

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2021



***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



## We've Come a Long Way

Once again, we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering the period between January 1 and December 31, 2021. In a matter of only a few decades, drinking water has become exponentially safer and more reliable than at any other point in human history. Our exceptional staff continues to work hard every day—at all hours—to deliver the highest-quality drinking water without interruption. Although the challenges ahead are many, we feel that by relentlessly investing in customer outreach and education, new treatment technologies, system upgrades, and training, the payoff will be reliable, high-quality tap water delivered to you and your family.

## 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 two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. However, for those served by a lead service line, flushing times may vary based on the length of the service line and plumbing configuration in your home. If your home is set back farther from the street, a longer flushing time may be needed. To conserve water, other household water usage activities such as showering, washing clothes, and running the dishwasher are effective methods of flushing out water from a service line.

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 [epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Council Chambers, 54 Union Boulevard, Wallington.

## Source Water Assessment

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has prepared source water assessment reports and summaries for all public water systems. The source water assessment for the Passaic Valley Water Commission system (PWS ID 1605002) can be viewed at [state.nj.us/dep/swap](http://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 install treatment if any of those contaminants are detected at frequencies or concentrations above allowable levels. The source water assessment performed on the intakes for each system lists the susceptibility ratings for a variety of contaminants that may be present in source waters.

“When the well is dry, we know the worth of water.”

—Benjamin Franklin

## 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 a third of watershed use. To learn more about our watershed online, visit U.S. EPA's How's My Waterway at [epa.gov/waterdata/how-s-my-waterway](http://epa.gov/waterdata/how-s-my-waterway).



**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.

## 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. 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.

### About Our Violation (2022-27,28,29)

As a result of an administrative oversight in July 2021, we neglected to submit the proper Disinfectant Residuals Report as required by NJDEP. 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 implemented a computerized scheduling system that will automatically notify us when reports are due to be submitted.

## 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.



## Table Talk

Get the most out of the Testing Results data table with this simple suggestion. In less than a minute, you will know all there is to know about your water:

For each substance listed, compare the value in the Amount Detected column against the value in the MCL (or AL, SMCL) column. If the Amount Detected value is smaller, your water meets the health and safety standards set for the substance.

### Other Table Information Worth Noting

Verify that there were no violations of the state and/or federal standards in the Violation column. If there was a violation, you will see a detailed description of the event in this report.

If there is an ND or a less-than symbol (<), that means that the substance was not detected (i.e., below the detectable limits of the testing equipment).

The Range column displays the lowest and highest sample readings. If there is an NA showing, that means only a single sample was taken to test for the substance (assuming there is a reported value in the Amount Detected column).

If there is sufficient evidence to indicate from where the substance originates, it will be listed under Typical Source.



## 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)	2021	2	2	0.023	0.014–0.023	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Bromate (ppb)	2021	10	0	<0.5	<5–16.17	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2021	60	NA	31.2	17.5–42.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nickel (ppb)	2021	100	NA	2.8	1.48–2.8	No	Pollution from mining and refining operations; natural occurrence in soil
Nitrate (ppb)	2021	10	10	1.06	0.51–1.06	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 <sup>2</sup> (ppb)	2021	80	NA	57.75	20.3–86.7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (% removal)	2021	TT	NA	NA	51–82	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity <sup>3</sup> (NTU)	2021	TT	NA	0.275	0.029–0.275	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2021	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	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2021	200	NA	43.7	15.1–43.7	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residual from some surface water treatment processes
Branched Alkylbenzene Sulfonate [ABS] and Linear Alkylbenzene Sulfonate [LAS] (ppb)	2021	500	NA	90	25–90	No	Common major components of synthetic detergents
Chloride (ppm)	2021	250	NA	100.7	89.71–100.7	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Hardness [as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ] (ppm)	2021	250	NA	148	86–148	No	Naturally occurring
Iron (ppm)	2021	300	NA	<0.1	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2021	50	NA	17.97	2.69–17.97	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor (TON)	2021	3	NA	20	1–20	Yes	Naturally occurring organic materials
pH (units)	2021	6.5–8.5	NA	NA	8.03–8.58	No	Naturally occurring
Sodium <sup>4</sup> (ppm)	2021	50	NA	NA	42.33–96.5	Yes	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2021	250	NA	55.6	42.1–55.6	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2021	500	NA	354.5	279.5–354.5	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Zinc (ppb)	2021	5	NA	5.06	1.04–5.06	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

## UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES<sup>5</sup>

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Perfluorooctanesulfonate Acid [PFOS] (ppt)	2021	4.86	3.4–6.6
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppt)	2021	7.9	5.5–11

<sup>1</sup>Under a waiver granted on December 30, 1998, by NJDEP, 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 Safe Drinking Water Act 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>Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

<sup>3</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% or more of the monthly samples must be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU (no sample may exceed 1 NTU).

<sup>4</sup>For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the recommended upper limit may be a concern to individuals on a sodium-restricted diet.

<sup>5</sup>Amount detected is a running annual average.

## 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.

**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.