



2025 WATER QUALITY REPORT

It's time for Our Annual Water Quality Check-Up

The Town of Southern Pines is pleased to provide you with this water quality report. Currently, the Town has over 11,500 water connections, which provide water to more than 35,000 people. We are committed to providing you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. More than 100 compounds are tested to determine the quality of our water. The table shown inside will provide you with the results of our tests. If you have any questions concerning this information, please call Mr. David McKew, Southern Pines Water Treatment Plant Manager, at (910) 281-4719.

What EPA Wants You to Know

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

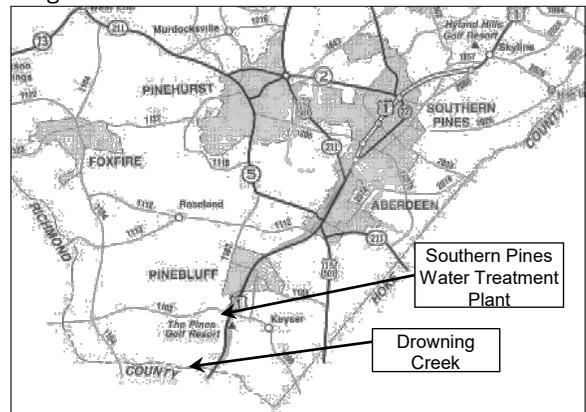
- Microbial Contaminants:** such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife
- Inorganic Contaminants:** such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial 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

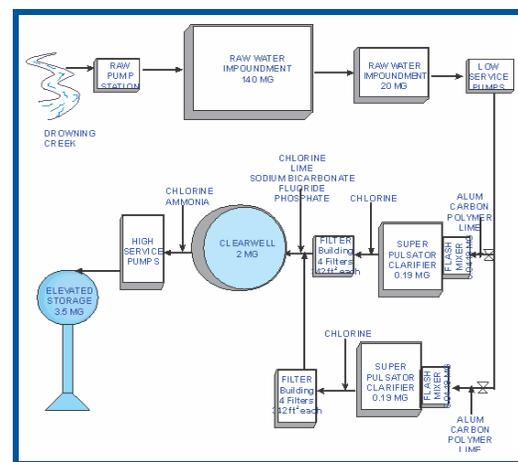
water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

When You Turn on Your Tap, Consider the Source

Did you know that 70 percent of the earth is water? It is found in the forms of rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water supply is a surface water source located at Drowning Creek.



The Town of Southern Pines Water Plant was put into operation in 1986 and is an 8.0 million gallons per day (MGD) treatment facility. The average daily production in 2025 was 3.3 MGD and the maximum day was 5.1 MGD on July 25, 2025. The diagram below describes the treatment process at the water plant.



Compliance Corner

During 2025, the Southern Pines Water Treatment Plant was compliant with Federal and State drinking water regulations and reporting requirements. The Town of Southern Pines makes every effort to provide safe drinking water to our customers.

Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Results

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), Public Water Supply (PWS) Section, Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) conducted assessments for all drinking water sources across North Carolina. The purpose of the assessments was to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source (well or surface water intake) to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs). The results of the assessment are available in SWAP Assessment Reports that include maps, background information and a relative susceptibility rating of Higher, Moderate or Lower.

The relative susceptibility rating of each source for the Town of Southern Pines was determined by combining the contaminant rating (number and location of PCSs within the assessment area) and the inherent vulnerability rating (i.e., characteristics or existing conditions of the well or watershed and its delineated assessment area.). The assessment findings are summarized in the table below:

Susceptibility of Sources to
Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs)

Source Name	Susceptibility Rating	SWAP Report Date
Drowning Creek	Moderate	September 10, 2020

The complete SWAP Assessment report for the Town of Southern Pines may be viewed on the Web at: https://www.ncwater.org/?page=600&Action=Swap_Search. The SWAP results and reports are periodically updated, therefore the results available on this web site may differ from the results that were available at the time this CCR was prepared. To obtain a printed copy of this report, please mail a written request to: Source Water Assessment Program – Report Request, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1634, or email request to swap@deq.nc.gov. Please indicate our system name, [PWSID #03-63-010](#), and provide your name, mailing address and phone number. If you have any questions about the SWAP report please contact the Source Water Assessment staff at 919-707-9098.

It is important to understand that a susceptibility rating of “higher” does not imply poor water quality, only the systems’ potential to become contaminated by PCS’s in the assessment area.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

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 Town of Southern Pines 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 Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, please contact us at 910-281-4719. 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>.

We have been working to identify service line materials throughout the water system and prepared an inventory of all service lines in our water system. The inventory can be accessed at: <https://www.southernpines.net/891/EPA-Lead-Service-Line-Inventory>.

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We routinely monitor for over 100 contaminants in the drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table below list all the drinking water contaminants that we detected in the last round of sampling for each particular contaminant group. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2025. The EPA and the State allow us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

DEFINITIONS & TERMINOLOGY

- AL = Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which triggers a treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.
- Herbicide = Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.
- MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
- MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal is the level of disinfectant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health
- MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfection Level is the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
- mg/l = milligram per liter, or parts per million - One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- Not-Applicable (N/A) = Information not applicable/not required for that particular water system or for that particular rule.
- Non-Detects (ND) = Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at the level of detection set for the particular methodology used.
- ng.l = nanograms per liter (nanograms/L) or parts per trillion - One part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.
- NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units is a measure for water clarity
- ppb = Part per billion or Micrograms per liter (ug/L) - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- Pesticide = Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.
- TT = Treatment Technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Running Annual Average (RAA) = The average of sample analytical results for samples taken during the previous four calendar quarters.

Turbidity

Contaminant (units)	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU)	N	0.14	N/A	TT = 1 NTU	Soil runoff
		100%		TT = percentage of samples < 0.3 NTU	

Turbidity is the measure of the cloudiness of the water. The Town monitors Turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filter treatment system. The turbidity rule requires that 95% or more of the monthly samples must be below 0.3 NTU.

Inorganics Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	N	0.32	N/A	N/A	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Lead and Copper Contaminants

The table below summarizes our most recent lead and copper tap sampling data. If you would like to review the complete lead tap sampling data, please contact us at 910-281-4719.

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water 90 th Percentile	# of sites found above the AL	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Copper (ppm) (90 th percentile)	Aug, 2025	ND	None	ND	0.221	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb) (90 th percentile)	Aug, 2025	ND	1	ND	28.0	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Disinfectant Residual Summary

Contaminant (units)	MCL/MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (AVG)	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
			Low	High			
Chlorine (ppm)	N	1.35	1.00	1.80	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Chloramine (ppm)	N	2.35	1.50	3.00	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

Disinfection By-Product Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL/MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (AVG)	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
			Low	High			
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	N	12	6.9	14.5	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	N	29	ND	53.4	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Total Organic Carbon (TOC)

Contaminant (units)	TT Violation Y/N	Your Water (RAA Removal Ratio)	Range Monthly Removal Ratio	MCLG	TT	Likely Source of Contamination	Compliance Method
			Low - High				

Total Organic Carbon (removal ratio) (TOC)-TREATED	N	1.05	0.09	1.23	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment	Step 1
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Our water system used the removal of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) as the method used to comply with disinfectants/disinfection by-product treatment technique requirements. The TOC removal ratio is required to be greater than 1.0.

In addition, the water is tested for the following constituents which are indicators for appearance, taste, and odor.

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	Range		SMCL
			Low	High	
Alkalinity (ppm)	Daily	8.2	3.8	12.4	N/A
Hardness (ppm)	Daily	9.5	4.6	18.2	N/A
Iron (ppm)	Daily	0.029	0.010	0.090	0.3
Manganese (ppm)	Daily	0.007	ND	0.030	0.05
Sodium (ppm)	1/7/2025	2.5			N/A
Sulfate (ppm)	1/7/2025	20.0			250
pH	Daily	N/A	6.1	8.5	6.5 to 8.5

The PWS Section requires monitoring for other misc. contaminants, some for which the EPA has set national secondary drinking water standards (SMCLs) because they may cause cosmetic effects or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, and/or color) in drinking water. The contaminants with SMCLs normally do not have any health effects and normally do not affect the safety of your water.

