



# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2022

***Presented By***  
**Borough of Wallington**

If you are a landlord, you must distribute this CCR to every tenant as soon as practicable, but no later than three business days after receipt. Delivery must be done by hand, mail, or email, and by posting the information in a prominent location at the entrance of each rental premises, pursuant to section 3 of P.L. 2021, c. 82 (C.58:12A-12.4 et seq.).

PWS ID#: 0265001



## Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2022. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of 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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or online at: [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The Borough of Wallington Water Company's customers are fortunate because we enjoy an abundant water supply from the Passaic Valley Water Treatment Plant drawing water from a surface water supply (reservoir). The Passaic Valley Water Treatment Plant was constructed in 2004. Our treatment facilities provide roughly 3.5 billion gallons of clean drinking water every year.

Our water supply is part of the Passaic Valley Watershed, which covers an area of roughly 1,000 square miles. Most of the watershed is covered by forest growth with agricultural and urban development accounting for less than one-third of watershed use. To learn more about our watershed on the Internet, go to the U.S. EPA's Surf Your Watershed at: [www.epa.gov/surf](http://www.epa.gov/surf).

## Source Water Assessment

NJDEP has prepared Source Water Assessment reports and summaries for all public water systems. The Source Water Assessment for the Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) system [PWS ID 1605002] can be obtained by accessing NJDEP's source water assessment website at: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap> or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contamination category, it does not mean a customer is - or will be - consuming contaminated water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of a source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any of those contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. The source water assessments performed on the intakes for each system lists the following susceptibility ratings for a variety of contaminants that may be present in source waters.

INTAKE SUSCEPTIBILITY RATINGS	PATHOGENS	NUTRIENTS	PESTICIDES	VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS	INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS	RADIONUCLIDES	RADON	DISINFECTION BYPRODUCT PRECURSORS
4 Surface Water	4-High	4-High	1-Medium, 3-Low	4-Medium	4-High	4-Low	4-Low	4-High

## How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.



## Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet your 3rd Thursday of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Council Chambers, 24 Union Blvd., Wallington, NJ.

## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Testing for *Cryptosporidium*

*Cryptosporidium* is a microbial parasite found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes *cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Monitoring of source water and/or finished water indicates the presence of these organisms. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immunocompromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immunocompromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.



## Violation 2023-2032/2031/2030

As a result of an administrative oversight in the winter of 2022, we neglected to submit a report as required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. At no time did this incident pose a threat to public health and safety, nor did it have any impact on the high quality drinking water provided to our customers. To ensure that all reporting requirements are met in the future, we have signed up for email notifications from the NJDEP regarding newly implemented reporting requirements.

## What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants



Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit: <http://bit.ly/3Z5AMm8>.

**QUESTIONS?** For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call the Wallington Water Department Superintendent at (973) 777-0318.

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. And, the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The State recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

**Call us at (973) 777-3338 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water.**

**Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.**

REGULATED SUBSTANCES <sup>1</sup>							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2022	2	2	0.027	0.016–0.027	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2022	60	NA	27.35	18.22–39.89	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nickel (ppb)	2022	100	NA	2.76	2.01–2.76	No	Pollution from mining and refining operations; natural occurrence in soil
Nitrate (ppm)	2022	10	10	1.45	0.71–2.76	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) (ppt)	2022	14	NA	8.38	5.7–12.8	No	Used in the production of Teflon, firefighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, greases and lubricants, paints, polishes, adhesives and photographic films
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS] (ppt)	2022	13	NA	5.37	3.8–9.2	No	Used in the production of Teflon, firefighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, greases and lubricants, paints, polishes, adhesives and photographic films
Total Organic Carbon (% removal)	2022	TT	NA	NA	46.7–72.6	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2022	80	NA	50.88	25.4–72.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity <sup>2</sup> (NTU)	2022	TT	NA	0.13	0.02–0.13	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2022	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2021	1.3	1.3	0.081	0/33	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2021	15	0	1.56	0/33	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

## SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	RUL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	EXCEEDANCE	TYPICAL SOURCE
ABS/L.A.S. (ppm)	2022	500	NA	NA	0.11–0.22	No	Common major components of synthetic detergents
Aluminum (ppb)	2022	200	NA	NA	17.4–29.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2022	250	NA	NA	101.8–158.2	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Hardness [as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ]	2022	250	NA	NA	90–168	No	Naturally occurring
Iron (ppb)	2022	300	NA	Less than 100	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2022	50	NA	NA	9.2–18.8	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor (TON)	2022	3	NA	NA	6–80	Yes	Naturally occurring organic materials
pH (Units)	2022	6.5–8.5	NA	NA	7.77–8.24	No	Naturally occurring
Sodium (ppm)	2022	50	NA	NA	62.8–135.6	Yes	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2022	250	NA	NA	37.8–89.3	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2022	500	NA	NA	262.5–487.5	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Zinc (ppm)	2022	5	NA	NA	2.7–26	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

<sup>1</sup> Under a waiver granted on December 30, 1998, by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, our system does not have to monitor for synthetic organic chemicals/pesticides because several years of testing have indicated that these substances do not occur in our source water. The SDWA regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received monitoring waivers for synthetic organic chemicals and asbestos.

<sup>2</sup> Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity rule requires that 95 percent or more of the monthly samples must be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU (no sample may exceed 1 NTU).

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The 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 detections.

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

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

**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.

**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.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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.

**NA:** Not applicable

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**RUL (Recommended Upper Limit):** These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

**TON (Threshold Odor Number):** A measure of odor in water.

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

