

2024 Consumer Confidence Report

Your Annual Drinking Water Quality Information



Williamstown Water Department

675 Simonds Rd, Williamstown, MA 01267

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Public Water Supply ID #1341000

This report provides a snapshot of the drinking water quality that was achieved last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how its quality compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

Our water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). MA DEP inspects our system for its technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, your water system is operated by Massachusetts certified operators who oversee the routine operations of our system. Your water is constantly monitored by us and MassDEP to determine the effectiveness of existing water treatment and to determine if any additional treatment is required. During the calendar year 2024, the department responded to and repaired 20 major water main breaks throughout the system. Two fire hydrants were also replaced in 2024, this was due to age and lack of parts availability. Well #2 (02G) located on Stetson Rd. has been redeveloped as part of a full systems upgrade for the well station. After the redevelopment, a new pump was installed, this was to allow the station to remain active and used as an emergency source if needed while the design phase continues for the overall project. All design work and oversight will be done by Wright - Pierce Engineering Consultants.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

While we do not have regularly scheduled meetings regarding our water system, we welcome any opportunity to discuss concerns or issues. Please contact us if you would like to publicly discuss your drinking water.

YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?

Williamstown Water comes from three groundwater sources that are designated by MassDEP Source Name and ID Source Number as Well #2 Stetson Road Well [1341000-02G], Well #3 Green River Well [1341000-03G], Well #1A, Replacement Well [1341000-04G]. All three are ground water wells, in a confined aquifer. They are also artesian in their flow characteristics; this means they are under pressure and will come to the top of the ground without the use of a pump. The pumps are only installed to create enough force to fill the underground storage tank (2.75 million gallons), located between the end of South Street and the end of Stone Hill Rd. Two of the wells are located on Stetson Road adjacent the Cal Ripken field, and the other located off Main St. behind the Town's tennis courts. Williamstown still maintains the surface supplies of Sherman Springs Reservoir and Rattlesnake Reservoir as backups for emergency supplies. These two sources account for an approximate 10-million-gallon safety net.

How are These Sources Protected?

To protect against bacterial contamination, your water is treated with a disinfectant solution of Sodium Hypochlorite (NaOCl) Chlorine, and a Poly-orthophosphate (PO₄)₃ as a sequestering agent for calcium, iron, and manganese. The product name for our poly-orthophosphate is AQUAMAG.

Williamstown Water Department makes every effort to provide you with safe and uncontaminated drinking water. The

water quality achieved with our system is monitored by us and MassDEP to determine if any future treatment or improvements that may be required. In addition, MassDEP inspects the system approximately every 3 years to evaluate compliance with current state and federal regulations. Our last Sanitary Survey inspection was conducted by MassDEP in May of 2024. All compliance measures have been satisfied, with no outstanding actions remaining.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT AND PROTECTION (SWAP) REPORT

Significant sources of potential contamination in Williamstown's Zone II recharge are inclusive of the following but not limited to:

Non-conforming Zone I
Residential Lane Uses
Transportation Corridors
Hazardous Materials Storage and Use
Confirmed Oil or hazardous material contamination sites
Comprehensive wellhead protection planning with the City of North Adams
Agricultural Activities
Right of way owned by other Natural gas, National Grid (electric high-tension lines), HQWD (wastewater interceptor mains), and Railroad lines.

Williamstown has high susceptibility to potential sources of contamination due to the vast area of recharge for its Zone II. Sources of potential contamination are controlled through zoning regulations, and best management practices to limit the aquifer's exposure from the abovementioned threats. Through continuous monitoring of land uses public, residential, commercial, and agricultural, it is our mission to keep the public drinking water aquifer safe and potable for the general public. The SWAP report is available for public viewing at 675 Simonds Rd Williamstown at the Public Works Building or on the web at http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/swa_p/wero/1341000.pdf

Residents can help protect sources by:

- *Turn the water off when you are brushing your teeth or washing your hands.*
- *Use a bucket of suds to wash a car or bicycle. Then rinse quickly with a hose.*
- *Wash laundry or do dishes in full loads.*
- *Water the garden in the morning or evening to avoid excessive evaporation.*
- *Use bark mulch around shrubs, trees, or plantings as it retains moisture much better than just soil.*
- *Fix leaks as toilets and faucets can attribute up to as much as 3,000 gallons of waste per year.*

SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER

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. 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 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS

Does Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?

We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. While almost all contaminants monitored for in the 2024 compliance period fell within regulatory limits, there was a Manganese exceedance on 10/23/2024. Follow up testing on 11/18/2024 confirmed that this exceedance was legitimate. Williamstown Water Department will continue to monitor Manganese and its impact on Williamstown's water quality going into the future. Please direct your attention to the water quality testing results section for more information regarding this exceedance. Additionally, Williamstown Water Department received a Notice of Noncompliance for failing to report Iron and Manganese sampling results, taken at Well-03G and Well-04G, to MA DEP within the regulatory timeframe. Please see the included public notice document for more information pertaining to this violation.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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 expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

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

90th Percentile - Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

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

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) - These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

Unregulated Contaminants - Contaminants for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Method of Detection Limit (MDL) - The minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99% confidence the analyte concentration is greater than zero and determined from analysis of a sample in a given matrix containing the analyte.

Turbidity - A measure of the cloudiness of water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guidelines (ORSG) - This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below, which adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure.

Level 1 Assessment - A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in a water system.

Level 2 Assessment - A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred or why total coliform bacteria have been found in a water system on multiple occasions.

WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

The water quality tables show the most recent water quality testing results where levels were detected and compares those levels to standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency and Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency.

MassDEP has reduced the monitoring requirements for Inorganic Contaminants (IOCs), 10/23/2024 for Nitrate, Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOCs), and Perchlorate, because the source is not at risk of contamination. The last samples were collected on 8/6/2024 for Perchlorate, 11/20/2023 for Inorganic Contaminants (IOC), 2/6/2024 for Synthetic Organic Contaminants, 8/6/2024 for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), and 10/23/2024 for PFAS and were all found to meet all applicable US EPA and MassDEP standards.

With the exception of those compounds noted on the tables below, all other compounds in the panels reported undetectable levels.

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Yes/No)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Barium (ppm)	11/20/2023	0.0092 (Well #3)	N/A	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS							
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	Daily	.48	.05-.48	4	4	No	Water additive used to control microbes
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	8/6/2024	2.57 (Well #3)	N/A	15	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant (units)	Dates Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
UNREGULATED AND SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS						
Manganese** (ppb)	10/23/2024 11/18/2024	100-106	103	50	300	Naturally occurring, corrosion of cast iron pipes
Iron (ppb)	10/23/2024 11/18/2024	ND-78.4	39.2	300	N/A	Naturally occurring, corrosion of cast iron pipes

Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in rocks, soil, groundwater, and surface water. Manganese is necessary for proper nutrition and is part of a healthy diet, but can have undesirable effects on certain sensitive populations at elevated concentrations. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and MassDEP have set an aesthetics-based Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) for manganese of 50 ug/L (microgram per liter), or 50 parts per billion. In addition, MassDEP's Office of Research and Standards (ORS) has set a drinking water guideline for manganese (ORSG), which closely follows the EPA public health advisory for manganese. Drinking water may naturally have manganese and, when concentrations are greater than 50 ppb, the water may be discolored and taste bad. Over a lifetime, the EPA recommends that people drink water with manganese levels less than 300 ppb and over the short term, EPA recommends that people limit their consumption of water with levels over 1000 ppb, primarily due to concerns about possible neurological effects. Children younger than one year old should not be given water with manganese concentrations over 300 ppb, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for more than a total of ten days throughout the year. The ORSG differs from the EPA's health advisory because it expands the age group to which a lower manganese concentration applies from children less than six months of age to children up to one year of age to address concerns about children's susceptibility to manganese toxicity. See EPA Drinking Water Health Advisory for manganese at:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-09/documents/support_cc1_magnese_dwreport_0.pdf

and MassDEP Office of Research and Standards (ORSG) for manganese

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/lead-and-other-contaminants-in-drinking-water.html#11>

Use of water containing manganese at concentrations above the secondary MCL may result in aesthetic issues including the staining of laundry and plumbing fixtures and water with an unpleasant bitter metallic taste, odor, and/or black-brown color.

**Infants and children who drink water containing manganese at high concentrations may have learning and behavior problems. People with liver disease who drink water containing manganese at high concentrations may have neurological disorders.

Sodium (ppm)	11/20/2023	2.45-2.47	2.46	N/A	20	Natural Sources, runoff from use of salt on roadways, byproduct of water treatment process.
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LEAD AND COPPER – August 27th, 2024 - September 9th, 2024

Contaminant (units)	Action Level	MCLG	90 th Percentile	Number of Sites Sampled	Number of sites above the Action Level	Possible Sources of Contamination	Violation (Yes/No)
Lead (ppb)	15	0	0.00034	24	0	Corrosion of household	No

						<i>plumbing</i>	
<i>Copper (ppm)</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>0.29</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>Corrosion of household plumbing</i>	<i>No</i>

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
 ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
 ND = Not Detected
 N/A = Not Applicable

HEALTH NOTES

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and MassDEP prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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 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).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants 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 about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/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 (1-800-426-4791).

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. Williamstown Water Dept is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family’s risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Williamstown Water Dept at (413) 458-3383. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Service Line Inventory and Lead Awareness

In 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandated that all Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC) and Community (COM) water systems conduct a service line inventory to identify and document the materials of all service connections. This requirement is part of the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) and supports the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which provides federal funding to assist with the replacement of lead service lines nationwide.

As part of this effort, Williamstown Water Dept was required to catalogue and report all service connections within its water system. These results have been submitted to the state and are publicly accessible.

To review the Service Line Inventory (2024) for Williamstown Water Dept, visit the State of Massachusetts Public Water Supplier Document Search webpage:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/public-water-supplier-document-search>

1. Select the name of the water supply (Williamstown Water Dept).
2. Navigate to the “Documents for Download” section.
3. Open the file titled “Service Line Inventory (2024).”

Cross connections are potentially hazardous situations for public or private potable water supply and a source of potable

water contamination. A cross connection is any potential or actual physical connection between potable water supply and any source through which it is possible to introduce any substance other than potable water into the water supply. Common Cross connection scenarios are a garden hose whose spout is submerged in a bucket of soapy water or connected to a spray bottle of weed killer.

Cross connections between a potable water line and a non-potable water system or equipment have long been a concern of the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). MassDEP established regulations to protect the public health of water consumers from contaminants due to back-flow events. The installation of back-flow prevention devices, such as a low-cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections is recommended. You can purchase this at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in your community. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water system's cross connection program, please contact the Williamstown Water Department.

Please make sure fire hydrants are not hidden or masked by any foliage, plantings or fencing, as it is designed so that your property is adequately protected in the event of a fire!!!!

Copies of this report are available at the Town Garage, 675 Simonds Road. It is also available on the web www.williamstownma.gov

**David Caron / Water and Sewer Superintendent
Phone: (413) 458-3383 / Dcaron@williamstownma.gov**

**675 Simonds Road
Williamstown, MA 01267**

For more information regarding our system you may also visit the EPA website at:
<http://www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/sdwis/search.htm>

This report is a compilation of best available data sources including: licensed operators' reports, water supply owner's coordination, MassDEP public records and EPA online records. The report represents an accurate account of your water quality to the best of our knowledge. Prepared by Housatonic Basin Sampling & Testing on behalf of your water supplier.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Reporting Requirements Not Met for Williamstown Water

Our water system violated a drinking water reporting standard over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are indicators of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During [quarter 4 2023] we did monitor for iron & manganese and therefore can be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. However, the results of this monitoring period were not properly reported to Mass DEP.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the Iron & Manganese that we did properly test for during the monitoring period, how often we did sample for Iron & Manganese and how many samples we did take and the date on which the samples were recorded.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been reported	When samples were or will be reported
Iron & Manganese Well #1 (04G)	1 sample every year	1	January 10, 2024	April 30,2024
Iron & Manganese Well #3 (03G)	1 sample every year	1	January 10, 2024	April 30, 2024

What happened? What is being done?

In quarter 4, 2023, the Iron & Manganese samples that were taken for Well #1 (04G) and Well #3 (03G) were improperly reported to Mass DEP. Immediately after the mistakes were found, a revision was submitted in April 2024 and the results were reported again to Mass DEP in proper form.

For more information, please contact David Caron at 413-458-3383 or email dcaron@williamstownma.gov

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by:

PWS ID #:

Date distributed:

Williamstown Water Department

1341000

March 28, 2025