

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## The North Caldwell Water Department

### Report for the Year 2022, Results from the Year 2021

Following is this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day.

The North Caldwell Water Department and our suppliers routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables show the results of that monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants does not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

**If you are a landlord, you must distribute this Drinking Water Quality Report to every tenant as soon as practicable, but no later than three business days after receipt. Delivery must be done by hand, mail, or email, and by posting the information in a prominent location at the entrance of each rental premises, pursuant to section #3 of NJ P.L. 2021, c.82 (C.58:12A-12.4 et seq.).**

**Our water supply:** In 2021 we purchased our drinking water from the Borough of Essex Fells Water Utility, the Passaic Valley Water Commission and the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission. Essex Fells uses seventeen wells which draw groundwater from the Watchung Basalt, Brunswick Shale, and Stratified Glacial Drift. The wells range in depth from 94 to 566 feet and provide the majority of the drinking water throughout the year. During times of peak demand, they sometimes purchase water from New Jersey American Water. Water Quality test results for the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, the Passaic Valley Water Commission and New Jersey American Water are included in this report. Supply sources are the Passaic River, and the Wanaque and Monksville Reservoir. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Reports and Summaries for these public water systems, which are available at [WWW.state.nj.us/dep/swap](http://WWW.state.nj.us/dep/swap) or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. You may also contact your public water system at 973-228-6414. These water systems source water susceptibility ratings and a list of potential contaminant sources is included.

**Vulnerable populations:** 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Special considerations regarding children, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and others:** Children may receive a slightly higher amount of a contaminant present in the water than do adults, on a body weight basis, because they may drink a greater amount of water per pound of body weight than do adults. For this reason, reproductive or developmental effects are used for calculating a drinking water standard if these effects occur at lower levels than other health effects of concern. If there is insufficient toxicity information for a chemical (for example, lack of data on reproductive or developmental effects), an extra uncertainty factor may be incorporated into the calculation of the drinking water standard, thus making the standard more stringent, to account for additional uncertainties regarding these effects. In the cases of lead and nitrate, effects on infants and children are the health endpoints upon which the standards are based.

North Caldwell Water Department - 2021 Test Results PWS ID# NJ0715001						
Contaminant	Violati on Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganics:</b>						
Copper Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Test results Yr. 2020	N	0.17 No samples exceeded the action level.	Ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead Result at the 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Test results Yr. 2020	N	3.1 No samples exceeded the action level.	Ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection By-Products:</b>						
TTHM Total trihalomethanes	N	Range = 25 - 65 Highest LRAA= 44	Ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
(HAA5) Total Haloacetic Acids	N	Range = 12 - 5 Highest LRAA = 26	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Regulated Disinfectants	Level Detected	MRDL	MRDLG
Chlorine	Range = 0.2 – 0.3 ppm Average = 0.3 ppm	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm

**Chlorine:** Water additive used to control microbes.

HAA5 and TTHM compliance is based on the Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA), calculated at each monitoring location. The LRAA calculation is based on four completed quarters of monitoring results.

**For additional information:** If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please call Michael Grasso at 973-228-6414. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Borough Council meetings at Borough Hall on Gould Avenue. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 8:00 p.m.

Essex Fells Water Utility - 2021 Test Results PWS ID #NJ0706001						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MC LG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants:</b>						
Barium	N	Range = 0.01 – 0.05 Highest detect = 0.05	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	N	Range: 0.74 – 2.58 Highest Level = 2.58	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Copper Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	N	0.184 No samples exceeded the action level.	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	N	ND No samples exceeded the action level.	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	N	Range = 1.29 – 3.95 Highest detect = 3.95	ppb	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	Range: 1.72 – 3.32 Highest detect = 3.32	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	N	Range = ND – 1.95 Highest detect = 1.95	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
<b>PFAS Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances:</b>						
PFNA Perfluorononanoic Acid	N	Range = ND – 0.93 Highest detect = 0.93	ppt	N/A	13	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
PFOA Perfluorooctane Acid	Y	Range = 8 - 31 Highest detect = 31 Highest Average = 29	ppt	N/A	14	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers
PFOS Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid	N	Range = 3 – 6 Highest detect = 6 Highest Average = 5	ppt	N/A	13	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers
<b>Disinfection By-Products:</b>						
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids	N	Range = ND - 2 Highest LRAA = 1	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes	N	Range = ND – 13 Highest LRAA = 9	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Radioactive Contaminants:</b>						
Gross Alpha Test results Yr. 2015	N	Range = ND – 4.4 Highest detect = 4.4	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Regulated Disinfectants</b>		<b>Level Detected</b>		<b>MRDL</b>		<b>MRDLG</b>
Chlorine		Range = 0.4 – 1.0 ppm Average = 0.7 ppm		4.0 ppm		4.0 ppm

**Chlorine:** Water additive used to control microbes.

For Total Halocetic Acids (HAA5s) and Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs), which are disinfection byproducts, compliance is based on a Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA), calculated at each monitoring location. The LRAA calculation is based on four completed quarters of monitoring results.

The Essex Fells Water Utility exceeded the MCL for (PFOA) Perfluorooctane Acid in 2021, of which you have been notified. They are working with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to resolve this issue. The length of the Violation was 7/1/2021 – 12/31/21.

\*Some people who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their blood serum cholesterol levels, liver, kidney, immune system, or, in males, reproductive system. Drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years may also increase the risk of testicular and kidney cancer. For females, drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years may cause developmental delays in a fetus and/or an infant \*

#### What are PFOA and PFOS?

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), previously referred to as perfluorinated compounds, or PFCs, that are man-made and used in industrial and commercial applications. PFOA was used as a processing aid in the manufacture of fluoropolymers used in non-stick cookware and other products, as well as other commercial and industrial uses based on its resistance to harsh chemicals and high temperatures. PFOS is used in metal plating and finishing as well as in various commercial products. PFOS was previously used as a major ingredient in aqueous film forming foams for firefighting and training, and PFOA and PFOS are found in consumer products such as stain resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water resistant outdoor clothing, and grease proof food packaging. Although the use of PFOA and PFOS has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because these substances are extremely persistent in the environment and are soluble and mobile in water. More information can be found at:

[https://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/docs/2019-4-15-FAQs\\_PFOA-PFOA-websites-OLA%204-24-19SDM-\(003\).pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/docs/2019-4-15-FAQs_PFOA-PFOA-websites-OLA%204-24-19SDM-(003).pdf)

**DEFINITIONS:**

In the "Test Results" tables you may find some terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant.

**Parts per million (ppm)** or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb)** or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Organic Compounds** - Chemicals associated with carbon or living matter.

**Action Level** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level** - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal** - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

**Secondary Contaminant** - Substances that do not have an impact on health. Secondary Contaminants affect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.

**Recommended Upper Limit (RUL)** - Recommended maximum concentration of secondary contaminants. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. RUL's are recommendations, not mandates.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)**: 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)**: 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 contamination

**Total Organic Carbon** - Total Organ Carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. The *Treatment Technique* for TOC requires that 35% - 45% of the TOC in the raw water is removed through the treatment processes.

**Turbidity** - Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium microbial growth. Turbidity is measured as an indication of the effectiveness of the filtration process. The *Treatment Technique* for turbidity requires that no individual sample exceeds 1 NTU and 95% of the samples collected during the month must be less than 0.3 NTU.

New Jersey American Water – Short Hills System is a public community water system consisting of 25 wells, 4 surface water intakes, 12 purchased ground water sources, 3 purchased surface water sources. Source water comes from the following aquifers and / or surface water bodies: Passaic River, Brunswick Aquifer System, and Canoe Brook

New Jersey American Water – Short Hills System - 2021 Test Results PWS ID # NJ0712001						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MC LG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants:</b>						
Total Organic Carbon	N	Range = 51 – 72% (35 – 45% Required)	ppm	N/A	TT % of removal	Naturally present in the environment.
Turbidity	N	Range = 0.03 – 0.36 95% samples < 0.3	NTU	0	TT = % of samples < 0.3	Soil runoff
<b>Inorganic Contaminants:</b>						
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	Range = ND – 0.4 Highest detect = 0.4	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Microbiological Contaminants:</b>						
Total coliform Bacteria	N	Range = ND – 1.5% Highest Detect = 1.5%	N/A	0	5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Radioactive Contaminants:</b>						
Gross Alpha Test results Yr. 2018	N	Range = ND – 13.1 Highest detect = 13.1	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium 228 & 226 Test results Yr. 2018	N	Range = ND – 3.19 Highest detect = 3.19	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>PFAS Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances:</b>						
PFOA Perfluorooctane Acid	N	Range = ND - 8 Highest detect = 8	ppt	N/A	14	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers
PFOS Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid	N	Range = ND - 3 Highest detect = 3	ppt	N/A	13	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers
<b>Regulated Disinfectants:</b>		<b>Level Detected</b>		<b>MRDL</b>		<b>MRDLG</b>
<b>Chlorine:</b> Water additive used to control microbes.		Range = 0.7 – 1.0 ppm Average = 1.0 ppm		4.0 ppm		4.0 ppm

New Jersey American Water conducts annual sampling to determine the radon levels in all sources of our water supply. Our water showed radon levels ranging from non-detectable to 1059 pCi/l in the Short Hills System. The EPA is developing regulations to reduce Radon in drinking water. Radon in the air is inexpensive to test and easy to remediate. For Additional information, call the EPA's Radon Hotline at 1-800-SOS-Radon. Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally in some groundwater.

North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJWSC) 2021 Test Results PWS ID #NJ1613001						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
Turbidity	N	Highest Measurement 0.5 Range = 0.01 – 0.5 99.99 % < 0.3	NTU	0	TT 0.3 NTU % Of the NTU	Soil runoff
Total Organic Carbon (%)	N	Removal Ratio 0.9 – 1.4 RAA = 1.1	%	NA	TT = % removal	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganic Contaminants:</b>						
Barium	N	0.0095	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	0.26	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Passaic Valley Water Commission 2021 Test Results PWS ID# NJ1605002						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants:</b>						
Turbidity	N	Highest Measurement = 0.275 Range = 0.029 – 0.275 100 % samples < 0.3	NTU	0	TT = % of monthly samples < 0.3 NTU	Soil runoff
Total Organic Carbon (%)	N	Range = 51 - 82 100 % (25 – 50 % required)		NA	TT = % removal	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganic Contaminants:</b>						
Barium	N	Range = 0.014 – 0.023 Highest detect = 0.023	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	Range = 0.51 – 1.68 Highest detect = 1.68	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	N	Range = 1.48 – 2.80 Highest detect = 2.80	ppb	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection Byproducts:</b>						
Bromate	N	Range = ND – 16.7 Highest detect = 16.7 Highest RAA = 0.94	ppb	N/A	10	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>PFAS Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances:</b>						
PFOA Perfluorooctane Acid	N	Range = 5.5 – 11.0 Highest detect = 11.0 Highest Average = 7.9	ppt	N/A	14	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers
PFOS Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid	N	Range = 3.4 – 6.6 Highest detect = 6.6 Highest Average = 4.9	ppt	N/A	13	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers
<b>Secondary Contaminant</b>		<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Units of Measurement</b>			<b>RUL</b>
Sodium		Range = 42 - 97	ppm			50

The Passaic Valley Water Commission exceeded the Recommended Upper Limit for sodium. For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important, because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

**Cryptosporidium** is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the United States. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at a greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. New Jersey American Water conducted a study of their water supply to determine the amount of *Cryptosporidium* in untreated raw source water. *Cryptosporidium* range of detections = ND – 0.182

#### SOURCE WATER PATHOGEN MONITORING

Contaminant	PVWC Plant Intake	Typical Source
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> , Oocysts/L	Range = 0.0 – 0.09	Microbial pathogens found in surface waters throughout the United States.
<i>Giardia</i> , Cysts/L	Range = 0.0 – 0.83	

Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) is a major supplier of drinking water in Northern New Jersey. PVWC's main facility is the Little Falls Water Treatment Plant located in Totowa, NJ. Water diverted from the Passaic and Pompton Rivers is treated, filtered and disinfected at the plant. Treated water is then mixed with treated water from the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission's Wanaque Reservoir treatment plant.

#### Essex Fells Water Department - PWSID # NJ0706001

Essex Fells Water Department is a public community water system consisting of 17 wells

This system can purchase water from the following water systems: Twp. Of Verona, New Jersey American Water – Short Hills System

#### Susceptibility Ratings for Essex Fells Water Department Sources

The table below illustrates the susceptibility ratings for the seven contaminant categories (and radon) for each source in the system. The table provides the number of wells and intakes that rated high (H), medium (M), or low (L) for each contaminant category. For susceptibility ratings of purchased water, refer to the specific water system's source water assessment report.

The seven contaminant categories are defined at the bottom of this page. DEP considered all surface water highly susceptible to pathogens, therefore all intakes received a high rating for the pathogen category. For the purpose of Source Water Assessment Program, radionuclides are more of a concern for ground water than surface water. As a result, surface water intakes' susceptibility to radionuclides was not determined and they all received a low rating.

**If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water.** The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. As a result of the assessments, DEP may customize (change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings.

	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radionuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproduct Precursors		
Sources	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
Wells - 17		11	6	8	9			3	14	17			4	11	2	3	14		17			4	13	

**Pathogens:** Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria and viruses. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes.

**Nutrients:** Compounds, minerals and elements that aid growth, that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.

**Volatile Organic Compounds:** Man-made chemicals used as solvents, degreasers, and gasoline components. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.

**Pesticides:** Man-made chemicals used to control pests, weeds and fungus. Common sources include land application and manufacturing centers of pesticides. Examples include herbicides such as atrazine, and insecticides such as chlordane.

**Inorganics:** Mineral-based compounds that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include arsenic, asbestos, copper, lead, and nitrate.

**Radionuclides:** Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include radium and uranium.

**Radon:** Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment. For more information go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rpp/radon/index.htm> or call (800) 648-0394.

**Disinfection Byproduct Precursors:** A common source is naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Disinfection byproducts are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.

## PVWC & NJDWSC SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS

NJDEP has prepared Source Water Assessment reports and summaries for all public water systems. The Source Water Assessment for the PVWC system (PWS ID 1605002), and NJDWSC system (PWS ID 1613001) can be obtained by accessing NJDEP's source water assessment web site at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/index.html> or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550. If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contamination category, it does not mean a customer is – or will be – consuming contaminated water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of a source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any of those contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. The source water assessments performed on the intakes for each system list the following susceptibility ratings for a variety of contaminants that may be present in source waters:

Intake Susceptibility Ratings	Pathogens	Nutrients	Pesticides	Volatile Organic Compounds	Inorganic Contaminants	Radionuclides	Radon	Disinfection Byproduct Precursors
PVWC 4 Surface Water	4-High	4-High	1-Medium 3-Low	4-Medium	4-High	4-Low	4-Low	4-High
NJDWSC 5 Surface Water	5-High	5-High	2-Medium 3-Low	5-Medium	5-High	5-Low	5-Low	5-High

**Potential sources of contamination:** 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas projection, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring 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. Food and Drug Administration 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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

## Sources of Lead in Drinking Water

The North Caldwell Water Department, the Essex Fells Water Department, the Passaic Valley Water Commission and the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission are responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. Although most lead exposure occurs from inhaling dust or from contaminated soil, or when children eat paint chips, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from lead in drinking water. Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40 percent to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water. Lead is rarely found in the source of your drinking water but enters tap water through corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing materials. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipes, brass, and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, service lines made of or lined with lead. New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free", may still contain a small percentage of lead, and contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free". However, prior to January 4, 2014, "lead free" allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified. Visit the NSF website at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions. When water stands in lead service lines, lead pipes, or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon if the water has not been used all day, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

## Steps You Can Take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water

For a full list of steps visit: <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-consumer.html>

**Run the cold water to flush out lead.** Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer the water resides in plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet. Let the water run from the cold-water tap based on the length of the lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home. In other words, the larger the home or building and the greater the distance to the water main (in the street), the more water it will take to flush properly. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one gallon of water.

**Use cold, flushed water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Because lead from lead-containing plumbing materials and pipes can dissolve into hot water more easily than cold water, never drink, cook, or prepare beverages including baby formula using hot water from the tap. If you have not had your water sampled or if you know, it is recommended that bottled or filtered water be used for drinking and preparing baby formula. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.

**Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead; however, it is still safe to wash dishes and do laundry. Lead will not soak into dishware or most clothes.

**Use alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) for information on performance standards for water filters.

**Determine if you have interior lead plumbing or solder.** If your home/building was constructed prior to 1987, it is important to determine if interior lead solder or lead pipes are present. You can check yourself, hire a licensed plumber, or check with your landlord.

**Replace plumbing fixtures and service lines containing lead.** Replace brass faucets, fittings, and valves that do not meet the current definition of “lead free” from 2014 (as explained above). Visit the NSF website at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

**Remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures.** Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.

**Test your water for lead.** Please call 973-228-6414 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water.

**Get your child tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure. New Jersey law requires that children be tested for lead in their blood at both 1 and 2 years of age and before they are 6 years old if they have never been tested before or if they have been exposed to a known source of lead.

**Have an electrician check your wiring.** If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electrical code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. DO NOT attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.

**Water softeners and reverse osmosis units** will remove lead from water but can also make the water more corrosive to lead solder and plumbing by removing certain minerals; therefore, the installation of these treatment units at the point of entry into homes with lead plumbing should only be done under supervision of a qualified water treatment professional.

### **Health Effects of Lead**

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure. You can find out more about how to get your child tested and how to pay for it at

<https://www.state.nj.us/health/childhoodlead/testing.shtml>.

**In July 2021, P.L.2021, Ch.183 (Law) was enacted, requiring all community water systems to replace lead service lines in their service area within 10 years. Under the law, the North Caldwell Water Department is required to notify customers, non-paying consumers, and any off-site owner of a property (e.g., landlord) when it is known they are served by a lead service line\*. Our service line inventory is available upon request.**

### **Consumer Confidence Report:**

Public community water systems must comply with the Consumer Confidence Rule, which requires community water systems to prepare a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) annually containing the previous year's drinking water monitoring data, and post to both their residents and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) by July 1<sup>st</sup> and CCR Certification Form to NJDEP by October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. For the Year 2021 we inadvertently submitted this water system's CCR late to NJDEP.