

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2020



**Presented by the
Williamsburg
Water Commission
PWS #1340000**

Where Does My Water Come From and How Is It Protected?

Our water supply comes from ground water at the South Street pumping station. At our South Street site, we have two wells, treatment facilities, and storage tanks. Treatment processes include disinfection by chlorination. Additionally, we treat water with sodium hydroxide to adjust the pH to help make the water less corrosive to the distribution system and to the plumbing in the homes. We own all the land in the Zone #1 area and a large portion in Zone #2. This helps to protect your water supply from contaminants. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for water supply source(s) serving this water system. The SWAP Report notes the key issues of the activities in the Zone 1, Residential uses, transportation corridors, agricultural activities and Comprehensive Wellhead Protection Planning in the water supply protection area. The SWAP Report recommends beaver control, prohibiting all non-water supply activities, ensuring that all residents upstream are aware of Best Management practices with respect to household hazardous materials and lawn chemicals, and no storage of pesticides, fertilizer or road salt within Zone 1. Williamsburg Water & Sewer Commission plans to address the protection recommendations by working on educating the residents to BMP, monitoring the beaver activity, monitoring the livestock on neighboring properties, and working on a Comprehensive Wellhead Protection Plan. Residents can help protect sources by: practicing good septic system maintenance, supporting water supply protection initiatives at the next Town Meeting, taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days, limiting pesticide and fertilizer use and using buffer strips to prevent animals from accessing Unquomok Brook and prevent pasture runoff. The complete SWAP Report is available at the Town Clerk's Office or online at www.burgy.org If you have any health concerns relating to the information in this report, we encourage you to contact your health care provider. For more information about this report, or for any other questions relating to your drinking water, please call Eric Cerreta, Chairman, at (413) 268-8430 or Tony Lastowski, Water Operator at (413) 345-0345

To our customers,

We are once again pleased to provide this report, covering information about your drinking water supplied by the Williamsburg Water Department in calendar year 2020

The report provides details about where your water comes from, how it is treated, and the quality of the water you receive.

We encourage you to contact the Water Department with questions, comments or suggestions about any aspect of the Town of Williamsburg's drinking water.

Sincerely,

Eric Cerreta, Chairman

Anthony Lastowski, Water Operator

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. The Water & Sewer Department has 5 Elected members and they meet twice a month on Tuesdays except in June, July and August when meetings are held once monthly*. All meetings begin at 5:00 PM in the Town Office Building at 141 Main Street, Haydenville, MA. You may call the Town Office at (413) 268-8430 for scheduled meeting dates. Information is also available @ www.burgy.org

*Due to COVID 19 this schedule has been altered. Please check with the town calendars

Substances That Could Be in Water

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

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 mineral, and in some cases, radioactive material. It can pick up substances resulting in the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants 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, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants-such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water 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 agricultural, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Organic Chemical Contaminants-including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

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

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. The Town of Williamsburg Water Commission 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 two minutes before using water for cooking or drinking. 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 or at

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>



THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR WATER SUPPLY

- ◆ Don't use antibacterial soaps or cleaning products. Most contain trichlosan, a registered pesticide which has been found to harm aquatic life.
- ◆ Never flush unwanted or out-of-date medications down the toilet or drain.
- ◆ Don't put **anything** except water down storm drains!
- ◆ Avoid using pesticides and chemical fertilizers
- ◆ Choose non-toxic household products whenever possible
- ◆ Pick up after your pets
- ◆ Take short showers
- ◆ Shut water off while brushing your teeth
- ◆ Run full loads in the washer or dishwasher

Regulated Contaminants (Units)	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources of Contamination
Iron	5/5/20	ND	ND	0.051	n/a	N	Minerals, pipes
Manganese	5/5/20	ND	ND	0.0020	n/a	N	Minerals, Underground Pollution
Perchlorate	8/18/16	ND	ND	2.0	n/a	N	Rocket Propellants, Fireworks, Flares

	ACTION LEVEL	RESULT	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	NUMBER OVER LIMIT	TEST DATE
LEAD	0.015 mg/L	.0012	10	0	June 2020
COPPER	1.3 mg/L	.196	10	0	June 2020

Bacteria (Tested)	Number of Tests Done 2020	Total # Positive	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources of Contamination
Total Coliform	60	0	No more than 1 positive in a month	0	N	Naturally Present in the environment

TABLE 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 using the best available treatment technology.

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.

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

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

Total Coliform - Five (5) bacteria samples were taken each month.

90th Percentile - Out of ten (10) homes sampled, nine (9) were at or below this level

ppm - parts per million

ppb - parts per billion

Important Health Information

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 people with 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) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>

HOW TO DETECT A WATER LEAK

If your water usage is higher than you believe it should be, please check the following steps:

1. Check all toilets for leaks by putting household blueing, found in the laundry section of the supermarket, or food coloring in the back of the toilet storage tank. This should be done the last thing in the night. If any color appears in the bowl in the morning, you have a leak. Check the rubber stop in the back of the storage tank for cracks and replace. A leaking toilet can waste up to 3000 gallons a day.
2. Check all faucets for drips or leaks
3. Check any hoses (washing machine, dishwasher, outdoor) for leaks
4. If you have any outbuildings connected to your water make sure you do not have a leak or a broken underground pipe.
5. If your home uses a hot water type heat, check for leaks around lines and furnace.
6. Call a plumber

The homeowner is responsible for the billing for any water leaks. It "pays" to take the time to make sure your home has no leaks!

WHAT IS A CROSS CONNECTION?

A cross-connection is a point in a plumbing system where it is possible for a non potable substance to come into contact with the potable drinking water supply. Common examples of cross-connections include a garden hose submerged in a pesticide mixture, a piped connection providing potable feed water to an industrial process, such as a cooling tower, or a submerged outlet of an irrigation system. Connections to firefighting equipment are other very common cross-connections. Most cross-connections occur beyond the customer service connection, within residential, commercial, institutional or industrial plumbing systems. Identifying cross-connections can be challenging because many distribution systems are expanding to serve new customers and changing to accommodate customer needs. Further, temporary and permanent cross connections can be created in existing facilities without the knowledge of the water system managers and operators.

WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Backflow is any unwanted flow of used or non potable water, or other substances from any domestic, industrial, or institutional piping system back into the potable water distribution system. The direction of flow under these conditions is opposite to that of normal flow and is caused by either backsiphonage or backpressure.

Backsiphonage is backflow caused by a negative pressure (vacuum or partial vacuum) in the supply piping. Backsiphonage occurs when system pressure is reduced below atmospheric pressure. The effect is similar to sipping water through a straw.

Backpressure is backflow caused by pressure in the customer's plumbing being greater than the pressure in the water supply piping. The higher pressure in the customer's plumbing may be from a booster pump, heating boiler, etc.

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed control. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals.

Things to Never Put Down Your Drain:

Pasta or expandable foods: Semolina content continues to swell once flushed down kitchen sink and will block drains and cause future plumbing problems

Coffee Grounds: One of the worst offenders for causing drain blockages. Recycle instead

Cooking Oils: Contributes to over 50% of sewer overflows in the US. Don't forget this includes salad dressings and mayonnaise

Motor Oil: Keep away from any drains. Also helps protect waterways

Grease: This includes cooked/melted fat from meat, poultry, sausage, bacon, skin as well as gravy

Food Fat (not included above): Any dairy products including cheese, ice-cream, milk and butter including nut butters

Animal Feces: Including flushable cat litter. This clogs drains and will attract harmful bacteria and vermin.

Stickers: This includes those found on produce. They will stick to filters and pipes and causes problems in waste water treatment plants

Condoms: Not made of latex and will not disintegrate. Contains human bodily fluid

Sanitary Towels: Contains human bodily fluids and expand

All paper towels: While they may be biodegradable, they still absorb moisture and will clog your pipes

Flushable wipes: Wet wipes, for instance contain congealed grease and will not disintegrate like toilet paper does. They are very damaging to waste water facilities and cause a steep increase in municipal budgets for sewer treatment

Flour: Always dispose of in the trash. Flour congeals and causes many problems in waste water

Paint: Paint is not good for the environment and causes problems in waste water