

CITY OF MERKEL

Public Water Supply ID: TX2210002

Consumer Confidence Report

2025 CCR

The following pages comprise the Annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for your water system.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

CITY OF MERKEL

Public Water System ID: TX2210002

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) for the year, for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water. Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (325) 928-4911.

Public Participation Opportunities at City of Merkel Council Meeting

Date: Third Thursday of every month, **Time:** 6:00 PM

Location: Heritage Hall, 111 Taylor St, Merkel, TX 79536

For more information regarding this report, contact:

Name: Matthew Hitt

Phone: 325-928-4911

Sources of Drinking Water

CITY OF MERKEL is Purchased surface water.

Our water source(s) and source water assessment information are listed below:

Source Name		Type of Water	Report Status	Location
SW FROM CITY OF ABILENE	CC FROM TX2210001 CITY OF ABILENE	Surface water	Active	Entry Point: ON I-20 1.7 MI W OF FM 707, MERKEL Lake Fort Phantom Hill, Hubbard Creek Lake, Lake O.H. Ivie

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 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.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

A service line inventory has been prepared and can be accessed <https://merkeltexas.com/>
Or by contacting: City of Merkel, 100 Kent Street Merkel, Texas 79536 Phone: (325)928-4911

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.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

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).

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. CITY OF MERKEL 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 a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact CITY OF MERKEL at 325-928-4911. 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>.

In the tables below, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following 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.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 Contaminant Level Goal or 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 residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG: 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.

Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL: 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.

Treatment Technique or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Variations and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Avg: Average - Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

RAA: Running Annual Average.

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average.

mrem: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body).

ppb: micrograms per liter (ug/L) or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

ppm: milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

picocuries per liter (pCi/L): picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

na: not applicable.

Disinfectant Residual

All public water systems in Texas are required to disinfect drinking water to ensure control of microbial contaminants. Disinfectants are water additives used to control microbes.

Disinfectant	Year	Average Level	Unit	Range	MRDL/MRDLG Goal
Chloramines	2025	2.54	ppm	0.51 – 5.9	4/4

Regulated Contaminants

In the tables below, we have shown the regulated contaminants that were detected. Chemical Sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual basis; therefore, information provided in this table refers back to the latest year of chemical sampling results.

Lead and Copper	Period	90TH Percentile: 90% of your water utility levels were less than	Range of Sampled Results (low - high)	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, FREE	2023 - 2025	0.0851	0 - 0.179	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD	2023 - 2025	0	0 - 12	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts	Sample Point	Period	Highest LRAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	111 TAYLOR ST, MERKEL, TX	2025	19	15.2	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	8 CARSON CIRCLE, MERKEL, TX	2025	54	65	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
DIBROMOCHLOROMETHANE	2/4/2025	17.7	7.13 - 17.7	UG/L	0	0.06	
NITRATE	11/3/2025	0.994	0.994	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
NITRATE-NITRITE	5/13/2024	0.392	0.392	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

There are no additional required health effects notices.

There are no additional required health effects violation notices.

The City of Merkel purchases surface water from the City of Abilene.

- Regulated Contaminants in the Source Water – City of Abilene

Type of contaminant	Year or Range	Contaminant (unit of measure)	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Source of Contaminant
Inorganic Contaminants	2025	Arsenic (ppb)	1.1	<0.1-1.1	10	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
	2025	Barium (ppm)	0.18	0.10 - 0.18	2	2	N	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories.
	2025	Cyanide Total (ppb)	149	69.2 - 149	200	200	N	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories.
	2025	Fluoride (ppm)	0.229	0.172-0.229	4	4.0	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive for strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
	2025	Nitrate (ppm)	0.65	0.143-0.65	10	10	N	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks or sewage
	2025	Selenium (ppb)	< 5.0	< 5.0	50	50	N	Erosion from natural deposits; discharge from petroleum refineries

Type of contaminant	Year or Range	Contaminant (unit of measure)	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Source of Contaminant
Radioactive Contaminants	2023	Uranium (ppb)	2.9	1-2.9	0	30	N	Erosion of natural deposits Decay of natural and man made deposits.
	2023	Gross Alpha	<3.0	<3.0	0	15	N	Erosion of natural deposits Decay of natural and man made deposits.
	2023	Gross Beta	10.7	7.7-10.7	0	50	N	Erosion of natural deposits Decay of natural and man made deposits.
	2023	Radium 228 (pCi/L)	<1.0	<1.0	0	5	N	Erosion of natural deposits Decay of natural and man made deposits.
Disinfection Byproducts	2025	Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	21.0	8.70-21.0	No goal for the total	60	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
	2025	Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	48.2	14.3-48.2	No goal for the total	80	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
	2025	Chlorite (ppm)	0.982	0.01-0.982	0.8	1	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Unregulated Contaminants	2025	trichloroacetic acid (ppb)	<1.00	<1.00 - <1.00	na	na	na	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
	2025	Bromoform (ppb)	8.74	3.13-8.74	na	na	na	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
	2025	Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	4.51	1.62-4.61	na	na	na	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
	2025	Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	13.6	4.61-13.6	na	na	na	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Type of contaminant	Year or Range	Contaminant (unit of measure)	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected		Secondary Limit	Source of Contaminant
Secondary and other Constituents not Regulated	2025	Aluminum (ppm)	0.02	<0.005	0.02	0.2	Naturally present in environment.
	2025	Bicarbonate (ppm)	115	84.3	115	na	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
	2025	Calcium (ppm)	54.1	43.4	54.1	na	Naturally present in environment.
	2025	Chloride (ppm)	154	118	154	300	Naturally present in environment.
	2025	Magnesium (ppm)	21.5	18.6	21.5	na	Naturally present in environment.
	2025	Manganese (ppm)	0.0022	0.0012	0.0022	0.05	Naturally present in environment.
	2025	Nickel (ppm)	0.0043	0.0011	0.0043	na	Erosion of natural deposits.
	2025	Zinc (ppm)	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	na	Erosion of natural deposits.
	2025	Sodium (ppm)	98.4	61.6	98.4	na	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.
	2025	Sulfate (ppm)	118	89.1	118	300	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
	2025	Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	115	84.3	115	na	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
	2025	Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	523	442	523	1000	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
	2025	Total Hardness as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	224	188	224	na	Naturally occurring calcium.
	2025	Conductivity (µmho/cm)	930	784	930	na	Naturally present in environment.
	2025	Copper (mg/L)	0.0013	0.0012	0.0013	2.25	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2025	Potassium (mg/L)	9.99	7.15	9.99	na	Naturally present in environment.	
2025	Chromium (mg/L)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	0.1	Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.	

Some infants and young children who drink water containing chlorite in excess of the MCL could experience nervous system effects. Similar effects may occur in fetuses of pregnant women who drink water containing chlorite in excess of the MCL. Some people may experience anemia.

Type of Treatment	Year or Range	Disinfectant Used	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Source of Chemical
MRDL	2025	Chloramines (ppm)	3.2	0.6	4.9	4.0	4.0	Disinfectant used to control microbes
Type of contaminant	Year or Range	MCGL	The 90th Percentile	Number of sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Source of Contaminant	No Violations for Lead or Copper	
Lead (ppb)	2023	0	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.		
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	0.249	0	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.		
Type of contaminant	Year or Range	Highest Single Level Detected	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Limit (Treatment Technique)		Violation	Source of Contaminant	
Turbidity (NTU)	2025	0.29	100.00%	95% of monthly samples must be ≤ 0.3 NTU & no samples can be >1 NTU		N	Soil runoff.	
Type of Contaminant	Year or Range	Contamination Source	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant	
Total Organic Carbon	2025	Source Water	6.13	4.41	7.80	ppm	Naturally present in environment.	
Total Organic Carbon	2025	Drinking Water	4.31	2.77	5.30	ppm	Naturally present in environment.	

Type of contaminant	Year or Range	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MFL	Source of Contaminant
Asbestos	2012	Asbestos	ND	ND	ND	7	Construction Materials
Type of contaminant	Year or Range	Contaminant	Highest Monthly % of Positive Samples	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform	2025	Total Coliform Bacteria	0.9	*	Presence	No Monitoring violation	Naturally present in environment.
* Presence of Coliform bacteria in 5% or more of the monthly samples.							
Fecal Coliform - not detected							
Real Water Loss							

The UCMR program was developed in coordination with the Contaminant Candidate List (CCL). The CCL is a list of contaminants that are not regulated by the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, are known or anticipated to occur at public water systems and may warrant regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Data collected through UCMR are stored in the National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD) to support analysis and review of contaminant occurrence, to guide the CCL selection process and to support the Administrator's determination of whether to regulate a contaminant in the interest of protecting public health.

Analyte	CAS Number	High	Range	Contaminant Classification
PFBA (ppb)	CAS 375-22-4	0.0169	0.000 - 0.0169	PFAS
PFPeA (ppb)	CAS 2706-90-3	0.0164	0.000 - 0.0164	PFAS
PFBS (ppb)	CAS 375-73-5	0.00824	0.000 - 0.00824	PFAS
PFHxA (ppb)	CAS 307-24-4	0.0214	0.000 - 0.0214	PFAS
PFHpA (ppb)	CAS 375-85-9	0.0096	0.000 - 0.0096	PFAS
PFHxS (ppb)	CAS 355-46-4	0.0202	0.000 - 0.0202	PFAS
PFOA (ppb)	CAS 335-67-1	0.00714	0.000 - 0.00714	PFAS
PFOS (ppb)	CAS 1763-23-1	0.0256	0.000 - 0.0256	PFAS
Lithium (mg/L)	-	28.9	9.5 - 28.9	Metals/Pharmaceuticals

Definitions and Abbreviations:

The following table contain scientific terms and measures, some may require explanation.

ppm – parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L). One ounce in 7.350 gallons of water.

ppb – parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L). One ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)- The highest level of a substance that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using best available treatment technology

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of a substance in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a substance in drinking water.

MFL - million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

NTU – Nephelometric turbidity units. Unit of measure of the turbidity (cloudiness) of the water

pCi/L – picocuries per liter. (a measure of radioactivity)

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – 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.

Action Level (AL) – the concentration of a substance, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

J - Analyte detected below the quantitation limit but above the detection limit.

ND - Analyte not detected in sample.

na - not applicable.