

2025 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 2025, the department responded to and repaired 13 water main breaks along with 7 residential water services throughout the system. Twice a year the department flushes the water mains through fire hydrants, once in May and again in October. During the October flush the staff found 6 fire hydrants in need of repair, most were minor, with all hydrants back in operation within a few hours.

Williamstown participates in an annual pump and motor maintenance program for our drinking water wells; this checks our pumps and motors for efficiency and changes the oil every year. Weston & Sampson Inc. are the specialists that perform the maintenance on the wells to ensure they are operating at peak performance. During the 2025 maintenance, they noted a significant decrease in the specific capacity for Well IA on Stetson Road. They suggested cleaning and redevelopment of the well to increase the specific capacity to normal levels. The pump and motor were removed to gain access to the well casing and the screen at the bottom. Stainless steel shafts were installed to replace the older steel shafts that attach the motor to the pump. A new mechanical seal was also installed before the motor was reinstalled. The well went back into service in approximately a week's time with no issues noted.

Contact Person: David Caron (Water and Sewer Superintendent) | Phone: (413) 458-3383

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 above-mentioned 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. We are proud to report that last year your drinking water met all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government.

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 8/27/2025 for Perchlorate, 11/20/2023 for Inorganic Contaminants (IOC), 2/6/2024 for Synthetic Organic Contaminants, 8/27/2025 for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), 11/4/2025 for Iron and Manganese, 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							
<i>Barium (ppm)</i>	11/20/2023	0.0092 (Well #3)	N/A	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
<i>Nitrate (ppm)</i>	11/4/2025	0.0607 (Well #1A) 0.0622 (Well #2) 0.0569 (Well #3)	N/A	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<i>Perchlorate (ppb)</i>	8/27/2025	0.018 (Well #1A) 0.021 (Well #2) 0.022 (Well #3)	N/A	2	N/A	No	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents.
DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS							
<i>Chlorine Residual (ppm)</i>	Daily	0.66 11/21/2025	0.02-0.66	4	4	No	Water additive used to control microbes
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS							
<i>Gross Alpha (pCi/L)</i>	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						
<i>Manganese (ppb)*</i>	11/4/2025	8.38(Well #1A) 2.83 (Well #3)	N/A	50	300	Naturally occurring, corrosion of cast iron pipes
*EPA has established a lifetime Health Advisory (HA) for manganese at 300 ppb, and an acute HA at 1000 ppb.						
<i>Sodium (ppm)</i>	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.

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)
<i>Lead (ppb)</i>	15	0	0.34	24	0	Corrosion of household plumbing	No
<i>Copper (ppm)</i>	1.3	1.3	0.29	24	0	Corrosion of household plumbing	No

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).

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. Williamstown Water Department 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 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove Lead from water. If you are concerned about Lead in your water, and wish to have your water tested, contact Williamstown Water Department at (413) 458-3383. 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> .

Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention

A cross-connection occurs whenever the drinking water supply is or could be in contact with potential sources of pollution or contamination. Cross-connections exist in piping arrangements or equipment that allows the drinking water to come in contact with non-potable liquids, solids, or gases (hazardous to humans) in event of a backflow.

Backflow is the undesired reverse of the water flow in the drinking water distribution lines. This backward flow of water can occur when the pressure created by equipment or a system such as a boiler or air-conditioning is higher than the water pressure inside the water distribution line (back pressure), or when the pressure in the distribution line drops due to routine occurrences such as water main breaks or heavy water demand causing the water to flow backward inside the water distribution system (back siphonage). Backflow is a problem that many water consumers are unaware of, a problem that each and every water customer has a responsibility to help prevent.

What can I do to help prevent a cross-connection?

Without the proper protection something as simple as a garden hose has the potential to contaminate or pollute the drinking water lines in your house. In fact, over half of the country's cross-connection incidents involve unprotected garden hoses. There are very simple steps that you as a drinking water user can take to prevent such hazards, they are:

- NEVER submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, pet watering containers, pool, tubs, sinks, drains, or chemicals.
- NEVER attached a hose to a garden sprayer without the proper backflow preventer.
- Buy and install a hose bibb vacuum breaker in any threaded water fixture. The installation can be as easy as attaching a garden hose to a spigot. This inexpensive device is available at most hardware stores and home-improvement centers.
- Identify and be aware of potential cross-connections to your water line.
- Buy appliances and equipment with backflow preventers.
- Buy and install backflow prevention devices or assemblies for all high and moderate hazard connections.

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. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water system's cross connection program, please contact 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

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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.

