



Water Quality Report

March 2023 - March 2024

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To Our Valued Customers

This report represents an Annual Consumer Confidence Report that we are required to provide to our customers regarding the quality of your water. We hope that through this process we may help you better understand your water system and the quality of water that we provide to our customers.

We will continue our efforts to ensure and to inform you of our results through this annual water quality report. As of November 2000 Portland became interconnected with the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC). This interconnection allows filtered water to flow into Portland's pipes and is mixed with our Glastonbury Turnpike Well water.



The Portland Water Division encourages public participation and input into decisions that may affect the quality of the water. Meetings of the Water & Sewer Commission are scheduled the second Monday of the month (except holidays) at the Buck Foreman center at 265 Main St.

Meetings are normally scheduled to start at 7:00 PM. Meeting agendas and minutes are available at the Town Clerk's office in the Town Hall or on the Portland website at www.portlandct.org.

Health Effects Information

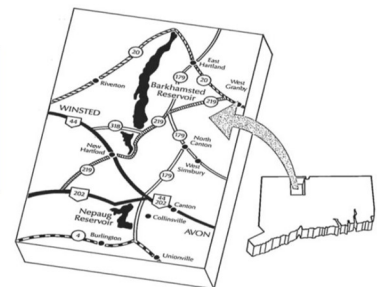
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and the Center of Disease Control (CDC) also offers guidelines as well as the Safe Drinking Water Hot-

Water Sources

The Water Sources for Portland's water system are located at the Barkhamsted Reservoir located in New Hartford and the Nepaug Reservoir located in Collinsville which are utilized by the MDC along with the Well located on Glastonbury Turnpike in Portland.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>% Supply</u>
MDC Water System		Surface	70+-
Well Glastonbury Turnpike		Groundwater	30+-

A Source Water Assessment Program is part of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, which requires the State Department of Public Health to perform assessments of all public drinking water sources. A source water assessment has been completed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health for our Glastonbury Turnpike Well. The report may be reviewed in the Public Works Office. The results of Source Water Assessment Report indicates that our well has a low environmental sensitivity susceptibility rating, a moderate potential risk factor susceptibility rating and a high source protection needs susceptibility rating.



Water Quality Monitoring



“For many of us, water simply flows from a faucet and we think little about it beyond this point of contact. We have lost a sense of respect for the wild river, for the complex workings of a wetland, for the intricate web of life that water supports.”

*- Daniel Webster,
(1782-1852)
remarks in the US
Senate, March 12,
1838*

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 animal or human activity. Treatment processes such as filtration and chlorination, minimize the levels of dissolved minerals and other foreign materials.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include **microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from 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: **pesticides and herbicides**, which come from sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses: **organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes, petroleum production, gas station, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations, which limit the concentrations of certain contaminants and requirements for monitoring of water provided by public water systems.

Each year the Portland Water Supply Division performs approximately 2,500 water quality analysis for approximately

90 possible contaminants in order to verify the safety and quality of your drinking water. MDC performs over 100,000 physical, chemical and bacteriological tests. These analysis include samples collected from our “raw” water sources and “finished” water within both distribution systems and are performed on a daily basis and verified by a certified laboratory weekly.

In addition to the required testing, we are also taking a proactive approach to assuring a safe drinking water supply for the future. This is assured by monitoring for a variety of regulated contaminants in addition to those required by the State and Federal government. Other programs administrated by Portland Water Division to protect water quality include Level A Mapping, aquifer inspections and a vigorous cross-connection inspection and testing program.

Water Supply Source Protection

Source water is untreated water from streams, rivers, lakes, or underground 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 source.

Proper disposal of household chemicals, volunteering to clean up watershed areas & attending public meetings assists in observing & communicating issues to help keep the water safe. Contact Portland Public Works (860-342-6733) for more information on source water protection or contact the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at 1-800-426-4791. For more ways to help & further information you can visit EPA’s website: <https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection>



Lead & Copper Information



Do you have lead pipes or lead fixtures in your home? This information may help you.

How Lead & Copper Gets into the Water:

Lead & Copper can enter drinking water when plumbing materials that contain lead or copper corrode. The most common source of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, faucets, and fixtures. In homes with lead pipes that connect the home to the water main, also known as lead service lines, these pipes are typically the most significant source of lead in the water. Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older homes built before 1986. Among homes without lead service lines, the most common problem is with brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and plumbing with lead solder.

Health Effects of Lead and Copper:

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years can develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Lead in drinking water is

primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

Copper can also cause serious health issues. People who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level could experience gastrointestinal distress and over a long period of time could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Portland Water Department Piping Information:

The Portland Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and performs the necessary testing to ensure lead & copper are below maximum contaminant levels in the water system. 2022-2023 results are listed in the water treatment testing section which were not detectable.

However, the Portland Water Department cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components on the service line to your home and in your home.

Homeowners share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility

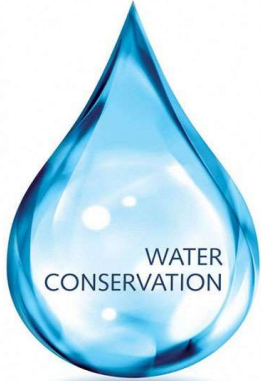
by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk.

Other steps to take to minimize the health 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 find information about what material your service pipes are or having your water tested, contact the Portland Public Works Department at 860-342-6733. Lead water testing kits are available online and in local hardware stores. For other information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure, please visit the EPA website below.

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Water Conservation



Water is the most precious resource. Please be mindful of your water use to help conserve this resource.

Water Conservation

Water is a resource that is limited, especially in the dryer summer months. It is critical that all consumers work together to conserve. Here are some tips to help out:

1. Check your house for any leaks periodically.
2. Keep water taps closed when not in use.
3. Collect and use rainwater for gardening or other outdoor use.
4. Take shorter showers. An 8 minute shower uses between 35-50 gallons of water.
5. When doing laundry, adjust water levels for the load size.
6. If replacing a toilet, purchase a dual flush toilet to have a half flush for liquid waste vs. full flush for solid waste.
7. Water lawns and plants in the early morning or in the evening to avoid evaporation.
8. Reduce evaporation by mulching around plants and gardens to help hold the moisture and reduce the need to water.
9. When watering the lawn set a timer as a reminder to turn it off.
10. Practice car washing in your lawn as grasses can get water .

There are many different ways to conserve water, please be more mindful of any overuse and waste.

