

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023



Presented By
Pompton Lakes Borough MUA

Landlords must distribute this information 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#: 1609001

Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Benefits of Chlorination

Disinfection, a chemical process used to control disease-causing microorganisms by killing or inactivating them, is unquestionably the most important step in drinking water treatment. By far, the most common method of disinfection in North America is chlorination.

Before communities began routinely treating drinking water with chlorine (starting with Chicago and Jersey City in 1908), cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, and hepatitis A killed thousands of U.S. residents annually. Drinking water chlorination and filtration have helped to virtually eliminate these diseases in the U.S. Significant strides in public health are directly linked to the adoption of drinking water chlorination. In fact, the filtration of drinking water and the use of chlorine are probably the most significant public health advancements in human history.

How chlorination works:

- Potent Germicide Reduction of many disease-causing microorganisms in drinking water to almost immeasurable levels.
- Taste and Odor Reduction of many disagreeable tastes and odors from foul-smelling algae secretions, sulfides, and decaying vegetation.
- Biological Growth Elimination of slime bacteria, molds, and algae that commonly grow in water supply reservoirs, on the walls of water mains, and in storage tanks.
- Chemical Removal of hydrogen sulfide (which has a rotten egg odor), ammonia, and other nitrogenous compounds that have unpleasant tastes and hinder disinfection. It also helps to remove iron and manganese from raw water.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We typically meet the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Municipal Utilities Authorities Administrative Building, 2000 Lincoln Avenue, Pompton Lakes. Call us at (973) 839-3044 for exact meeting dates and times.

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 Billy J. Doty, Operations Manager, at (973) 839-3044, or visit www.plbmua.org.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (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.

Source Water Assessment

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Reports and Summary for this public water system, which is available at www.state.nj.us/dep/swap or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. You may also contact John F. Wegele, Operations Manager, at (973) 839-3044 for more information.



The source water assessment performed on our three wells determined the following susceptibility ratings for the seven contaminant categories and radon:

- 1) Pathogens—All three wells are rated medium susceptibility.
- 2) Nutrients—Two wells are medium susceptibility and the third was rated high.
- 3) Pesticides—All three wells are rated as low susceptibility.
- 4) Volatile Organic Compounds—Two wells are low susceptibility and one well was rated as high susceptibility.
- 5) Inorganics—Two wells are medium susceptibility and the third was high.
- 6) Radionuclides—All three wells are medium susceptibility.
- 7) Radon—One well was rated at medium susceptibility and the other two were rated high.
- 8) Disinfection by-product precursors—All three wells are medium susceptibility.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentration above allowable levels.

In its review, the NJDEP found the following potential contaminant sources within the source water assessment area for our sources:

- 1) Various underground storage tanks
- 2) Wastewater treatment facility
- 3) Class B recycling center

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 further 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. To determine if you have a lead service line, contact us at (973) 839-3044. 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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) 839-3044 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/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 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 SUBSTANCES¹

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	2023	30	30	0.169	ND–0.507	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2023	15	0	4.595	4.595–4.595	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	2023	5	0	1.15	ND–1.62	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2023	2	2	0.0287	0.0224–0.0334	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2023	[4]	[4]	0.44	0.19–0.84	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chromium (ppb)	2023	100	100	0.844	0.639–1.19	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2020	4	4	0.16	ND–0.26	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	60	NA	1.80	ND–2.94	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2023	10	10	0.5	ND–1.3	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS] (ppt)	2023	13	NA	3.49	ND–5.65	No	Used in the production of Teflon, firefighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, greases, and lubricants, paints, polishes, adhesives, and photographic films
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppt)	2023	14	NA	5.06	ND–5.65	No	Used in the production of Teflon, firefighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, greases, and lubricants, paints, polishes, adhesives, and photographic films
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	80	NA	2.93	ND–7.19	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Uranium (ppb)	2023	30	0	4.4	4.4–4.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits

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	0.202	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2021	15	0	2.93	0/30	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
Chloride (ppm)	2023	250	NA	136.5	61.2–272	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2021	1.0	NA	0.00144	ND–0.00433	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Corrosivity (ppm)	2023	Noncorrosive	NA	0.22	0.12–0.32	No	Natural or industrially influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon, and oxygen affected by temperature and other factors
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	2	NA	0.16	ND–0.26	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Hardness [as CaCO ₃] (ppm)	2023	250	NA	248	195–294	No	Naturally occurring
Manganese (ppb)	2023	50 ²	NA	51.5	31.9–86.5	Yes	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (units)	2023	6.5–8.5	NA	7.79	7.56–7.95	No	Naturally occurring
Sodium (ppm)	2023	50 ³	NA	106	34.9–143	Yes	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2023	250	NA	33.93	18.9–42.1	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2023	500	NA	501	302–650	Yes	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Zinc (ppm)	2023	5	NA	0.003	ND–0.01	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
1,4-Dioxane (ppb)	2023	0.30	0.10–0.46	Manufactured chemical
Alkalinity (ppm)	2023	137.3	116–164	NA
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2023	0.613	ND–1.42	Leaching from natural deposits
Bromoform (ppb)	2023	0.183	ND–0.943	Leaching from natural deposits
Chloroform (ppb)	2023	0.183	ND–0.948	NA
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2023	1.02	ND–2.46	NA

¹ Under a waiver granted on December 30, 1998, by NJDEP, our system does not have to monitor for synthetic organic chemicals or 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 and volatile or synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received monitoring waivers for synthetic organic chemicals and asbestos.

² The recommended upper limit for manganese is based on staining of laundry. Manganese is an essential nutrient, and toxicity is not expected from high levels in drinking water.

³ For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important because a much greater intake 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.

Water Treatment Process

Chlorine is added as a precaution against any bacteria that may be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.)

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.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

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).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

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

Where Does My Water Come From?

Our water source is supplied by three wells. The Pompton Lakes Borough Municipal Utilities Authority (PLBMUA) maintains approximately 30 miles of water distribution mains ranging in size from 4 to 16 inches. The PLBMUA maintains a million-gallon water storage tank and a 50,000-gallon stand-pipe. In addition, the Borough of Pompton Lakes maintains inter-connections with water systems from surrounding authorities. In case of an emergency, the PLBMUA will make every effort to deliver uninterrupted service to our customers.

