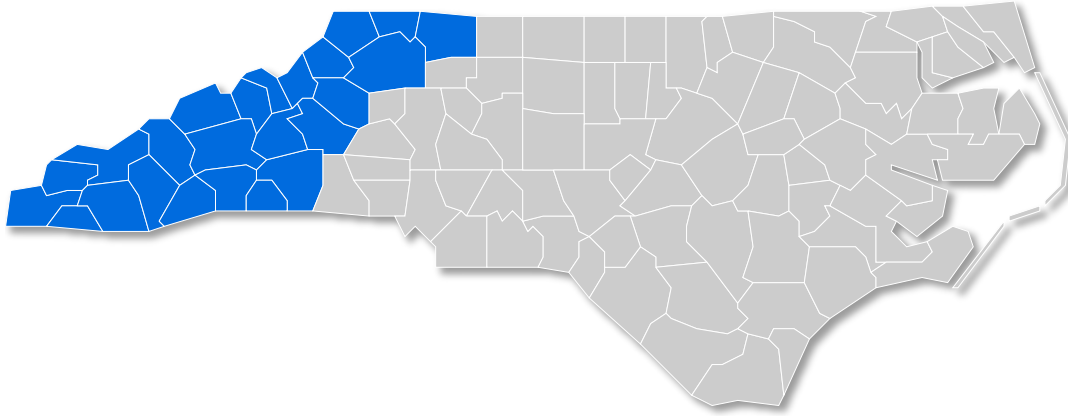


Water Sources Infographic

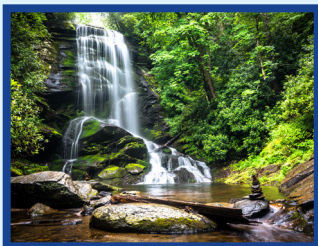
Mountains Region of NC



Source Water in the Mountains Region of NC

Water sources in the Mountains Region of North Carolina originate from a combination of surface water and groundwater, including areas within the Pisgah, Nantahala, and Cherokee National Forests. These lands were set aside a century ago and the natural areas protect water supplies and promote regional aquifer recharges. The undeveloped land within the forests provide an abundance of fresh water for drinking.

How does water get from the source to our homes and schools?



Source



Water System



Distribution System



Piping & Plumbing

Water travels from wells or surface water intakes to municipal water systems for treatment and distribution to households and schools. Some water comes from piping connected to a well at the same location.

Water Contamination Simulation

Contaminants such as lead, a metal that can be present in water infrastructure, may enter our drinking water at the tap from the water source, treatment byproducts, or through pipes and plumbing. Scan the QR codes to learn more.



Understanding Lead in Your Water bit.ly/3RPazpN



Lead in Drinking Water Safety Tips bit.ly/3NvGeek

Complete the simulation below to see how small amounts of materials can have a big impact on the quality of our drinking water, even if we cannot see, taste, or smell it.

Materials:

- A clear cup or glass of water
- Food coloring



Watch the simulation here: bit.ly/3vc73hy

Purpose:

This simulation shows how even trace amounts of lead impact water supplies, and why we would not want to drink water contaminated with lead. Unlike this simulation, lead is odorless, tasteless, and colorless, so the only way to truly know there is no lead in your water is to have it tested!

Instructions:

Fill a glass or clear cup with water. Have your child add one drop of food coloring to the water and describe how the food coloring is affecting the water. Once the food coloring has dispersed evenly through the water, use the discussion questions below to talk about lead contamination.

Emphasize how even a small amount of lead in water can be harmful. While we can see the food coloring in the water, we cannot see, taste, or smell lead. That's why it is important to test water.

Discussion Questions:

- What happens when you add a small drop of food coloring to the water?
- The food coloring represents lead, which is a dangerous contaminant and is harmful to human health. Even though there is only one drop, do you want to drink the water?
- Lead is odorless, tasteless, and colorless, meaning you cannot smell or see it. What steps should be taken to identify lead in water so that actions can be taken to get the lead out?
- How might we remove lead from our water?



Water Filters
bit.ly/CWUSK-Filters



Lead-free Faucets
bit.ly/CWUSK-Faucets



**Clean Classrooms
for Carolina Kids**
bit.ly/3CK-home