WESTMINSTER

2025 ANNUAL WATER Quality Report

Covering Data For Calendar Year 2024

Public Water System ID:
CO0101170

Esta información es importante. Si necesitan ayuda en traducir pueden contactar la cuidad de Westminster.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Dear Community Member,

The City of Westminster is pleased to share with you our 2025 Water Quality Report. This report describes our efforts to ensure that Westminster's drinking water continues to be safe, affordable, and sustainable for generations to come.

The quality of Westminster's water continues to rank among the highest in Colorado, thanks to our award-winning team of professional water operators who work tirelessly to ensure that we continue to meet and exceed the highest standards.

This year, we are proud to announce that construction of Westminster's new, state-of-the-art Westminster Boulevard Drinking Water Facility will begin this fall, eventually replacing the City's aging Semper Water Treatment Facility that was built in 1969.

Construction of the new facility, located on Westminster Boulevard near 98th Avenue, will mark a significant milestone in our commitment to modernize Westminster's water infrastructure. The upgraded facility will enhance our ability to deliver clean and safe drinking water, and its modular design will allow the facility to evolve and meet future regulatory requirements, all while maintaining the affordability and reliability you've come to expect.

We encourage you to review this 2025 Water Quality Report, and we look forward to keeping you informed about the progress of the new facility and other exciting developments in the year ahead.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our water quality team at water@westminsterco.gov.

SIncerely,
Jody Andrews
Westminster City Manager

The Safe Drinking Water Act
www.epa.gov/sdwa

Your Water Quality Report
www.westminsterco.gov/waterquality

CDC - Consumer Confidence Reports
www.cdc.gov/drinking-water/about/how-to-read-drinking-water-quality-reports.html

OUR DRINKING WATER'S ORIGIN STORY

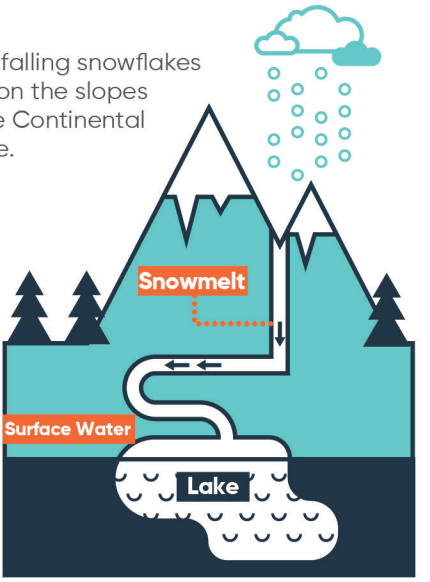
Westminster's water begins its journey as snow from the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains along Clear Creek and is diverted to Standley Lake through a complex canal system. The lake stores up to 14 billion gallons of water. Half of the water belongs to the City of Westminster and the other half is reserved for Thornton, Northglenn, and other entities. Westminster's storage in Standley Lake is enough to serve City customers for one year. Although Standley Lake's water supply varies throughout the year based on snowpack, rainfall, and seasonal weather, the lake's water level is typically lowest in the fall after a busy summer of water usage.

Water is a precious resource, and we make every effort to save every drop. The City partners closely with neighboring communities to monitor Clear Creek and the canal systems to reduce potential threats to our source water.

In an emergency, the City and our partner communities have the ability to reroute contaminated water around Standley Lake until the issue can be resolved.

Where Our Water Comes From

1 Free-falling snowflakes land on the slopes of the Continental Divide.

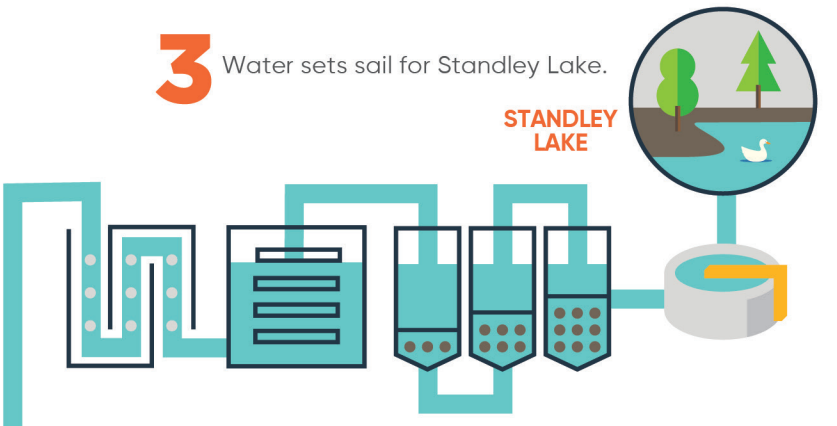


12 INCHES

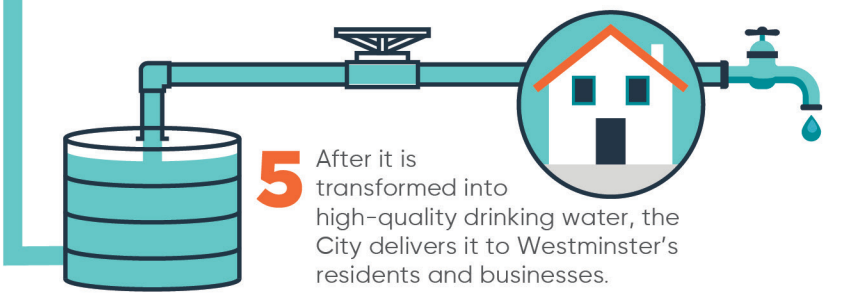
IT TAKES 10-12" OF COLORADO SNOW TO ACCUMULATE 1" OF H_2O.

2 Things heat up when spring sunshine melts the snow and water runs off to Clear Creek and into one of three canals.

3 Water sets sail for Standley Lake.



4 Finding its way to the water treatment facilities, water passes through a complex system of treatment cycles, filters, pH balancing, and a clear well.



5 After it is transformed into high-quality drinking water, the City delivers it to Westminster's residents and businesses.

Source Water Assessment

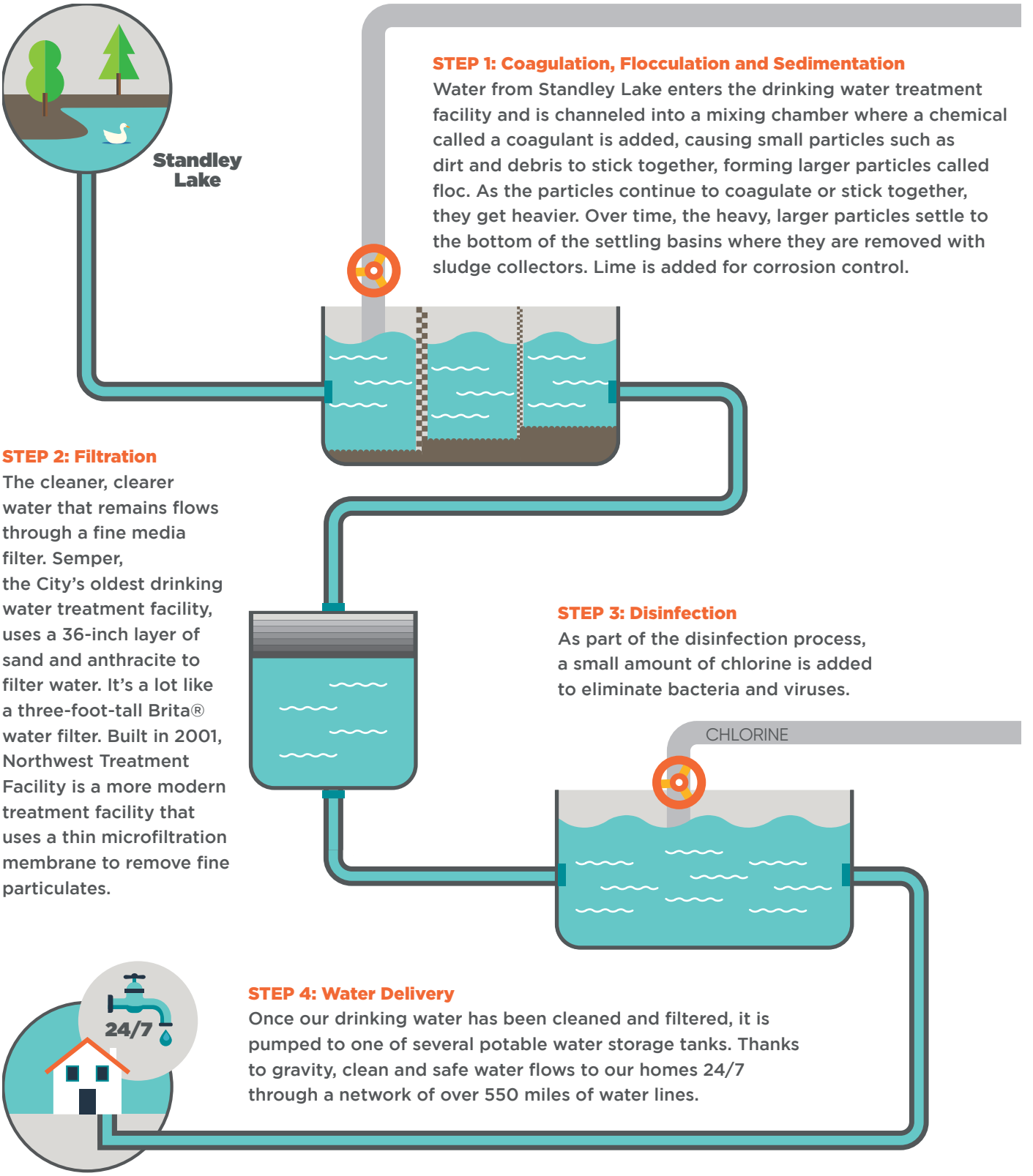
The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) completed a Source Water Assessment Project report (SWAP) for our water supply. It provides a screening evaluation of potential contamination that could occur in the Standley Lake watershed. It does not mean that the contamination has occurred or will occur. This information is used to evaluate the need to improve our current water treatment capabilities and prepare for future contamination threats.

To receive a copy of this report, please contact Water Quality staff at **303-658-2500** or **water@westminsterco.gov**.

Potential sources of contamination to our source water include existing/abandoned mines, above-ground and underground leaking storage tanks, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) abandoned contaminated sites, EPA chemical inventory/storage sites and toxic release sites, EPA hazardous waste generators, permitted wastewater discharges, solid waste sites, forests, fallow and pasture/hay, septic systems, oil/gas wells and roads, EPA Superfund sites, commercial/industrial/transportation, residential areas, urban recreational grasses, quarries/strip mines, gravel pits, and row crops.

WATER TREATMENT

Here is how the City cleans our drinking water. Similar to most other drinking water treatment facilities, the City uses four steps for treating water.



STEP 1: Coagulation, Flocculation and Sedimentation
Water from Standley Lake enters the drinking water treatment facility and is channeled into a mixing chamber where a chemical called a coagulant is added, causing small particles such as dirt and debris to stick together, forming larger particles called floc. As the particles continue to coagulate or stick together, they get heavier. Over time, the heavy, larger particles settle to the bottom of the settling basins where they are removed with sludge collectors. Lime is added for corrosion control.

STEP 2: Filtration
The cleaner, clearer water that remains flows through a fine media filter. Semper, the City's oldest drinking water treatment facility, uses a 36-inch layer of sand and anthracite to filter water. It's a lot like a three-foot-tall Brita® water filter. Built in 2001, Northwest Treatment Facility is a more modern treatment facility that uses a thin microfiltration membrane to remove fine particulates.

STEP 3: Disinfection
As part of the disinfection process, a small amount of chlorine is added to eliminate bacteria and viruses.

STEP 4: Water Delivery
Once our drinking water has been cleaned and filtered, it is pumped to one of several potable water storage tanks. Thanks to gravity, clean and safe water flows to our homes 24/7 through a network of over 550 miles of water lines.

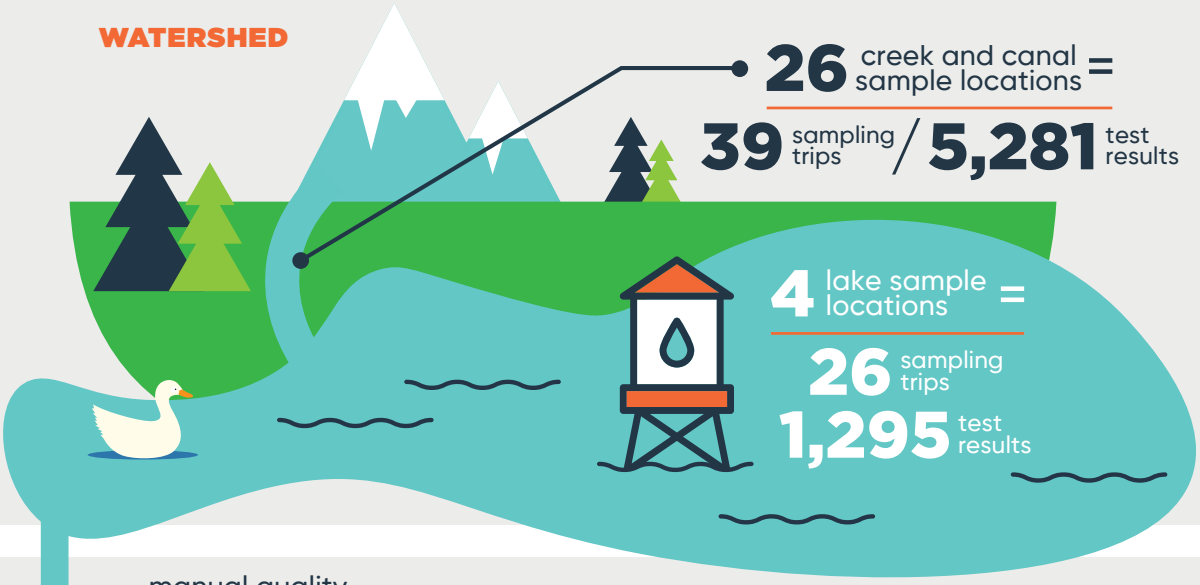
Monitoring Water Quality

Here's a glimpse into our evaluation of water quality during the year.

WATERSHED

26 creek and canal sample locations =
39 sampling trips / **5,281** test results

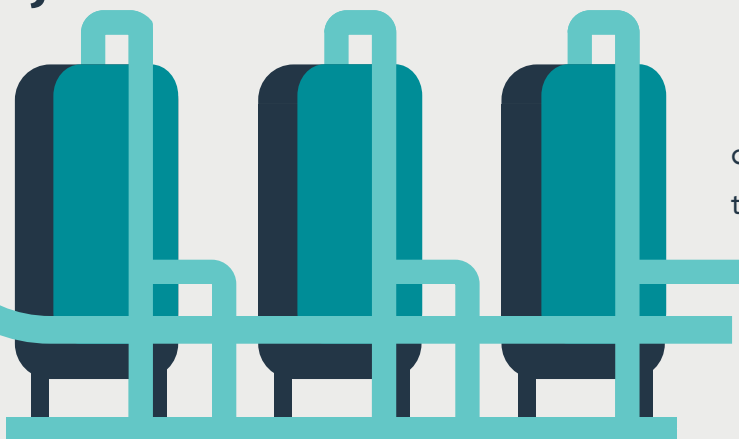
4 lake sample locations =
26 sampling trips
1,295 test results



WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

manual quality control checks =
15,000+ test results

150
continuous monitoring locations throughout the treatment process

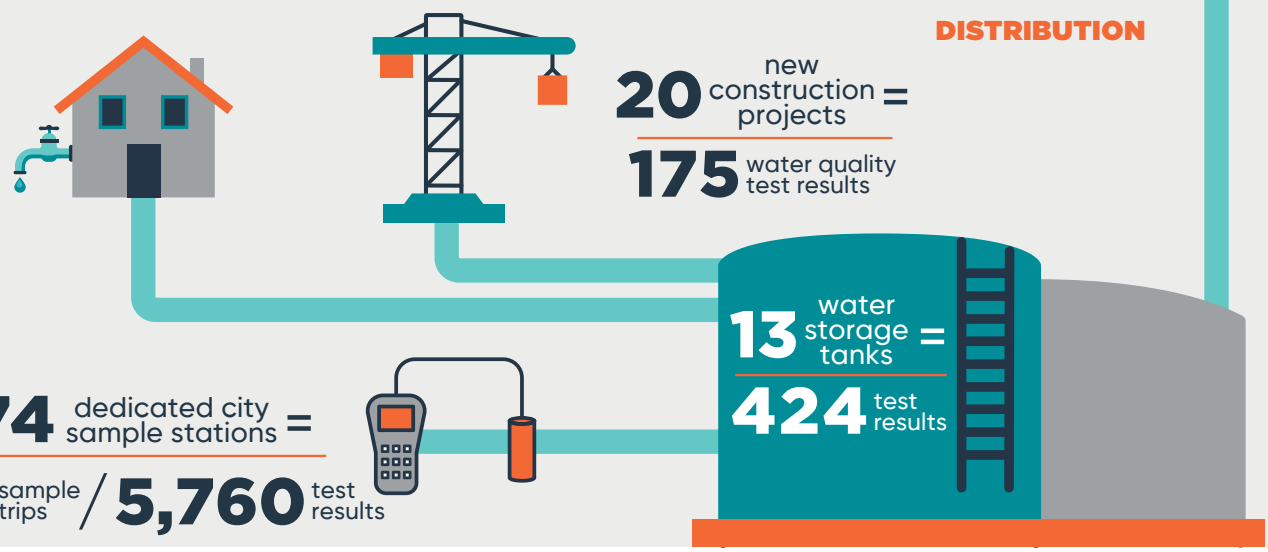


DISTRIBUTION

20 new construction projects =
175 water quality test results

13 water storage tanks =
424 test results

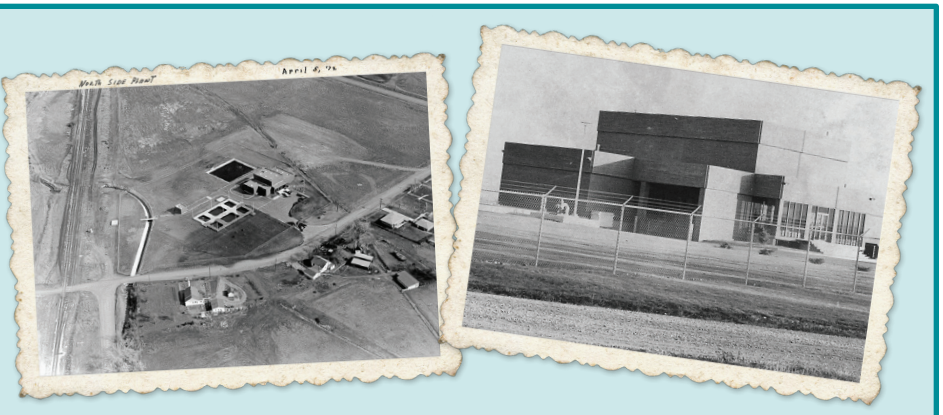
74 dedicated city sample stations =
96 sample trips / **5,760** test results



The History of Westminster's Water Treatment Plants

Over the years, expansions and upgrades to Semper Water Treatment Facility were needed to meet the needs of a booming Westminster. Semper was built back in 1969 when the city's population was approximately 20,000 people. According to the 2020 census, Westminster is now home to about 116,000 residents.

The aerial photo of Semper in 2020, to the right, captures the 51-year-old facility, which treats 65% of the City's water annually. Northwest Treatment Facility treats the remaining 35% of the City's drinking water supply.



WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES	PRODUCTION CAPACITY (million gallons per day)	FILTRATION TYPE	DISINFECTION	YEAR BUILT
SEMPER	44	Direct	Chloramines	1969
NORTHWEST	15	Membrane	Chloramines	2001

CONSTRUCTION STARTING SOON!
A MILESTONE YEAR FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Before 2025 is over, crews will begin three concurrent construction projects as part of the Westminster Boulevard Drinking Water Facility Project. The new facility has been a long-standing priority for the City and will finally break ground.

The project reached 95% design in Spring 2025 on a new right-sized drinking water treatment facility on Westminster Boulevard, south of W. 104th Avenue and north of W. 98th Avenue. The new facility will produce 14.7 million gallons a day (MGD) with the capacity to expand when the City's current treatment facility, Semper Water Treatment Facility, is decommissioned. This approach allows the City to build responsibly for our community's water needs and continue our mission of providing safe and affordable drinking water.

Two supporting projects will also begin construction in late 2025. The Water Supply Line Project will transport water from Standley Lake to the new treatment facility and the Finished Water Line Project will deliver treated clean water through our distribution system to your home.

The water supply line will travel from 92nd Avenue along Wadsworth Boulevard and 96th Avenue.

The finished water line will travel south from the plant to W. 98th Avenue, then east to Sheridan Boulevard, where it will tie into our current water system.

Both waterline projects will cause temporary travel delays north from 92nd Avenue along Wadsworth Boulevard and east on 92nd Avenue during construction as crews install new pipes in the roadways. Please sign up for updates to stay informed about construction impacts, detours, and project progress.

Inside Westminster's Semper Water Treatment Facility

PREVENTING WILDFIRES

It was December 30, 2021. Westminster residents should have been getting their New Year's Eve plans in order. Instead, many watched the news and waited to see if they would have to evacuate as the Marshall Fire ravaged homes in the town of Superior, just 20 minutes west of Westminster.

Our City's fire department works diligently every day to keep something like that from happening here. If a wildfire were to start in Westminster, the fire department has three trucks dedicated to fighting fires in fields and other off-road areas. "We've deployed those three trucks to the perimeters of the City to give us an upper hand for a quicker attack should a wildland fire break out," Westminster Deputy Fire Chief Bob Hose said.

Of course, the trucks aren't much help if crews don't know how to properly use them. "All of our firefighters receive basic wildland training, so they know how to fight a fire in open space areas," Hose explained. "In addition, we have a special wildland team that has advanced training."

Fire Captain Rich Martin is one of the Wildland Team leads. "The special teams can help out locally," Martin said. "They can also help within the state or deploy federally. Westminster actually had a fire engine and crew helping with the Palisades Fire out in Malibu." The Palisades Fire broke out in January 2025 and burned 23,448 acres before being fully contained. Our firefighters brought back all the knowledge of what they learned putting out that fire and shared it with the rest of the department, making the City even more prepared to defend residents from flames.

Preparation is protection, and that extends to our fire hydrants. They always have to be ready to go — even in sub-zero temps. That's why the City uses dry barrel hydrants, which are designed to prevent water from freezing.

Utilities Supervisor Matt Bueno makes sure his crews inspect each of the City's fire hydrants every year. "Each year, we flush the entire distribution system through the hydrants," he said. "We inspect all 4,858 City-owned fire hydrants every year to make sure they're always in working order." In residential areas, the City's fire hydrants are no more than 500 feet apart.

EMERGENCY ALERTS

Be the first to know if there's an active emergency in your area by enrolling in LookoutAlert. Scan the QR code or visit **bit.ly/WestyAlerts** to sign up for the free text alerts. While there, you can also find your evacuation zone by using Genasys Protect.

Hose praises Bueno's team's efforts to help keep us all safe. "We have an extremely good water system in the City. Our Public Works & Utilities Department has an outstanding system, and we work closely with them. Our hydrant system, distribution system, and storage system all exceed the recommended capacities," Hose said. "They provide us with adequate water for major fires."

When Westminster firefighters deploy to other Colorado towns to help fight wildfires, they're doing more than just being neighborly — they're also helping protect our watershed, which is where our drinking water comes from. "If a wildfire broke out in Clear Creek County or Gilpin County, it would have tremendous impact on the water quality that we receive downstream into Standley Lake, which then is going to have a heavy impact on our water processing plants and the drinking water for our community," Martin explained.

Mountain wildfires can send soot and ash into the water, which could gunk up our water treatment facilities. But perhaps even worse than that is erosion. "When a wildfire destroys vegetation, it removes those nice root systems that held soil along creeks in place," Martin explained. "All that debris, whether it be branches, soot, or soils, it's going to build layers of sediment that could clog up the infrastructure that allows water to flow into Standley Lake."

Ways homeowners can help prevent a wildfire:

- Clear needles and leaves from your roof, gutters, and porches
- Instead of wood mulch, use rock, gravel or stone in your garden
- Trim low-hanging branches and remove tall grasses from under your trees
- Keep vegetation away from your deck

WATER SAMPLE TEST RESULTS

Westminster's drinking water is monitored for more than 100 different substances on a strict sampling schedule, and more than 1,700 water samples are taken annually across the entire distribution system. The water we provide to residents and businesses must meet specific state and federal health standards. To help you better understand what is in your drinking water, we are sharing the 2024 test results for regulated substances that were detected. The "Amount We Found" that is referenced in the tables on the following pages is reported as the maximum amount detected unless otherwise noted.

The frequency of testing for individual substances is determined by CDPHE based on the likelihood that the concentrations of the substance will change over time. Some test results are for samples that were collected in 2021.

Terms & Abbreviations

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

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. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

Health-Based
A violation of either an MCL or TT.

Non-Health-Based
A violation that is not related to an MCL or TT.

Action Level (AL)
The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment and other regulatory requirements.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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.

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.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)
Measure of the clarity or cloudiness of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the typical person.

Highest Level Allowed
Single or calculated value used to determine if regulatory contaminant level (e.g. MCL) is met. Examples of calculated values include the 90th percentile, Running Annual Average (RAA) and Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA).

Violation
Failure to meet a Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulation.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)
Measure of the radioactivity in water.

Parts per million = Milligrams per liter (ppm = mg/L)
One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Parts per billion = Micrograms per liter (ppb = ug/L)
One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

Not Applicable (N/A)
Does not apply or not available.

90th percentile (P90)
The Amount We Found levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper test results.

Not Detected (ND)
Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

DETECTED ANALYTES[1]

2,4-D
(ppb)

Amount We Found: **0.21**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2024
Health Goal (MCLG)	70
Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	70
Lowest Amount Detected	ND
Highest Amount Detected	0.21

How it gets in the water: Runoff from herbicide used on row crops

Alpha Emitters
(pCi/L)

Amount We Found: **0.68**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2021
Health Goal (MCLG)	0
Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	15
Lowest Amount Detected	0.55
Highest Amount Detected	0.68

How it gets in the water: Erosion of natural deposits

Barium
(ppm)

Amount We Found: **0.057**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2024
Health Goal (MCLG)	2
Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	2
Lowest Amount Detected	0.051
Highest Amount Detected	0.057

How it gets in the water: Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

Beta Emitters[2]
(pCi/L)

Amount We Found: **4.9**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2021
Health Goal (MCLG)	0
Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	50
Lowest Amount Detected	2.3
Highest Amount Detected	4.9

How it gets in the water: Decay of natural and man-made deposits

Chloramine[3]
(as Cl_2) (ppm)

Amount We Found: **2.0**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2024
Health Goal (MRDLG)	4
Highest Level Allowed (MRDL)	4
Lowest Amount Detected	0.94
Highest Amount Detected	2.6

How it gets in the water: Water additive used in treatment to control microbes

Chromium
(ppb)

Amount We Found: **0.90**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2024
Health Goal (MCLG)	100
Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	100
Lowest Amount Detected	ND
Highest Amount Detected	0.90

How it gets in the water: Erosion of natural deposits

Table Notes

[1] The Amount We Found is reported as the maximum range value unless otherwise specified.

[2] The MCL for Gross Beta Particle Activity (Beta Emitters) is 4 mrem/year. Since there is no simple conversion between mrem/year and pCi/L the Environmental Protection Agency considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Gross Beta Particle Activity (Beta Emitters).

[3] The Amount We Found for Chloramine represents the average of all individual sample results collected in the distribution system. 100% of the samples collected in the distribution system met the treatment technique requirement that at least 95% of the samples must be at least 0.2 ppm.

Fluoride
(ppm)

Amount We Found **0.57**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2024
Health Goal (MCLG)	4
Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	4
Lowest Amount Detected	0.56
Highest Amount Detected	0.57

How it gets in the water: Erosion of natural deposits

Haloacetic Acids – HAA[5]
(ppb)

Amount We Found **11.3**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2024
Health Goal (MCLG)	N/A
Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	LRAA <60
Lowest Amount Detected	6.5
Highest Amount Detected	14.1

How it gets in the water: Byproducts of drinking water disinfection

Nickel
(ppb)

Amount We Found **1.2**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2024
Health Goal (MCLG)	N/A
Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	N/A
Lowest Amount Detected	ND
Highest Amount Detected	1.2

How it gets in the water: Corrosion of plumbing materials

Nitrate - N
(ppm)

Amount We Found **0.23**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2024
Health Goal (MCLG)	10
Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	10
Lowest Amount Detected	0.22
Highest Amount Detected	0.23

How it gets in the water: Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Combined Radium[4]
(pCi/L)

Amount We Found **0.44**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2021
Health Goal (MCLG)	0
Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	5
Lowest Amount Detected	0.14
Highest Amount Detected	0.44

How it gets in the water: Erosion of natural deposits

Total Trihalomethanes – TTHM[5]
(ppb)

Amount We Found **34.9**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2024
Health Goal (MCLG)	N/A
Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	LRAA < 80
Lowest Amount Detected	21.2
Highest Amount Detected	45.3

How it gets in the water: Byproducts of drinking water disinfection

Table Notes

[4] Radium-228 is an individual alpha particle activity emitter, however it is not included in the gross alpha particle activity (Apha Emitters) and is measured separately. Radium-228 sample results are combined with radium-226 sample results for the purposes of determining compliance.

[5] HAA and TTHM are regulated as locational running annual average (LRAA). The Amount Detected represents the highest LRAA, and the Amount Detected (Lowest-Highest) represents individual sample results.

Turbidity[6]
(NTU)

Amount We Found: **0.065**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2024
Health Goal (TT)	N/A
Highest Level Allowed (TT)	no sample above 0.3
Lowest Amount Detected	0.014
Highest Amount Detected	0.065

How it gets in the water: Soil runoff

Turbidity
(Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)

% Meeting Limit: **100**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2024
Health Goal (TT)	N/A
Lowest Level Allowed (TT)	95% of samples <0.1
Lowest Amount Detected	NA
Highest Amount Detected	NA

How it gets in the water: Soil runoff

Combined Uranium[7]
(ppb)

Amount We Found: **0.90**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2021
Health Goal (MCLG)	0
Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	30
Lowest Amount Detected	0.32
Highest Amount Detected	0.90

How it gets in the water: Erosion of natural deposits

Copper[8]
(ppm)

Amount We Found: **P90 = 0.16**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2024
Health Goal (AL)	N/A
Highest Level Allowed (AL)	AL = 1.3
Lowest Amount Detected	0.026
Highest Amount Detected	0.22

How it gets in the water: Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits

Lead[8]
(ppb)

Amount We Found: **P90 = 1.3**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2024
Health Goal (AL)	N/A
Highest Level Allowed (AL)	AL = 15
Lowest Amount Detected	ND
Highest Amount Detected	4.0

How it gets in the water: Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits

Table Notes

[6] *Turbidity is measured at the water treatment plant to assess cloudiness of the water as a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration process. The highest turbidity result was recorded in December 2024.*

[7] *Combined Uranium represents the total of the concentrations of all the isotopes of uranium in the sample.*

[8] *Copper and lead were measured at residential taps throughout the city between June and September 2024. The Action Level (AL) for lead and copper applies to the 90th percentile (P90) of all samples collected for each contaminant (e.g. 90% of all sample results for copper must be below 1.3 ppm). Amount We Found represents the 90th percentile and the Amount Detected (Lowest - Highest) represents individual sample results.*

If you would like to review individual tap sample results for lead, please contact the water quality team at 303-658-2500 or email water@westminsterco.gov. Any personal property information will be redacted.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

The EPA implemented the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) to collect data for contaminants that are suspected to be present in drinking water and do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA uses the results of UCMR monitoring to learn about the occurence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and decide whether or not these contaminants will be regulated in the future. Westminster completed mandated monitoring of the drinking water and reported the analytical results to EPA in accordance with UCMR requirements. Once EPA reviews the submitted results, the findings are made available in the EPA's National Contaminant Occurence Database (NCOD) (**epa.gov/sdwa/national-contaminant-occurrence-database-ncod**). Consumers can review UCMR results by accessing the NCOD. Lithium was detected during our Fifth UCMR sampling and the corresponding analytical results are provided below. In addition to lithium, 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) compounds were also tested; however, none of the PFAS compounds was detected in the samples. More information about the contaminants that were included in Fifth UCMR monitoring can be found at: **drinktap.org/Water-Info/Whats-in-My-Water/Unregulated-Contaminant-Monitoring-Rule-UCMR**. Learn more about the EPA UCMR program: **epa.gov/dwucmr/learn-about-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule** or contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **(800) 426-4791**.

Lithium
(ppb)

Amount We Found **19.5**

☑ **No Violation**

Year Samples Collected	2024
Average	19.5
Number of Samples Collected	8
Lowest Amount Detected	18.3
Highest Amount Detected	21.3

Additional Information: Naturally occurring metal that may concentrate in brine waters; lithium salts are used as pharmaceuticals, used in electrochemical cells, batteries, and in organic syntheses.

Additional Test Results

Some substances present in the drinking water are not strictly regulated because they do not pose a health risk to the general population. We include this information for customers who inquire about water quality data for beer brewing or optimizing aquariums, water softeners, or dishwashers. These test results are for samples collected in 2024.

Additional Drinking Water Data for 2024

ANALYTE	CONCENTRATION RANGE
Total Dissolved Solids	219 - 284 ppm
pH (s.u.)	8.2 - 8.9
Conductivity	365 - 477 µS/cm
Alkalinity (as CaCO3)	53 - 65 ppm
Total Hardness (as CaCO3)	112 - 149 ppm (approximately 7 to 9 grains per gallon)
Sodium	31 - 32 ppm
Ammonia (as N)	0.28 - 0.48 ppm

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

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 City of Westminster is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing city-owned lead service lines, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in customer-owned service lines and 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 properly used.

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 washing a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or a galvanized line that requires replacement, 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 Westminster Water Quality at **303-658-2500**. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at **epa.gov/safewater/lead**.

LOOK OUT FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE NEIGHBORS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV-AIDS or other immune system disorders, some older people, and infants can be particularly at risk of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

New state and federal laws require the City of Westminster to take an inventory of all water service lines in our service area so we can properly classify the material. A service line is the underground pipe that carries water from the water main, likely in the street, into your home or building. The City completed the initial inventory in October 2024. You can find a copy of the inventory, a map of service line materials at each location, as well as more information about the project by visiting ***bit.ly/WestminsterSLI****. If you have questions about the material of your service line, contact Westminster Water Quality at* ***303-658-2500****.*

How Much Are We Talking About?

Parts Per Million (ppm)
1 drop in a hot tub
is equal to 1 ppm

Parts Per Billion (ppb)
1 drop in an Olympic-size swimming
pool is equal to 1 ppb

Parts Per Trillion (ppt)
1 drop in a 6-acre lake
is equal to 1 ppt

Non-Health-Based Violation

The City of Westminster takes our responsibility to provide our community with safe, clean, and affordable drinking water seriously. We are required by state and federal law to monitor our drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis and follow rigorous testing protocols and requirements.

We are updating our community of a data collection issue that did not meet the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) requirements.

From December 29, 2024, to January 15, 2025, water operations staff did not complete CDPHE's data collection requirements for monitoring and testing for free chlorine, and cannot confirm the quality of your drinking water during that time. While the total chlorine levels did not exceed CDPHE's safety limits, water operations staff did not record the free chlorine values independently of the total chlorine levels for the two-week period. This data collection error has been rectified.

Water operations staff did continuously monitor and record total chlorine data, which includes free chlorine, during this two-week period, and it never exceeded CDPHE's safety limits.

> **What does this mean and is there anything for me to do?** There is no indication that this monitoring and reporting error impacted public health, so customers do not need to seek alternative water supplies or take further actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

> **What is being done?** This error was resolved on January 15, 2025, with proper monitoring and reporting of free chlorine. Semper Water Treatment Facility's daily record keeping was also updated to include required data entry for free chlorine every four hours.

You may contact the City's utilities water treatment staff at **303-658-2500** or **water@westminsterco.gov** for additional information regarding this public notice.

Please feel free to share this information with your Westminster community.

*For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and microbiological contaminants, call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791** or visit **cdc.gov/cryptosporidium**.*

How the EPA sets limits

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) studies pollutants and their impacts to the environment and people to determine the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). Every water utility, including Westminster, is required by law to not exceed the MCL.

The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) is the level at which there are no known effects on a person's health with an additional margin for safety. The MCL is set as close as possible to the goal.

Sometimes the MCL is higher than the MCLG. This is because of one of three possible reasons:

(1) The technology needed to measure such small quantities of the MCLG is not available;

(2) The technology needed to remove the pollutant or reduce it to the MCLG is not available yet; or

(3) The cost of treating the pollutant to the MCLG outweighs the potential benefit of a lowered standard.

Substances That Could Be In Source Water

To ensure that drinking water is safe, CDPHE prescribes regulations that limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same level of protection for public health.

The water sources for tap and bottled water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals including potentially radioactive material, and it can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbiological contaminants: **Viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.**

Inorganic contaminants: **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: **May come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.**

Radioactive contaminants: **Can be naturally occurring or a result of petroleum production and mining activities.**

Organic chemical contaminants: **Synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.**

DID YOU KNOW?

All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably 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.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **800-426-4791** or visit **epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water**

DRINKING WATER FAQS

Q *Where should I go if I have a question about my drinking water?*

A *Please submit your question through Access Westminster, the City's service request portal. Access Westminster allows residents and business owners to submit requests to City staff, who will look into your request and follow up with you.*

To submit a request through Access Westminster, please visit **bit.ly/AccessWestminsterNow**. *When you are prompted to choose a category, please select "Water Concerns – Other" and we will make sure your question reaches the water quality team.*

Q *Are there PFAS in Westminster's drinking water?*

A *Westminster tested untreated source water and treated water for 18 PFAS compounds in March 2020. No PFAS compounds were detected in any of the treated water samples. The City completed four rounds of PFAS sampling of the treated drinking water in 2024 as required under the U.S. EPA's Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5). None of the 29 PFAS compounds analyzed was detected at concentrations far below the MCLs finalized on April 10, 2024. More information on this recent regulatory protection of drinking water is available online at* **epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas**.

PFOA and PFOS are fluorinated organic chemicals that are part of a larger group of chemicals referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). They have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. PFAS have been used to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food, and other materials (e.g., cookware) that are resistant to water, grease, or stains. They are also used for firefighting at airfields and in a number of industrial processes. Because these chemicals have been used in an array of consumer products, most people have been exposed to them. Between 2000 and 2002, PFOS was voluntarily phased out of production in the U.S. by the primary manufacturer. In 2006, eight major companies voluntarily agreed to phase out their global production of PFOA and PFOA-related chemicals, although there are still a limited. limited number of ongoing uses. Scientists have found PFOA and PFOS in the blood of nearly all the people they tested, but these studies show that the levels of PFOA and PFOS in blood have been decreasing. While consumer products and food are a large source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water can be an additional source in the small percentage of communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, such as, an industrial facility where these chemicals were produced or used to manufacture other products or an airfield at which they were used for firefighting.

Q *What if I need help paying my water bill?*

A *We understand that financial hardship happens, and we are here to support you with multiple opportunities. Residents can view all programs and apply for assistance online at* **westminsterco.gov/WaterBillAssistance** *or call* **303-658-2392** *with any questions. Programs include:*

Bill Credit Program: This program provides a $300 credit, applied as $25/month per 12-month period, on your residential water bill for those residents that meet the qualifying income guidelines (listed below). If you are enrolled in the Low Income Energy Assistance program (LEAP), then you will automatically qualify for this program.

Hardship Program: This program supports any resident who has short-term difficulties paying their water bill due to a temporary interruption of income, such as job loss, injury or medical emergency. If the water bill has not been paid for, at least 35 days from the date of the bill, one-time credits on the water bill are available if program qualifications are met.

Indoor Efficiency Program: This program provides up to two free high-efficiency toilets and free indoor water-use inspections to income-qualified residents. Residents enrolled in the Bill Credit program automatically qualify for this program.

Leak Repair Program: This program is available free of charge to income-qualified homeowners whose water meter reports a leak. Repairs that eliminate leaks enable homeowners to participate in the City's other water assistance programs.

Emergency and Essential Repair Program: This program provides up to $10,000 in eligible home repairs to income-qualified, owner-occupied households in Westminster, including plumbing, electrical, furnace repair/replacement, water heater repair/replacement, and accessibility improvements (e.g.,: wheelchair ramps, hand railings, bathroom accessibility).

WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION

Although water is a precious and limited resource across the West, it is especially important in Colorado. Our four river basins — the Colorado, South Platte, Rio Grande, and Arkansas — are the water source for 17 downstream states. Thanks to years of careful planning and strategic investments, Westminster has enough water for its current and future water needs as long as development continues in line with the City's Comprehensive Plan, the Wattenberg Reservoir is completed, and water conservation trends continue.

Drought remains the greatest threat to the city's water supply. Conservation measures by our residents and businesses continue to be the best way for the city to secure its water supply.

Visit **www.westminsterco.gov/conservation** to learn more about programs to reduce water usage.

DID YOU KNOW?

Westminster's average residential customer uses four times more water in a summer month than in a winter month to water their lawn and other outdoor irrigation needs.

RECYCLING MADE EASY

Disposing of your hard-to-recycle items is now easier. The City of Westminster partnered with SustainAbility Recycling, a company with a proven track record in Arvada and Broomfield, to open a new one-stop-drop center right here in Westminster. It started accepting recyclables in April 2024. The facility is located at 6020 West 91st Avenue.

Residents can now drop off most recyclables in an easy, hassle-free way. For single-stream recycling, which is often referred to as "common recycling," just drive up to the compactor and place your items inside. The compactor is emptied several times a week and sent to Republic Services for processing. This helps ensure the new venue stays neat and tidy.

If you have hard-to-recycle items, you will take those to a separate area away from the compactor. Employees will collect your goods and make sure they're sorted into the proper recycling containers, which will be taken inside at the end of each day.

If you have old electronics to recycle, you can use our center with peace of mind. Your unwanted electronics are sent to certified e-waste recyclers who will break down your items in an ethical manner without compromising any personal data left on the device.

This new center is more than just a central location for Westminster residents to take their recycling. Schools and community groups are invited to tour the center and learn about the environmental benefits of recycling. The dedicated staff members are passionate about protecting the environment and want to share that passion with you.

To learn more about this sustainability center, please visit **www.westminsterco.gov/sustainabilitycenter**

Please Help Us Keep Our Water Clean

The City has separate sanitary and storm sewer systems. The separate systems have two different pipes. One pipe carries sanitary sewage to the wastewater treatment facility. The other pipe carries stormwater (rain) from storm drains to local streams, rivers, and lakes, such as Big Dry Creek with little or no treatment. Therefore, it's critical you don't throw anything into the storm sewer.

If you have hazardous materials to dispose of, including various liquid cleaning products and paint, you can take advantage of our free home collection program. A worker will come straight to your home to take your unwanted hazardous waste. This helps ensure our waterways stay clean. You can learn more about the program and which items are accepted by visiting **bit.ly/westytrashandrecycling**

Pick up pet poop

Fix oil leaks (don't pour used oil down drains!)

Use fertilizers sparingly

Compost leaves

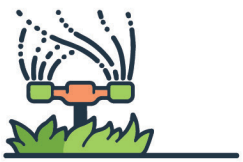
Use commercial car washes

WESTMINSTER

WATER CONSERVATION & EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

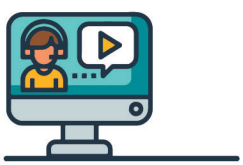
The City offers several programs to help customers reduce water use and lower utility bills – one may be right for you! Our programs for single-family homes include:

Lawn Replacement
Transform your thirsty lawn into a beautiful, low-water landscape with large City rebates. Minimum project size is 200 square feet.



'Slow the Flow' Irrigation Consults
Get a FREE, on-site check of your sprinkler system with a follow-up report of recommended fixes and a tailored watering schedule just for your yard.

Garden in a Box Kits
Receive a discount on plant-by-number, water-wise garden kits designed to thrive in Colorado's climate and soils.



Waterwise Yard Seminars
Sign up for one (or more!) online seminars to learn all about gardening and low-water landscapes in Colorado.

RESOURCE central
CONSERVATION MADE EASY

Sign up today with the City's partner, Resource Central, at: www.resourcecentral.org.

THIS IS YOUR WATER SYSTEM: GET INVOLVED!

Have a question or concern? Feel free to reach out directly to the water quality team by calling **303-658-2500** or by email at **water@westminsterco.gov**.

City Council Meetings

Residents are invited to provide comments about drinking water quality, budgets, and plans during City Council meetings. Westminster City Council meets in regular session on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Westminster City Hall, 4800 W. 92nd Avenue. Please refer to the City's website at **www.westminsterco.gov** for additional information including new ways to watch the council meetings and submit public comment via email and voicemail.

Social Media

www.facebook.com/cityofwestminstercolorado

www.nextdoor.com/city/westminster--co/

www.x.com/westminsterco

www.instagram.com/westminster.colorado/

www.youtube.com/@WestminsterCO

Water Infrastructure Projects Update

Infrastructure projects are almost entirely funded by your monthly water bill. To learn about what we are doing to keep our drinking water clean and safe, as well as potential impacts of our construction projects, please visit **www.westminsterco.gov/Water**.

The City of Westminster's Utilities Operations Division maintains the City's water mains. If you suspect problems in the water system such as main breaks, service line leaks, frozen meters, or pressure issues, notify us 24/7 at ***303-658-2500.***

Daniel
Operator IV,
Public Works And Utilities

Daniel is working on a chlorine analyzer.

WESTMINSTER

WWW.WESTMINSTERCO.GOV

4800 West 92nd Ave. | Westminster, CO 80031