copper monitoring on a schedule established by the IEPA. All testing and reports are performed according to the requirements of IEPA.

Susceptibility to Contamination

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 **USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

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, USEPA 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, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Common contaminants that might be present in the 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.

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

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/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)**.

Definitions

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety. Date of Sample: If a date appears in this column, the Illinois EPA requires monitoring for this contaminant less than once per year because the concentrations do not frequently change. If no date appears in the column, monitoring for this contaminant was conducted during the CCR calendar year. Fluoride is added to the water supply to help promote strong teeth. The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends an optimal fluoride level of 0.7 mg/L with a range of 0.6 mg/L to 0.8 mg/L. Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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 Contaminant Level (MCL): 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 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.	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. Range of Detections: This column represents a range of individual sample results, from lowest to highest that were collected during the CCR calendar year. Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. ND: Not detectable at testing limits. N/A: Not applicable Sodium: There is no state or federal MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials who have concerns about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult a physician about the level of sodium in the water. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants. Unregulated Contaminants: A maximum contaminant level (MCL) for this contaminant has not been established by either state or federal regulations, nor has mandatory health effects language. The purpose for monitoring this contaminant is to assist USEPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water, and whether future regulation is warranted.
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Copper Testing & Copper Testing Sites

Copper Range: 0.0038 µg/L to 0.42 µg/L Conversion: Parts Per Million (PPM) = 0.001 x µg/L

The City of Countryside tests its water supply for copper contamination. The 2024 test results, shown in the downloadable lead and copper sampling site table, indicate that the City is in compliance with IEPA copper regulations.

To obtain a copy of the system's lead and copper tap sampling data: <https://www.countryside.org/LSL-Inventory.pdf> or call, **Don Decker, Water Plant Operator, (708) 485-2470.**

Copper Educational Statement

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.

Lead Testing & Lead Testing Sites

Lead Range: 0 to 1.4 µg/L

The City of Countryside tests its water supply for lead contamination. The 2024 test results, shown in the downloadable lead and copper sampling site table, indicate that the City is in compliance with IEPA lead regulations.

To obtain a copy of the system's lead and copper tap sampling data: <https://www.countryside.org/LSL-Inventory.pdf> or call, **Don Decker, Water Plant Operator, (708) 485-2470.**

Lead Educational Statement

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 City of Countryside 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 a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standard Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested, contact **Don Decker, Water Plant Operator at (708) 485-2470.** 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>.

What are the risks if exposed to lead above the action level?

Infants and Children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Lead Service Line Inventory

Our Community Water Supply has developed a service line material inventory. Our system inventory does not contain lead service lines.

The City of Countryside, in coordination with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), has completed a thorough review of its water service infrastructure to identify any potential lead service lines. Following detailed inspections and an evaluation of historical construction records, **the City has determined that there are not any known lead service lines in its system.** This effort underscores the City's dedication to protecting public health, maintaining safe drinking water, and ensuring transparent communication with its residents.

To obtain a copy of the system's service line inventory: <https://www.countryside.org/LSL-Inventory.pdf> or call, **Don Decker, Water Plant Operator, (708) 485-2470.**

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UCMR5 Information

The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) program, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is crucial for assessing and addressing emerging threats to water quality across the nation. By monitoring contaminants not yet regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the EPA gains valuable insights into potential health risks and informs future regulatory decisions. The EPA uses the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (UCM) program to collect data for contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water, but that do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Every five years the EPA reviews the list of contaminants, largely based on the Contaminant Candidate List. **The City of Countryside was not selected** to participate in the 2024 UCMR5 program by the EPA, but is currently participating in the 2025 UCMR5 program. For more information about the UCMR program, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr>.

Special Notice for Availability of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Data

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants for The City of Countryside

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that this data is available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Don Decker, Water Plant Operator, (708)485-2470. or by mail at the City of Countryside Municipal Complex, 803 Joliet Road, Countryside, Illinois, 60525. Copies of the 2025 UCMR5 testing to date are attached to this CCR report.

For more information about PFAS health advisories please visit the following link <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/pfas/pfas-healthadvisory.html>.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Countryside. State Water System ID#: IL0310570

Date distributed: June, 2025

2024 City of Chicago Voluntary Monitoring

The City of Chicago has continued monitoring for Cryptosporidium, Giardia and E. coli in its source water as part of its water quality program. No Cryptosporidium or Giardia was detected in source water samples collected in 2024. Treatment processes have been optimized to provide effective barriers for removal of Cryptosporidium oocysts and Giardia cysts in the source water, effectively removing these organisms in the treatment process. By maintaining low turbidity through the removal of particles from the water, the possibility of Cryptosporidium and Giardia organisms getting into the drinking water system is greatly reduced.

In 2024, CDWM has also continued monitoring for hexavalent chromium, also known as chromium-6. USEPA has not yet established a standard for chromium-6, a contaminant of concern which has both natural and industrial sources. Please address any questions or concerns to DWM's Water Quality Division at 312-744-8190. Data reports on the monitoring program for chromium-6 are posted on the City's website which can be accessed at the following address: http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/water/supp_info/water_quality_resultsandreports/city_of_chicago_emergincontaminantstudy.html

For more information, please contact Patrick Schwer at 312-744-8190, Chicago Department of Water Management 1000 East Ohio Street, Chicago, IL 60611 | This notice is being sent to you by: The City of Chicago, Department of Water Management, Water System ID# IL0316000

Water Testing Results

Contaminant / Additives	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Units	Municipality	Violation	Collection Date	Likely Source of Contaminants	
Regulated Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products										
Chlorine	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.3	0.98 - 1.3	ppm	Countryside	N	2024	Water additive used to control microbes.	
	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.4	1.2 - 1.5	ppm	McCook	N	2024		
	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1	1 - 1	ppm	Chicago	N	2024		
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No Goal	60	19	14.26 - 19.18	ppb	Countryside	N	2024	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
	No Goal	60	20	19.5 - 19.5	ppb	McCook	N	2024		
	No Goal	60	17	5 - 20.4	ppb	Chicago	N	2024		
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	No Goal	80	70	35.3 - 70	ppb	Countryside	N	2024		
	No Goal	80	39	39 - 39	ppb	McCook	N	2024		
	No Goal	80	32	13.1 - 44	ppb	Chicago	N	2024		
State Regulated Contaminants										
Fluoride	4	4	0.76	0.67 - 0.76	ppm	Chicago	N	2024	Water additive which promotes strong teeth.	
Inorganic Contaminants										
Barium	2	2	0.0203	0.0198 - 0.0203	ppm	Chicago	N	2024	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	
Nitrate (Measured as Nitrogen)	10	10	0.39	0.36 - 0.39	ppm	Chicago	N	2024	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Total Nitrate & Nitrite (as Nitrogen)	10	10	0.39	0.36 - 0.39	ppm	Chicago	N	2024		
Unregulated Contaminants										
Sulfate	N/A	N/A	28.2	25.3 - 28.2	ppm	Chicago	N	2024	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Used as water softener	
Sodium	N/A	N/A	9.18	8.87 - 9.18	ppm	Chicago	N	2024	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits	
Radio Active & Synthetic Organic Contaminants										
Combined Radium 226/228	0	5	0.95	0.83 - 0.95	pCi/L	Chicago	N	2/4/2020	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.	
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	0	15	3.1	2.8 - 3.1	pCi/L	Chicago	N	2/4/2020		
Lead and Copper										
	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Range	Units	Municipality	Violation	Date	Likely Source of Contaminants
Lead	0	15	1.2	0	0 to 1.4	ppb	Countryside	N	08/23/2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
	0	15	0	0	0 to 0	Ppb	McCook	N	09/11/2024	
	0	15	7.1	0	X	ppb	Chicago	N	2024	
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.066	0	0.0038 to 0.42	ppm	Countryside	N	08/23/2023	
	1.3	1.3	0.114	0	0 to 0.143	ppm	McCook	N	09/11/2024	
	1.3	1.3	0.049	0	X	ppm	Chicago	N	2024	
Coliform Bacteria										
	Total Coliform (MCLG)	Total Coliform (MCL)	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli (MCL)	Municipality	Violation		Likely Source of Contaminants		
Coliform Bacteria	0	5%	0.2	N/A	Chicago	N		Naturally present in the environ-		
Water Clarity										
Turbidity		Limit (Treatment Technique)		Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Municipality	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminants		
NTU/Lowest Monthly % ≤0.3 NTU		95% ≤ 0.3 NTU		Lowest Monthly Percentage: 99.7%	99.7% - 100%	Chicago	N	Soil runoff.		
NTU/Highest Single Measurement		TT (Limit 1 NTU)		39%	N/A	Chicago	N			
2024 City of Countryside Violations: NONE										

Units of Measurement

ppm: Parts per million, or milligrams per liter

ppb: Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in drinking water.

%≤0.3 NTU: Percent of samples less than or equal to 0.3 NTU

pCi/L: Picocuries per liter, used to measure radioactivity