

THE WATER WE DRINK
2025 Water Quality Report
MARCO RURAL WATER COMPANY (SC3320001)
May 11, 2026

We're pleased to present to you this year's Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and to protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. As required by SCDES, Marco Rural Water Company's certified personnel checks both the water plants and system and analyze our water seven days a week to ensure delivery of safe drinking water for Marco's customers. Marco's water source comes from several deep wells located in Marion County from a source called the Black Creek Aquifer. Marco has three wells located near Sellers, three wells near Marion, one well east of Mullins, one well near Gapway, one well in Rains, and one in Britton's Neck. All of these are connected by over 800 miles of pipe.

Marco Rural Water Company has a SCDES certified lab with certified personnel analyzing required water quality parameters. Marco's water plants and system are checked by certified operators with a minimum of a "D" level license as required by SCDES. Marco has a blow-off and hydrant flushing program to insure "good water" and proper hydrant operation.

Marco Rural Water Company maintains a cross-connection / backflow program. A cross connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to any water source of questionable quality. Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at homes. Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. Marco has surveyed all industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that all potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test each backflow preventer a minimum of one time per year as required by SCDES. For more information, visit the web site of the American Backflow Prevention Association(www.abpa.org). Marco Rural Water Company also has a Source Water Assessment Plan. If you do not have internet access, please contact Robert Winkeler at (843) 423-4680 to decide to review this document.

This Water Quality Report shows our water quality and what it means, and we are pleased to present it to you. This report contains results of potential groundwater contaminants and will be delivered to you on a yearly basis for consumer information and knowledge of the efforts that are being taken by all parties to deliver safe drinking water. Any questions or concerns about the Water Quality Report should be directed to Robert Winkeler who is the General Manager of Marco Rural Water Company. Mr. Winkeler can be contacted at (843) 423-4680 between 8:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and between 8:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. on Friday. You, Marco's customers, are invited to participate in board meetings or annual membership meetings to voice your concerns about the drinking water. The board meets the third Monday (7:00 p.m.) each month at the office at 1935 Senator Gasque Road in Marion. The annual membership meeting is at the Marion/Mullins Vocational Center on Highway 76, Marion, South Carolina.

Marco Rural Water Company routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2025. The state requires Marco to monitor contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants is not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number 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. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least some small amounts of constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, 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 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, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production. These can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

TEST RESULTS
MARCO RURAL WATER COMPANY
(SC3320001)

Lead and Copper – Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminants (unit of measure)	ALG	AL	90 th percentile	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL (Yes/No)	Sample Date	Typical Source
Copper-action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.467 Range 0-0.69	0	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead-action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	0.0 Range 0-4.85	0	No	2025	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits.

Disinfectant and Disinfection By-Products

Contaminants (unit of measure)	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect in Your Water	Range	Violation (Yes or No)	Sample Date	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.0 RAA	1.0-1.0	No	2025	Water additive used to control microbes
HAAs [Haloacetic Acids] (HAA5) (ppb)	No goal for the total	9	9.0LRAA	0.0-12.7	No	2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	No goal for the total	54	57 LRAA	7.0-63.1	No	2025	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Chemical Constituents

Contaminants (unit of measure)	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect in Your Water	Range	Violation (Yes or No)	Sample Date	Typical Source
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	2.3	3.0 – 3.0	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Sodium (ppm) [unregulated]	NA	NA	120	150 - 150	No	2025	Naturally occurring.

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range	Sample Date	Violation? Yes/No	Typical Source
Beta/photon emitters (mrem/yr)	0	4	3.5	0-3.5	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha Excluding Radon & Uranium (pCi/L)	0	15	13.3	0-13.3	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium 226/228 (pCi/L)	0	4.6	1.42	0-1.42	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

UCMR5

Unregulated contaminants are those for which U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In (year of report) (PWS Name) participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). For a copy of the results please call us at 843-423-4680.

Information about these contaminants can be found at

<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule> and

<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/datasummary-fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>

Table of Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminants (Units)	Sample Year	Average Level Found	Range of Detection
Lithium (ppb)	2024	1.907142857	0-13.7

Terms and abbreviations used in the Consumer Confidence Report: (In this table 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):

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

NA: not applicable

ND: Not detected

NR: Monitoring not required but recommended.

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

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

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

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

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: 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.

MNR: Monitored Not Regulated

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. Marco Rural Water Company 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, contact Marco Rural Water Company and 843-423-4680. 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>.

A lead service line inventory was completed throughout our system, in 2024. For more information on this inventory please contact us at 843-423-4680.

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).

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Elevated Fluoride Levels Detected in the Marco Water System. *This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by Marco Water has a fluoride concentration of 2.3 mg/l. Dental fluorosis in its moderate or severe forms may result in a brown staining and or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid possible staining or pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.

Drinking water containing more than 4 mg/l of fluoride (the US Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard) can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4 mg/l of fluoride, but we are required to notify you when we discover that fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2 mg/l because of cosmetic dental problems.

**Fluoride.* Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL, over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth. South Carolina has a secondary standard of 2.0 ppm. For more information, please call Robin Winkeler at (843) 423-4680. Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP.*

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man-made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

A notice of availability of this report has been published in the *Star & Enterprise* and copies of this report are posted at the office of Marco Rural Water Company, Marion County Courthouse, Marion Post Office, Mullins Post Office, Nichols Post Office, Rains Post Office, Sellers Post Office, and Brittons Neck Post Office. This report is also available online at www.marcoruralwater.org/water-quality-report. To request a paper copy of this report, please call our office at 843-423-4680.

“We at Marco Rural Water Company work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap”, said Robert Winkeler. “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.”

Robert Winkeler, Manager