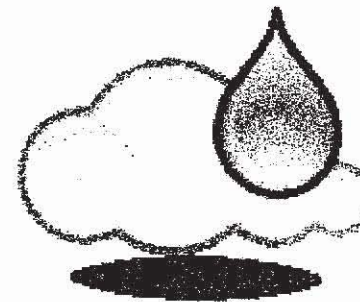


**TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG**  
**2008 Water Quality Report**



**Town of Williamsburg**  
**Water Department**  
**268-8430**

**Chairman: Walter Kellogg**  
**268-7579**

**Water Utility ID#:**  
**MA 1340000**

## Cross-Connection Contamination

Cross-connections that could contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (e.g. boilers), systems containing chemicals (e.g. air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems) or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (e.g. main breaks, heavy water demand) causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

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 killing. Fertilizers, cesspools or garden chemicals may contaminate garden hoses that are left lying on the ground. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continually jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We also inspect and test each backflow preventer to make sure that it is providing maximum protection.

For more information, visit the Website of the American Backflow Prevention Association ([www.abpa.org](http://www.abpa.org)) for a discussion on current issues.



## 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** – 10 bacteria samples were taken each month. Results on all tests were 0.

**90th percentile** – Out of 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

ppm – parts per million

ppb – parts per billion

## WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

The water department has received reduced sampling frequency waivers for volatile organic contaminants, synthetic organic contaminants, and inorganic contaminants. These waivers were granted due to low or no detection of these contaminants in previous monitoring.

CONTAMINANT (UNITS)	DATE OF TEST	LEVEL DETECTED	MCL	MCLG	VIOLATION (Y/N)	POSSIBLE SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
NITRATE (ppm)	1/25/07	0.55(Well #1)	1.0	10.0	NO	Animal Waste Fertilizer
NITRITE (ppm)	11/8/05	Not Detected	1.0	10.0	NO	Animal Waste Fertilizer
Volatile Organics	10/12/07	Not Detected (Wells 1 & 2)			NO	
Inorganic	1/4/06	Not Detectable			NO	
PERCHLORITE	9/19/07	0.3				
Arsenic Sodium	Not Detected					

### Lead and Copper

	Action Level	90 <sup>TH</sup> PERCENTILE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	NUMBER OVER LIMIT	TEST DATE *
LEAD	15 ppb	0.016	20	1	11/13/07
COPPER	1.3 ppm	1.100	20	0	11/13/07

\*The last test done for Lead & Copper had 1-failed sample.

Next test 6/17/08 – No results at time of print out

## Introduction

**O**ur 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. We treat water with sodium hydroxide to adjust the pH to help make the water less corrosive to the distribution system and to 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.

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 questions relating to your drinking water, please call Walter Kellogg, Chairmen, at (413) 268-7579 or 413-268-8430.

### WHAT'S INSIDE?

**T**his report outlines the processes involved in delivering to you the highest drinking water available. In it, we will answer these important questions

- Where does my water come from?
- What is in my drinking water?

We will also provide information on other available resources that will answer questions about water quality and health defects.

### COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

**Y**ou are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. The Water and Sewer Department has 5 Elected members and they meet every other Wednesday, except in June, July and August when meetings are held once monthly. All meetings begin at 7:00 PM in the Town Office Building, Haydenville, MA. You may call the Town Office at (413) 268-8430 for scheduled meeting dates.

## Water Conservation Tips

**T**he Town of Williamsburg uses two pumping stations. Conserving water will help reduce the costs associated with water delivery. The water department asks you to conserve water in the following ways.



- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances. Replace old fixtures with new ones. This will reduce water consumption by nearly one-half.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers. Do not let the water run while shaving, washing, brushing teeth, or cleaning fruits and vegetables.
- Soak dishes before washing. Run the dishwasher only when full.

You can conserve outdoors as well:

- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses. Use water-saving nozzles.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car. Save the hose for rinsing.

Information on other ways that you can help conserve water can be found at [www.epa.gov/safewater/publicoutreach/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/publicoutreach/index.html).

## Special Health Information

**S**ome 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. 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 (800-426-4791).







## SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER



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 mineral, and in some cases, radioactive material. It can pick up substances resulting from 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.

In order 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.