

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2022
Wadhams Water District (Westport Water District No.3)
Town of Westport
PO Box 465 Westport, NY 12993
(Public Water Supply ID# 1500295)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Westport will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact water operator John Crandall at (518) 962-4419. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, we would be pleased to discuss any drinking water issues in person or please feel free to attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM and the fourth Tuesday of each month at 3:00 PM at the Town Hall.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, 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 and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include microbial contaminants, inorganic contaminants, pesticides and herbicides, organic chemical contaminants, and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Our water system serves approximately 140 people through 40 service connections. The Wadhams water supply system consists of two drilled wells located on County Route 10. Water is chlorinated prior to distribution. The NYS Dept. of Health has completed a source water assessment for this system based on available information. The assessment includes an assigned susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each possible source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the ground to the wells. The susceptibility rating is only a rough estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water and it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is or will become contaminated. As mentioned earlier in this report, our water is derived from two new drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these sources as having an elevated susceptibility. No significant sources of contamination were identified. The wells draw water from an unconfined aquifer and overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. Please note that our water supply is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered to your home meets the New York State's drinking water standards for microbiological contamination.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

During 2021, we started to sample our drinking water for the per- and polyfluorinated compounds PFAS and PFOS and 1,4-dioxane on a quarterly basis. We collected samples during all 4 quarters of 2021 and the second quarter of 2022 for PFAS and PFOA and the results indicated that there were very low levels of PFOS present in our water. The levels were detectable, but less than the reporting limit. 1,4-dioxane samples were collected during the first and second quarters of 2021 and the results were below the detection limit. We will collect PFAS and PFOS again during 2023.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or the New York State Health Department (518) 891-1800.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Average) (Range)	Unit Measure- ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Nitrate	No	2022	0.26	mg/L	na	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic systems & erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	2020	0.28 ¹ 0.086 – 0.33 ²	mg/L	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	No	2020	0.00695 ¹ ND - 0.0103 ²	mg/L	0	.015 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Chloride	No	2019	110	mg/L	n/a	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring; indicative of road salt contamination.
Zinc	No	2019	0.15	mg/L	n/a	5.0 (MCL)	Naturally occurring; Mining waste
Sulfate	No	2019	17	mg/L	n/a	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring
Sodium	No	2021	46	mg/L	n/a	See Note 3	Naturally occurring; road salt; water softener
Color	No	2019	5	mg/L	n/a	15	Large quantities of organic chemicals, inadequate treatment, high disinfectant demand and the potential for production of excess amounts of disinfectant byproducts such as trihalomethanes, the presence of metals such as copper, iron and manganese; Natural color may be caused by decaying leaves, plants, and soil organic matter.
Odor	No	2019	2.9	mg/L	n/a	3	Natural sources; Organic or inorganic pollutants originating from municipal and industrial waste discharge.
Radioactive Contaminants							
Radium 228	no	2011	0.3	pCi/L	0	5 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Beta	no	2011	0.3	pCi/L	0	50 (MCL)	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes	no	2022	11.7	ug/L	na	80 (MCL)	By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
Haloacetic Acids	no	2022	2.9	ug/L	na	60 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Synthetic Organic Contaminants							
Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid PFOS	No	2022	1.21 (1.06 – 1.42)	ng/L	na	10 (MCL)	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.

Notes:

¹ – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead and copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 5 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the average between the highest and the second highest value.

² – The level presented represents a range of the samples collected. The action level was not exceeded for lead or copper at any of the sites sampled.

³ - Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

Definitions:

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

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.

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 contamination.

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

Milligrams per liter (mg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

Micrograms per liter (ug/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water

Nanograms per liter (ng/L): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion – ppt)

EPA Test Method 533 is used to measure PFOA and PFOS which are regulated perfluoroalkyl analytes with an MCL level of 10 nanograms per liter (ng/L) or 10 parts of liquid per 1 trillion parts of liquid. As part of EPA Test Method 533 a total of 25 analytes are also measured as part of that test. Unregulated perfluoroalkyl analytes that were analyzed in our water samples and had detectable levels are shown in the Unregulated Perfluoroalkyl Substances table provided below.

Unregulated Perfluoroalkyl Substances					
MCL level for each Unregulated PFAS Substance = 50,000 ng/L					
Contaminant	Violation (Yes/No)	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCGL or Health Advisory Level ^{1,2}
Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (PFHXS)	No	2022	1.32	ng/L	NA

¹ USEPA Health Advisory Levels identify the concentration of a contaminant in drinking water at which adverse health effects and/or aesthetic effects are not anticipated to occur over specific exposure durations. Health Advisory Levels are not to be construed as legally enforceable federal standards and are subject to change as new information becomes available.

² All perfluoroalkyl substances, besides PFOA and PFOS, are considered Unspecified Organic Contaminants (UOC) which have an MCL = 50,000 ng/L.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the above tables, our system had no water quality violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

We are in full compliance with all applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements. We received a violation in 2021 because we do not have a redundant water source. One of our wells is no longer functioning and we are currently working to drill a second well.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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 can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. The Town of Westport is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential fire fighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community.