



TOWN OF
WATERTOWN

Water and Sewer Authority
2024 Water Quality Report

PWS ID#: CT1530021



Dear Valued Customer:

The Watertown Water and Sewer Authority (WSA) is pleased to provide its consumers with this report on the drinking water supplied to its customers in Watertown. The information contained in this report explains where your water comes from, what tests are performed to ensure the safety of your water as well as where you can acquire additional information about your water supply. We trust you will find this information both interesting and helpful. We want you to know more about the quality of your drinking water. Public participation is encouraged, and the WSA Board Regular Monthly Meeting schedule can be found on the WSA website

[watertownct.org/departments/water & sewer](http://watertownct.org/departments/water%20&%20sewer)

WATER SOURCE

The primary source of your water is the City of Waterbury's surface reservoirs located in two separate and distinct watersheds in Litchfield County. The Shepaug and Cairns Reservoirs are located in the Shepaug Watershed and the Wigwam, Morris, and Pitch Reservoirs are located in the West Branch Watershed. Before the water is sent to you, it receives complete conventional treatment at Waterbury's Harry P. Danaher Water Treatment Plant located in Thomaston, CT.

The water is then pumped through a 36" pipe through the Town of Watertown. There are (2) metered connection points off the 36" where we receive water, the Fern Hill Road water booster station, and the Carvel meter pit. The Fern Hill Road water booster station pumps the water to the Scoville water storage tank on Buckingham Street which distributes the water to the "High Pressure Zone", located in northern section of town, and the Carvel pit distributes the water to the "Oakville Zone" and feeds the Bunker Hill Road water booster pump station. The Bunker Hill Road water booster station pumps to the Straits water storage tank which then distributes the water to the "Watertown Pressure Zone."

The water distribution system contains approximately 61 miles of 16-inch to 1.5" diameter water mains, three water booster pump stations, two water meter pits, two water storage tanks and over 655 fire hydrants. It serves over 4,150 water customers and approximately 9,972 people.

Explanation of Contaminants in Drinking 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can naturally occur or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

SUBSTANCES THAT COULD BE IN WATER

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material, and pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity, including:

- Viruses and bacteria, which may come from septic systems, livestock, or wildlife.
- Salts and metals, which can be natural or may result from storm water runoff and farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, or farming.
- Organic chemicals, which originate from industrial processes, gas stations, storm runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive substances, which can be naturally occurring.

The U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA) prescribes limits on these substances in water provided by public water systems.

To ensure that our sources of supply remain protected, the Waterbury Bureau of Water conducts annual Watershed Sanitary Surveys as well as semi-annual Water Quality and Pollution Source Assessments. This information is available by contacting the Waterbury Bureau of Water at 203-574-8251, also the completed

SWAP (Source Water Assessment and Protection) program can be found at:

ct.gov/dph/water/SWAP/community/ct1510011.pdf. The Shepaug and Wigwam Reservoir systems, surface water and the overall susceptibility to potential contamination is “moderate.”

SOURCEWATER PROTECTION

Source water in untreated water from streams, rivers, lakes, or ground aquifers that is used to supply public drinking water. Preventing drinking water contamination at the source makes good public health sense, good economic sense, and good environmental sense. You can be aware of the challenges of keeping drinking water safe and take an active role in protecting drinking water. There are lots of ways that you can get involved in drinking water protection activities to prevent the contamination of the groundwater sources. Dispose properly of household chemicals, help clean up the watershed that is the source of your community’s water and attend public meetings to ensure that the community’s need for safe drinking water is considered in making decisions about land use. For more information on source water protection contact the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at (800) 426-4791 or visit their web site at epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection.

Lead-specific Informational Statement:

In 2024 WSA also completed its initial Lead Service Line Inventory, providing customers with transparency regarding service line materials in our system. This inventory is available online at [watertownct.org/departments/water & sewer](https://watertownct.org/departments/water%20&%20sewer) and serves as a key resource in our commitment to eliminating lead service lines. We are also committed to the stewardship of our water resources — protecting our water sources, land and the environment for current and future generations. What we do here is extremely important, making a real difference in the lives of the people and communities we serve, and critical to protecting public health. 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. WSA 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 WSA at 860-945-5299 or wsa-info@watertownct.org. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Educational Information About Lead & Copper:

The Water and Sewer Authority believes it is important to provide you with information about the sources of lead and copper in drinking water and the health effects associated with them. The primary source of lead

and copper in tap water is corrosion of household plumbing and plumbing that can vary from house to house within the same neighborhood. For information on the levels of lead and copper detected in your drinking water system, please refer to the table in this water quality report.

Health Effects Statement:

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. 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. Connecticut Water 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. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead. Waterbury has a comprehensive corrosion control program, to reduce risk of lead leaching from our customers' service line or internal plumbing. This includes pH monitoring and adjustment. And we fully comply with EPA requirements regarding sampling for lead in drinking water. We provide documentation to the CT Department of Public Health to demonstrate our results.

Major Sources of COPPER in Drinking Water: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

Health Effects Statement: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could, suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor. If you are concerned about elevated lead or copper levels, you may wish to have your water tested.

Running your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before use will significantly reduce the levels of lead and copper in the water. Additional information is available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline website

epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline or at 1-800-426-4791.

For information on the levels of lead and copper detected in your drinking water system, please refer to the table in this water quality report.

Special Considerations:

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/Center of Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

WATER MAIN FLUSHING

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity,

and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen, disinfectant levels, and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household use at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use and avoid using hot water, to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule. Our water main flushing schedule is posted on our website: watertownct.org, departments: water and sewer; and will also be advertised in the newspaper.

CONSERVING WATER INDOORS & OUTDOORS

Conserving water helps to ensure that we have an adequate supply of water for public health and safety and reduces demands on the state's water resources. The typical residential customer uses 15,000 gallons of water per quarter or 60,000 per year. You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using. Conserving can lower your water bill, and depending on the community where you live, may reduce your sewer bill.

SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO TO CONSERVE:

- Check for toilet leaks by putting a drop of food coloring in the tank. If the food coloring seeps into the bowl without flushing, there is a leak. Repair leaking toilets.
- Consider installing a low-flow 1.6 gallon per flush toilet. Do not use toilets as a wastebasket.
- Fix leaking fixtures.
- Run full loads in the dishwasher.
- Set the water level in the washing machine to match the amount of clothes being washed.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Use a bucket rather than a running hose to wash cars.

What is 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 (back siphonage).

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.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS MONITORING RULE (UCMR)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) to collect data for contaminants that are suspected to be present in drinking water and do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWARS). This includes a process that EPA must follow to identify and list Unregulated Contaminants. UCMR 5 for Public Water Systems on 2023-2024 (12 months period-time) includes monitoring for a total of 30 chemical contaminants. There are 10 cyanotoxins (nine cyanotoxins and one cyanotoxin group) and additional contaminants (one metal, eight pesticides plus one pesticide manufacturing byproduct, three brominated halo acetic acid disinfection byproducts groups, three alcohols, and three semi-volatile organic chemicals). The detection of a UCMR 5 contaminant does not represent cause for concern, in and of itself. Reference concentrations are health-based and provide context for the detection of a UCMR contaminant. In fact, they do not represent regulatory limits or action levels and should not be interpreted as an indication that the agency intends to establish a future drinking water regulation. UCMR occurrence data will be used to inform the Agency's Regulatory Determination process. For more information visit:

epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule

PSFAS

For general information on PFAS, visit epa.gov/pfas

According to the EPA, Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s because of their useful properties. There are thousands of different PFAS, some of which have been more widely used and studied than others. One common characteristic of concern of PFAS is that many break down very slowly and can build up in people, animals, and the environment over time. Initial research suggests that exposure to PFAS at elevated levels may be linked to health problems.

WSA relies on the Waterbury Water Department to keep their customers informed on plans to comply with state and federal water quality standards for PFAS as they are developed by our regulators.

Lead Service Line Inventory

At WSA, providing life sustaining, high-quality drinking water is our top priority. As part of our commitment to public health and regulatory compliance, we have completed an initial inventory of service line materials in accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR).

Our inventory is available online at [watertownct.org/departments/water & sewer](https://watertownct.org/departments/water&sewer) and serves as a key resource in our commitment to eliminating lead service lines. This will be available at the Water and Sewer Authority's (WSA) Service Line Inventory Portal, that will be available in the near future on a specific WSA ArcGIS platform for service-line-verification, identifies the material of service lines delivering water to homes and businesses. While WSA does not install lead service lines, some older homes and buildings may have lead or unknown materials on the customer-owned portion of the service line.

What This Means for You..

If your property has a service line categorized as lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or unknown, WSA encourages you to take the following steps:

Review Your Service Line Information: Visit our online inventory to check the material of your service line.

Submit Verification Information: If your service line material is listed as "unknown," you can help improve our records by submitting information through our online portal.

Take Steps to Reduce Lead Exposure: If you have a lead or galvanized service line, you can reduce potential exposure by running your tap for at least 30 seconds to flush stagnant water before use, using a certified lead-removal filter, and regularly cleaning aerators. More information on lead in drinking water and steps to minimize exposure is available at EPA's Lead in Drinking Water website.

Next Steps..

WSA is committed to updating our inventory and working with customers to verify and replace lead service lines. We will continue to monitor water quality and provide updates on our efforts to reduce lead exposure in drinking water.

CITY OF WATERBURY TESTING RESULTS AT TREATMENT PLANT || 2024

Reference: [City of Waterbury 2024 Water Quality Report](#)

PARAMETER					
MICROBIALS	MCL	MCLG	RESULTS	RANGE	SOURCE
TURBIDITY (NTU)	TT = 5 NTU Max Distribution	0		0.10 – 0.28	SOIL RUNOFF Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
			Percentage		
	TT = <0.30 NTU 95% of the time T-Plant Eff.	0	100%	N/A	
TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA	PRESENCE OF COLIFORM BACTERIA IN >5% OF MONTHLY SAMPLES	0	0%	N/A	NATURALLY PRESENT IN THE ENVIRONMENT
TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON (MG/L)	TT	N/A	1.46	1.32 – 1.81	NATURALLY PRESENT IN THE ENVIRONMENT
INORGANIC COMPOUNDS 1	A/L	90 th Percentile	Highest Level Detected		SOURCE
LEAD*1 (PPB) (2022)	15	2	6 53 Sites Tested (Number of sites above AL = 0)		CORROSION OF HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING SYSTEMS; EROSION OF NATURAL DEPOSITS
COPPER*1 (PPM) (2022)	1.3	0.18	0.41 53 Sites Tested (Number of sites above AL = 0)		CORROSION OF HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING SYSTEMS; EROSION OF NATURAL DEPOSITS
INORGANIC COMPOUNDS 2	RL	MAX level	MCLG(mg/L)	MCL(mg/L)	SOURCE
NITRATE / NITRITE (PPM)	N/A	N/A	--	--	RUNOFF FROM FERTILIZER USE; EROSION OF NATURAL DEPOSITS
NITRATE as N	0.05	0.006	1	1	
NITRITE as N	0.002	0.004	1	1	
SULFATE (PPM)	2.5	17.0	SDWR 250		
FLUORIDE (PPM)	0.1	0.65	SDWR 2		WATER ADDITIVE WHICH PROMOTES STRONG TEETH
ORGANIC COMPOUNDS	RANGE DETECTED	Average	MCL	MCLG	SOURCE
TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHM) (PPB)	10 – 50	30	80	0	BY PRODUCT OF DRINKING WATER CHLORINATION
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACID (THAA) (PPB)	20 – 40	30	60	N/A	
RADIOCHEMICAL *1	RANGE	HIGHEST	MCL	MCLG	SOURCE
GROSS ALPHA (α)*1(PCI/L)	3	ND	15 (MRMEM/Y)*	0	DECAY OF NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DEPOSITS
RADIUM 226 + 228 *1	1	ND	5 (PCI/L)	0	

Analyte	MRL	UNIT	RL	Action Level CT Drinking Water
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	ND	(µg/L)	2.0	10
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	ND	(µg/L)	2.0	12
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	ND	(µg/L)	2.0	16
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)	ND	(µg/L)	2.0	49
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	ND	(µg/L)	2.0	240
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	ND	(µg/L)	2.0	760
Lithium, total	ND	(µg/L)	2.0	NA

TOWN OF WATERTOWN WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY WATER TESTING RESULTS || 2024

Inorganic	MCL	MCLG	Highest Detected Level (90 th Percentile)	Range of Detection	Met Drinking Water Standards	Typical Source
Copper (PPM) Tested in 2024	AL 1.3	AL 1.3	0.19 (90 th Percentile)	0.04 – 0.19	Yes	Corrosion of Household plumbing system
Lead (PPB) Tested in 2024	AL 15	0.00	0.00 (90 th Percentile)	0.00 – 0.01	Yes	Corrosion of Household plumbing system
Microbiological						
Total Coliform Bacteria	More than 1	0.00	Absent	Absent	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Organic						
TTHMs (PPB) Total Trihalomethanes	80	0.00	60.07 Average	30.90 – 116.8	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAAs (PPB) Haloacetic Acids	60	NA	43.36 Average	30.30 – 58.00	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	MR DL 4	MRDLG 4	1.04 Highest Detected	0.30 – 1.70	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes

TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AL = Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

LRAA = Locational Running Annual Average: Average of four quarterly results used to evaluate compliance.

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfection 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. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

mREM/yr = Millirems per year: A measurement of radiation absorbed by the body.

NL = Notification Level: There is no MCL for sodium, however, the Connecticut DPH requires customers to be notified if sodium exceeds 28 ppm.

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit: A measure of water clarity.

ppm = Parts per million, or milligrams per liter, mg/l

ppb or ug/L = Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ug/l

pCi/l = Picocuries per liter: A unit of measure of radioactivity.

TT = Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

N/A = Not Applicable

N/R = Not Regulated

mg/L = Milligrams per liter

ND = Non-Detectable

MRL = Minimum Reporting Level

* The State of Connecticut measures for the Radiochemical Gross Beta in Picocuries Per Liter (pCi/L), the federal measurement is in millirems per year (MREM/YR).

* 1 Last data available.

** The State of Connecticut measures for the Radiochemical NET Gross ALPHA in Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L), the Federal measurement is in millirems per year (mrem/yr)

* 2 The State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health, requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

* 3 The State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health, requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water.

Please call The Water & Sewer Authority at 860-945-5299, or email wsa-info@watertownct.org

Town of Watertown, Water & Sewer Authority, 747 French Street, Oakville, CT 06779



TOWN OF WATERTOWN Water and Sewer Authority 2024 Water Quality Report

PWS ID#: CT1530021