

2. Minnesota

The state's department of health provides a range of grants and training programmes to ensure suppliers of public water meet the high standards expected by the state of Minnesota. Many cities in the state have won awards for the best tasting drinking water including Duluth.

3. South Dakota

The state of South Dakota has one of the best records for standards of tap water, reaching a goal of 95% of users having tap water at the expected standards. Furthermore, some areas have received consecutive awards for safe drinking water without any violations.

4. Connecticut

One of only two states that prohibit wastewater treatment plants from discharging within public water supply watersheds. This results in minimal risk of public water supplies being exposed to harmful contaminants, as well as pharmaceuticals.

5. Vermont

Customer feedback by the residents in Vermont clearly shows a high degree of satisfaction with the public water supply. Roughly 70% of residents utilise this drinking water and it is very closely monitored for any signs of contamination.

6. New Hampshire

If you live in New Hampshire, then you will be used to one of the strictest standards for drinking water in the US. As recently as 2019, the state's environmental services department proposed extending their testing to new harmful contaminants found in non-stick cookware.

7. Massachusetts

Recent research has found Massachusetts has some of the strictest water standards and in turn, highest quality drinking water. Both watersheds and forest areas are protected by the Water Resources Authority ensuring naturally clean water goes into the cities.

8. Missouri

The state of Missouri lays claim to some of the best drinking water in the world, let alone the US. Some of its cities have won best tap water in the world awards and it is clear that the effort and care put in is reaping results for its residents.

9. Kansas

An impressive 96% of Kansas residents get their water from public supplies which either meet or exceed regulations set at state level and federal level. Emporia is known for winning awards for its tap water.

10. Oregon

The water supply in Oregon has been tested to show it is very clean and safe to drink, thanks in part that the majority of the water supply for Portland comes from the Bull Run Watershed. This area has very low levels of contaminants such as bacteria and giardia.

The 10 Worst States for Tap Water

Sadly, there are still many places in the US that suffer from bad tap water supplies. This includes higher levels of certain harmful contaminants and a lack of good practice by local and state suppliers.

1. California

The majority of the low quality water in California comes as a result of the poor supply in rural areas. Sadly, many farming communities and smaller regions receive drinking water from water systems that contain arsenic and uranium.

2. Washington

If we ignore the city of Seattle, many of the residents in the state of Washington will find the water supply containing a whole range of harmful contaminants such as arsenic, chromium and nitrate.

3. Arizona

Sadly, water is both scarce and relatively low quality in Arizona with recent studies showing the tap water in Phoenix has high levels of chromium-6 when compared to other cities.

4. Ohio

Thanks in part to Ohio being a highly industrialized region, the state's water supply is often contaminated with high levels of lead. When this is combined with old infrastructure and wide-spread mining, it leads to poor water quality for the residents.

5. Georgia

The state of Georgia has an allround poor level of water quality and this is due to a mixture of polluted streams, wells and rivers across the state. Whilst filters can help protect residents from this, it isn't a great starting point.

6. Pennsylvania

There is a rich history of coal mining, as well as gas and oil wells in Pennsylvania and this has had a direct impact on the water quality in the state. There are roughly 20,000 miles of streams that are said to not meet federal rules for fishing or swimming, with many streams contaminated from these mining operations.

7. Florida

The reasons for Florida making it onto the 10 worst states for tap water are generally attributed to ecological emergencies in 2018. A mixture of blue-green algae flowing into rivers and red tide microorganisms, combined with the use of fertilizer and pollutants means Florida doesn't win awards for its water quality.

8. New Jersey

Another of the states that suffers thanks to its historic industrial centres and in this case it relates to a toxic chemical used that has stayed in the water supply. Despite being phased out of use, it still persists in the tap water for many residents.

9. Texas

Many of the rural areas in Texas suffer from poor water quality, thanks in part to the scarcity of water supplies and the older infrastructure in place. Many of the smaller towns have old pipes that cause lead and arsenic to feed into the water supply.

10. Puerto Rico

We appreciate this isn't technically a state but we feel it is important to add to our list of the 10 worst states for tap water. Thanks in part to multiple natural disasters such as Hurricane Irma, this island has significant problems with sediment making its way into water supplies.

Summary

This list may alarm many and reassure others, but the biggest thing to remember is that there are always solutions to bad tap water. It doesn't mean you need to move home or invest in expensive technology. There are some fantastic cost-effective water filters out there for homes, ranging from single faucet tap filters all the way up whole-house filtration systems.

