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*The Gateway of  
Michigan*

## *New Buffalo Township Water Department Water Quality Report 2025*

This past year, as in all past years your drinking water has met all EPA and State drinking water standards. Everyday New Buffalo Township strives to provide their Township water customers with the safest drinking water possible. This report will show that we have been meeting those goals. The Township purchases its drinking water from Michigan City, Indiana. We also pump City of New Buffalo water into our system for use at the Four Winds Casino. Both communities use Lake Michigan as their water source.

### **Source Assessment**

Because our water source is Lake Michigan, the State of Michigan has performed an assessment to determine how susceptible that source would be to contamination. Because of the “open” source that it is, it is rated at “moderately high” level. It is important that you know both Michigan City and the City of New Buffalo sample and test their respective waters 365 days a year. New Buffalo Township is also required by EGLE and the EPA to take various samples on a regular basis. This is a combined effort to make sure your drinking water is safe. New Buffalo Township feels very confident with our source suppliers. This report includes both Water Quality Data sheets from our two suppliers.

### **Health and Safety**

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 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 (800-426-4791).

[www.newbuffalotownship.org](http://www.newbuffalotownship.org)

ph: 269-469-1011 – fx: 269-469-6711 ~ 17425 Red Arrow Highway, New Buffalo, MI 49117

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Contaminants that might be expected to be in source water (untreated 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.

To ensure that the tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. EPA regulations establish limits for contamination 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. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or visit ([www.epa.gov/ogwdw](http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw)).

**Information about lead:** 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. The Township of New Buffalo water system 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 at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned

about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Alex Keen, water superintendent, at the Township of New Buffalo water department for available resources. 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>

If you have any questions regarding this report or any questions regarding your water utility you may attend any New Buffalo Township Board meeting or contact Alex Keen, Water Superintendent, at 269-231-5250 or email [akeen@newbuffalotownship.org](mailto:akeen@newbuffalotownship.org). Board meetings are scheduled on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month at the Township Hall at 17425 Red Arrow Highway.

### New Buffalo Township Water Quality Analysis

The Table below list all the EPA regulated contaminants detected in the Townships drinking water during 2025. **All contaminants detected were below allowable limits.**

Distribution system							
Substance	MRDL	MRDLG	Annual Running Average	Highest	Range of Detection	Violation Yes/No	Sources of Substance
Free Chlorine Residual	4.0	4.0	0.73	0.85	.67-.85	no	Water additive used
Total Chlorine Residual	4.0	4.0	0.92	1.01	.88-1.01	no	Water additive used
Additional Distribution							
Substance	MRDL	Annual Running Average	Highest single sample	Range of Detection	Violation Yes/No	Sources of Substance	
Total Trihalomethanes	80	71.50	71.50	71.50 (single sample)	no	By-Product of Disinfection	
Total Haloacetic Acids	60	8.4	8.4	8.4 (single sample)	no	By-Product of Disinfection	
Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)							
Regulated Substance	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA) (ppt)	370	N/A	N/D	N/A	2025	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities utilizing Gen X chemical process.
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppt)	420	N/A	N/D	N/A	2025	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; Stain resistant treatments.
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) (ppt)	51	N/A	N/D	N/A	2025	No	Firefighting foam: Discharge and waste from industrial facilities.
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppt)	400,000	N/A	N/D	N/A	2025	No	Firefighting foam: Discharge and waste from industrial facilities.
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) (ppt)	6	N/A	N/D	N/A	2025	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; breakdown of precursor compounds.

Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	16	N/A	2.1	N/A	2025	No	Firefighting foam; Discharge from electroplating facilities; Discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)	8	N/A	N/D	N/A	2025	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; Stain resistant treatments.
Regulated at Customers' tap							
Substance	EPA's Action Level	EPA's MCLG	90th percentile detected	Range of Results	Number of Samples Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant	
Lead* (ppb) Jan- June 2025	12	0	2	0-2	0	Corrosion of household plumbing	
Copper* (ppb) Jan-June 2025	1300	1300	0.3	0.0-0.7	0	Corrosion of household plumbing	
Lead* (ppb) July-Dec 2025	12	0	1	0-6	0	Corrosion of household plumbing	
Copper*(ppb) July- Dec 2025	1300	1300	0.4	0.0-0.6	0	Corrosion of household plumbing	

\*Lead & Copper- some monitoring is done less than once a year. Lead & Copper results were from 2025, our next sampling cycle will be 2028.

## WATER QUALITY DATA

The table below lists the EPA's regulated and unregulated contaminants detected in The City of New Buffalo's drinking water during 2025. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented is from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

Regulated Monitoring (Sampled at Water Filtration Plant)						
Detected Substance (units)	Highest Level Detected	Range Of Detects	EPA's MCL	EPA's MCLG	Violation Yes / No	Likely Sources of Substance
*Turbidity (ntu)	0.14	0.03-0.14	0.3* or no sample above 1.00	N/A	No	Soil Runoff
Chlorine Residual - Free (ppm)	1.61	0.95-1.61	4.0	4.0	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	0.62	0.62 (Single Sample)	4.0	4.0	No	Water Additive Which Promotes Strong Teeth; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Radioactive Contaminants						
<b>Radium</b> (Gross Alpha -Rad) (pCi/L) Sample Date – 6/05/2023	3.26	3.26 (Single Sample)	15	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Radium</b> (Combined 226/228) (pCi/L) Sample Date – 08/03/2020	1.32	1.32 (Single Sample)	5	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits

**Regulated Monitoring for Disinfection By-Product Rule (Sampled in Water Distribution System)**

Detected Substance (units)	Highest Running Annual Average	Range Of Detects	EPA's MCL	EPA's MCLG	Violation Yes / NO	Likely Source of Substance
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	28	28 (Single Sample)	80.0	N/A	No	By-Product of Drinking Water Chlorination
HAA5 (Total Haloacetic Acids) (ppb)	14	14 (Single Sample)	60.0	N/A	No	By-Product of Drinking Water Chlorination

**Additional Regulated Monitoring (Sampled in Water Distribution System)**

Detected Substance (units)	Highest Running Annual Average	Range Of Detects	MRDL	MRDLG	Violation Yes / No	Likely Source of Substance
Total Chlorine Residual (ppm)	0.77	0.52-1.02	4.0	4.0	No	Water Additive Used for Disinfection

Note 1: Definitions are on pages 5 and 6.

Note 2: The EPA requires monitoring for over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those listed above are only those contaminants detected in your drinking water. For a complete list contact the Water Filtration Plant.

**Regulated Lead and Copper Monitoring (Sampled at Customer's Tap - 2024)**

Detected Substance (units)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Detected	Range Of Detects	Sites Found Above AL	EPA's AL	EPA's MCLG	Violation Yes / NO	Likely Source of Substance
** Copper (ppb)	100	0 - 100	0	1300	1300	No	Corrosion of Household Plumbing
** Lead (ppb)	3	0 - 3	0	12	0	No	Corrosion of Household Plumbing

**Special Unregulated Monitoring (Sampled at Water Filtration Plant)**

Detected Substance (units)	Highest Level Detected	Likely Source of Substance
Sodium (ppm)	8.9 (Single Sample)	Erosion of Natural Deposits

**Additional Unregulated Monitoring (Sampled at Water Filtration Plant)**

Detected Substance (units)	Highest Level Detected	Likely Source of Substance
Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	137 (Single Sample)	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	32 (Single Sample)	Erosion of Natural Deposits
PH (su)	7.6	Measurement of Acidity of Water
Chloride (ppm)	17 (Single Sample)	Erosion of Natural Deposits

**Regulated Volatile Organic Compounds (Samples at Water Filtration Plant)**

Detected Substance (units)	Highest Level Detected	EPA's MCL	EPA's MCLG	Violation Yes / NO	Likely Source of Substance
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	23 (Single Sample)	80.0	N/A	No	By-Product of Drinking Water Chlorination

**Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) - Sampled at Water Filtration Plant ( 2/25/25 )**

Regulated Contaminant	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPODA) (ppt)	370	N/A	N/D	N/A	NO	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities utilizing the Gen X chemical process
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppt)	420	N/A	N/D	N/A	NO	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stainresistant treatments
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) (ppt)	51	N/A	N/D	N/A	NO	Firefighting foam; discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppt)	400,000	N/A	N/D	N/A	NO	Firefighting foam; discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) (ppt)	6	N/A	N/D	N/A	NO	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; breakdown of precursor compounds
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	16	N/A	2	N/A	NO	Firefighting foam; discharge from electroplating facilities; discharge and waste from industrial facilities

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)	8	N/A	2	N/A		NO	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stainresistant treatments
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The EPA requires monitoring for over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those listed above are only those contaminants detected in your drinking water. For a complete list contact the Water Filtration Plant.

**Water Quality Analysis**

The chart that follows the list of abbreviations shows the highest recorded level in Michigan City in 2025 or the last time the contaminant was tested and the highest allowed by the USEPA. Michigan City water has met all EPA requirements.

**MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water, if applicable.

**MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health, if applicable.

**MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level, the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

**MRDLG:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal, the level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no know or expected risk to health.

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

**LRAA:** Locational Running Annual Average

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, is the measure of clarity of the water

**mg/l:** milligrams per liter, a measurement for concentration equivalent to ppm = one part per million

**ug/l:** micrograms per liter, measurement for concentration equivalent to ppb = one part per billion

**pCi/l:** picocuries per liter, a measurement of radiation

**P\*:** Potential violation, one that is likely to occur in the near future, subject to other applicable requirements.

**ND:** Not detected, the result was not detected at or below the analytical method detection level.

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

**TT\*\*:** **Special Note on Turbidity:** The turbidity treatment technique (TT) requires that at least 95% of the total combined effluent turbidity samples shall not exceed 0.3 NTU (1.0 NTU for slow sand and diatomaceous earth filtration systems). At least 95% is required to be in compliance. In addition, the maximum turbidity level cannot exceed 1.0 NTU at any time.

Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Unit	Highest Result	Range or Mas	Sites over AL	Violation	Likely Sources
3/4/2025	Barium	2	2	mg/L	0.019	0.019		No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
3/4/2025	Fluoride	4	4	mg/L	0.65	0.65		No	Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharges from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
3/4/2025	Nitrate-Nitrite (as N)	10	10	mg/L	0.46	0.46		No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from fertilizers; Leaching from septic systems and sewers.
3/4/2025	Nitrate	10	10	ug/L	0.46	0.46		No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from fertilizers; Leaching from septic systems and sewers.
2025	Total Trihalomethanes	80	0	ug/L	LRAA= 22.4	10.2 – 30.5		No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
2025	Total Haloacetic Acids	60	0	ug/L	LRAA= 3.5	ND-3.9		No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
2025	Chloramines	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	mg/L	1	0.2-2.7		No	Water additive used to control microbes; At least 40 samples per month per Total Coliform Rule
8/12/2025	Total Organic Carbon	TT	TT	mg/L	2.18	1.35-2.18		No	Naturally present in the environment
2025	Turbidity (lowest percentage)	TT**	TT**	NTU	0.29	Compliance: 100%		No	Soil runoff – The highest result occurred in May and was due to maintenance work on the analyzer.
2023	Lead (90th percentile)	15 (AL)	0	ug/L	90%: 1.9	ND-21	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

2023	Copper (90th percentile)	1.3 (AL)	1.3	mg/L	0.24	0.0018-0.86	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Leaching from wood preservatives
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**UCMR-5: Forever Chemicals – PFAS and PFOS**

In the year 2023, the USEPA required the Department to monitor for these contaminants quarterly beginning in May of 2023. The contaminants of concern included Perfluorinated and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances and Perfluorinated Alkyl Acids, commonly known as PFAS or PFOS. These chemicals have been used in many everyday items, such as Teflon, fire-retardant clothing, and fire-fighting foam. These chemicals have been discovered to not break down over time like many other chemicals do. Therefore, these chemicals have been called “Forever Chemicals”. There were a total of 29 variations of these chemicals included. In addition to these chemicals, lithium was tested, due, in part, to the sharp increase in the use of lithium battery technology. We are happy to announce that in all samples of finished water, these contaminants were not detected.

**Violations:**

During the period covered by this report, IDEM assessed one violation to the Department on 7/01/2025. Per the Consumer Confidence rule, the Department is required to have certain language within the document. Due to formatting, the language was present but was missed during document review. Once determined to be present, the violation was closed on 10/01/2025. This violation in no way jeopardized the safety of the water supplied by the Department. The format of this year’s report was modified to ensure that the language is aligned with a standard formatting.

## DEFINITIONS

**Maximum Residual Disinfection 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 Level Goal (MRDLG)** - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**AL (action level)** — The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceed, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**MCL** — Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MCLG** — Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) is 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.

**NTU** - Nephelometric Turbidity Units ppb

**PPM** - Parts per million

**PPB**- Parts per Billion

**MG/L**-milligrams per liter

**UG/L**-micrograms per liter

**pCi/L** –picocuries per liter

**TT** - Treatment Technique (TT) is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Unregulated Contaminants** - Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of the unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile** - 90 percent of the samples were below the number listed.

**N/A** - Not applicable.

**N/D** – None Detected

**Turbidity**- Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water.

**RAA**- Running Annual Average.

**\*Lead & Copper**- the state allows us to monitor for these substances less than once per year, so some data may be more than 1 year old, current results were collected from 1/1/2019 thru 12/30/2019. Infants and children who drink water containing lead higher than action levels 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.

**Attention New Buffalo Township Water Customers**  
Your 2025 Consumer Confidence Report may be  
picked up the New Buffalo Township Hall,  
copies will not be mailed.