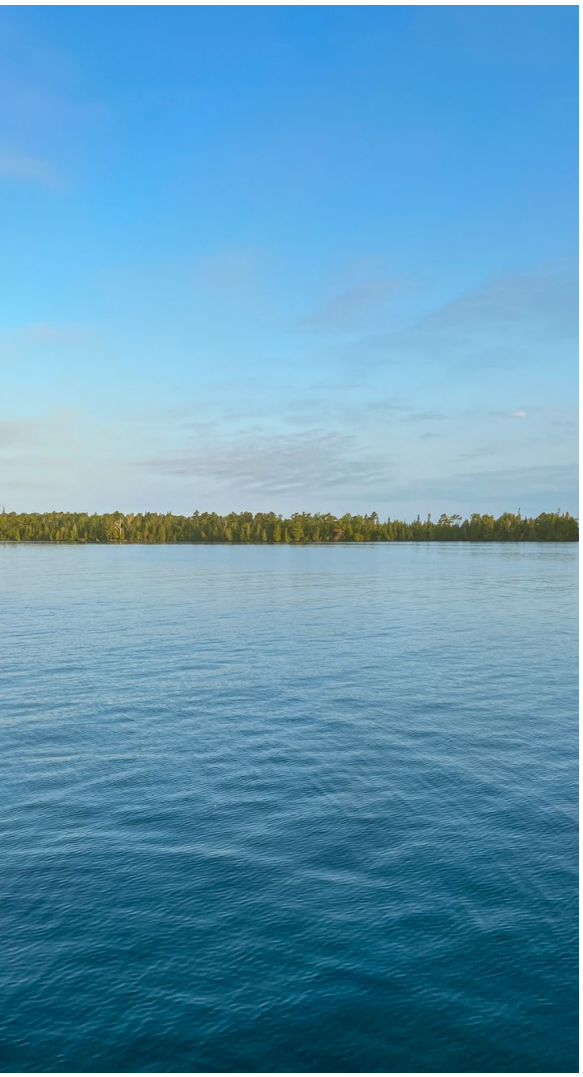
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024









Presented By
Taunton DPW Water Division

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Este relatório contém a informação importante sobre sua água bebendo. Tenha-o por favor traduzido por um amigo ou por alguém que o compreende e o pode o traduzir para você.

PWS ID#: 4293000



Our Commitment

The Taunton Water Department is 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, 2024. To aid efforts with regulatory compliance and ensure the city of Taunton supplies customers with the highest-quality water, significant capital investments have recently been made. Projects include improvements to the Assawompset Pump Station and Prospect Hill Reservoir, upgrades to the treatment plant operating systems, and the ongoing electrical upgrade with solar array installations.

Where Does My Water Come From?

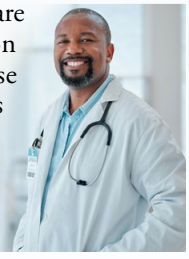
Our water comes from six ponds, five of which are in the the Assawompset Pond Complex (APC): the Assawompset, Pocksha, Great Quittacus, Little Quittacus, and Long Ponds. The sixth is Elders Pond. All six reservoirs are located in Freetown, Lakeville, Middleborough, or Rochester. Water is pumped from the APC to Elder's Pond, then raw water is treated at the Charles J. Rocheleau Water Filtration Plant, located in Lakeville. The treated water is then pumped to the distribution system, where it is either delivered to our customers or sent to one of five storage facilities. The Prospect Hill Reservoir, East Taunton elevated storage tank, Lakeville storage tank, Oakland elevated storage tank, and Myles Standish Industrial Park elevated storage tank combined provide more than 25 million gallons of water storage. Our system has two interconnections to supply the North Dighton Fire District and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Bridgewater Correctional Complex with potable water.

The Benefits of Fluoridation

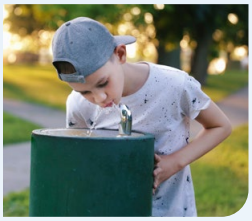
Fluoride is naturally occurring in many water supplies in trace amounts. In our system, the fluoride level is adjusted to an optimal level averaging 0.7 part per million (ppm) to improve oral health and prevent tooth decay. At this level, it is safe, odorless, colorless, and tasteless. There are over 4 million people in Massachusetts water systems and 184 million people in the U.S. who receive the health and economic benefits of fluoridation.

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 other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (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 or epa.gov/safewater.



Source Water Assessment and Protection Program



In September 2002, DEP completed a Source Water Assessment and Protection Program Report (SWAP) for the city of Taunton's public water system. The Taunton water system was assigned a high susceptibility ranking based on potential pollution sources in our watershed. These threats include cranberry bogs, horse farms, transportation corridors, septic systems, and cesspools. We participate in several programs to protect our water supply, review and comment on all permitted activities within 400 feet of our source waters, and help patrol the APC for unauthorized use.

The SWAP Report is available at the Taunton DPW Water Division, 90 Ingell Street, Taunton, and at mass.gov/doc/southeast-region-source-water-assessment-protection-swap-program-reports/download.

How Is My Water Treated?



Water is drawn from Elders Pond. A mixture of caustic soda and carbon dioxide is added to increase the alkalinity of the water for corrosion control in the distribution system. A coagulant is added to cause small particles to settle into a basin, from which the accumulated sediment is removed. The water is then filtered through five anthracite coal-and-sand filter beds to remove any remaining particles. The clear water exiting the filters is then run through an ultraviolet light system to reduce the amount of additional disinfectant required. Chlorine is added for disinfection, and fluoride is added to help prevent tooth decay. A final application of caustic soda adjusts the pH to optimum levels for corrosion control, and ammonia is applied to produce chloramines, which provide a long-lasting disinfectant residual in the distribution system.

Questions?

For more information relating to your drinking water, please contact Michael Arruda, Water Superintendent, (508) 821-1045, or visit our website at taunton-ma.gov/290/Water-Division.

Substances That Could Be in Water

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. EPA and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 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 which 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.

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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

What's a Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections that 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 (boilers), systems containing chemicals (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 (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 attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection. For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Lead in Home Plumbing

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and home plumbing. Taunton DPW Water Division is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure it is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling does not remove lead from water.

Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead or galvanized service line requiring replacement, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead and wish to have your water tested, contact Taunton DPW Water Division at 508-947-0690. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service inventory, along with a link to a survey if your material is listed as "unknown," may be found at taunton-ma.gov/920/Water-Service-Inventory-Information. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Note that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink. We are pleased to report your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements.

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 is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2024	2	2	0.0052	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chloramines (ppm)	2024	[4]	[4]	2.0	1.0–3.0	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2021	5	0	1.07	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	4[1]	4	0.7	0.6–0.8	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2024	60	NA	46.4	20.5–64.2[2]	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2024	10	10	0.0943	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (removal ratio)	2024	TT[3]	NA	1.00	1.00–1.4	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2024	80[4]	NA	58.2	34.5–85.2[2]	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity[5] (NTU)	2024	TT	NA	0.34	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2024	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)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	1.3	0.00691	NA	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0	1.8	NA	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2024	200	NA	19.7	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2024	250	NA	40.5	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Manganese (ppb)	2024	50	NA	9.37	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor (TON)	2024	3	NA	1	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
pH (units)	2024	6.5-8.5	NA	9.2	NA	No	Adjusted for corrosion control
Sulfate (ppm)	2024	250	NA	7.11	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2024	500	NA	157	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

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Chloride (ppm)	2024	250	NA	40.5	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Manganese (ppb)	2024	50	NA	9.37	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor (TON)	2024	3	NA	1	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
pH (units)	2024	6.5-8.5	NA	9.2	NA	No	Adjusted for corrosion control
Sulfate (ppm)	2024	250	NA	7.11	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2024	500	NA	157	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES [6]

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2024	6.39	NA	Disinfectant by-product; Marine microalgae
Calcium (ppm)	2024	2.39	NA	Dissolves from limestone, marble, and other natural rock formations
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	2024	0.60	NA	Disinfectant by-product
Chloroform (ppb)	2024	17.2	NA	Disinfectant by-product; Chemical intermediate
Hardness (ppm)	2024	11.4	NA	Dissolves from naturally occurring deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	2024	1.32	NA	Minerals and sedimentary rock
Potassium (ppm)	2024	1.22	NA	Runoff from fertilizer
Sodium (ppm)	2024	38.6	NA	Erosion of natural deposits; Soil runoff

[1] Fluoride also has an SMCL of 2.0 ppm.
[2] A single result over the MCL does not trigger a violation.
[3] The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio of percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than 1 indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than 1 indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.
[4] 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.
[5] Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.
[6] Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist U.S. EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Definitions

90th %ile: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. This number is compared to the Action Level to determine lead and copper compliance.

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.

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).

Removal ratio: A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.