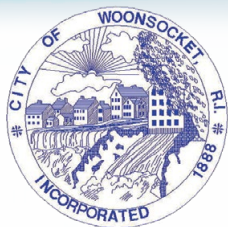


ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2021



Presented By
Woonsocket Water Division

We've Come a Long Way

Once again, we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering the period between January 1 and December 31, 2021. In a matter of only a few decades, drinking water has become exponentially safer and more reliable than at any other point in human history. Our exceptional staff continues to work hard every day—at all hours—to deliver the highest-quality drinking water without interruption. Although the challenges ahead are many, we feel that by relentlessly investing in customer outreach and education, new treatment technologies, system upgrades, and training, the payoff will be reliable, high-quality tap water delivered to you and your family.

Testing For *Cryptosporidium*

Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immunocompromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immunocompromised 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. Woonsocket Water Division's 2017 testing of 25 monthly samples of raw water resulted in 24 negative samples and one positive sample with test results showing 1 oocyst/count or 0.100 oocyst/L, indicating Bin Classification - 1; requires no additional treatment. We are pleased to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements.

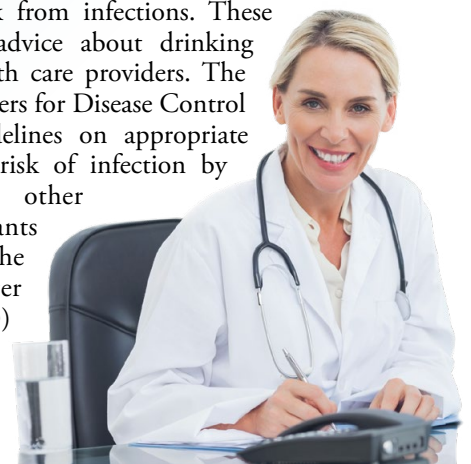


Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Important Health 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



Public Meetings

For public comment on an ongoing basis, customers can contact the office of Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt or attend the Woonsocket City Council Meetings. The Council holds hearings on budget and other financial matters, approves contracts, and considers ordinances that create or amend local laws. Some of these matters affect the operation of the Woonsocket Water Division. The council meets on the first and third Monday of every month at 7:00 pm in Harris Hall in City Hall, 169 Main Street, Woonsocket, RI. The meetings are televised live on Cox Cable Channel 17 and Verizon FIOS Channel 22. Public comment is welcome.

QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Marc Viggiani, Water Division Superintendent, at (401) 767-1411 or visit our website at www.woonsocketri.org.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Woonsocket Water Division uses surface water from the Crookfall Brook and Harris Pond watersheds. The Crookfall Brook watershed extends over approximately 7.93 square miles. It is a protected, high quality, and primary source of supply for the Woonsocket Treatment Plant. Harris Pond has a watershed area of approximately 33.3 square miles. This source is used as a supplemental source as needed. Woonsocket Water maintains an active watershed protection program and closely monitors the watershed lands to protect water quality.

Source Water Assessment

The RI Department of Health, in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, has assessed the threats to Woonsocket's water supply sources. The assessment considered the intensity of development, the presence of businesses and facilities that use, store, or generate potential contaminants, the ease with which contaminants can move through the soils in the Source Water Protection Area (SWPA), and the sampling history of the water.

Our monitoring program continues to ensure that the water delivered to your home is safe and wholesome. However, the assessment found that the water source is at moderate risk of contamination. This means that the water could one day become contaminated. Protection efforts are necessary to ensure continued water quality. The complete Source Water Assessment Report is available from Woonsocket Water Division at (401) 767-1411, or from HEALTH at (401) 222-6867.

How Is My Water Treated and Purified?

The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from our water source into the treatment plant. Chemicals are added to initiate the next process, called Coagulation and Flocculation, which combines unwanted substances with the added chemicals, creating small particles. This is followed by Clarification, during which these small particles are floated to the top with Dissolved Air Flotation and skimmed from the top of the basin. The clear supernatant is then filtered through a carbon filter that removes the smaller suspended particles. After filtration, the water undergoes disinfection, fluoride addition (to prevent tooth decay), corrosion inhibitor addition, and pH adjustment before it is pumped out into the distribution system.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. And, the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results detected and not detected is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The State recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium ¹ (ppm)	2021	2	2	0.043	0.010–0.043	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Benzo(a)pyrene [PAH] ¹ (ppt)	2021	200	0	200	ND–200	No	Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	2021	[800]	[800]	17	ND–17	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine (ppm)	2021	[4]	[4]	0.51	ND–1.64	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)	2021	1	0.8	0.56	ND–0.56	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chromium ¹ (ppb)	2021	100	100	1.0	ND–1.0	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2021	4	4	1.19	0.10–1.19	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2021	60	NA	28.8	8.6–28.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate ¹ (ppm)	2021	10	10	0.630	0.060–0.630	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2021	80	NA	70.0	23.0–70.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliform Bacteria (Positive samples)	2021	TT	NA	3	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon ² (removal ratio)	2021	TT	NA	1.70	1.38–2.04	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity ³ (NTU)	2021	TT	NA	1.694	0.018–1.694	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2021	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	99.30%	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2021	1.3	1.3	0.046	0/60	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2021	15	0	5.6	3/60	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2021	200	NA	19	ND–79	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residual from some surface water treatment processes
Manganese (ppb)	2021	50	NA	43	ND–117	No	Leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (PFHxS) ¹ (ppt)	2019	1.51	ND–4.55	Foam for firefighting
Perfluorooctanesulfonate Acid (PFOS) ⁴ (ppt)	2019	4.80	ND–6.93	Industrial facility where PFAS were produced or used to manufacture; Foam used for fire fighting
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) ⁴ (ppt)	2019	3.75	ND–5.97	Industrial facility where PFAS were produced or used to manufacture; Foam used for fire fighting
Sodium (ppm)	2021	77.47	52.20–104.00	Naturally found in plants, soil, and sodium compounds used for deicing roads

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE - PART 4 (UCMR4)

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromide ¹ (ppb)	2019	21.1	ND–32.5	Naturally occurring in environment; Discharge from fossil fuel power plants
HAA5 (ppb)	2019	22.043	16.24–30.25	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA6Br (ppb)	2019	9.373	6.238–12.041	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA9 (ppb)	2019	30.195	22.478–40.540	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Manganese ¹ (ppb)	2019	77.2	33.7–109.0	Naturally occurring in environment
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] ¹ (ppb)	2019	5290.0	3110.0–7150.0	Naturally present in the environment

¹ Raw untreated surface water sampling

² The value reported under amount detected for TOC is the ratio between percentage of TOC actually removed to TOC required to be removed. A value greater one (1) indicates the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than one (1) indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

³ Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

⁴ Raw untreated surface water sampling and first entry into the distribution system sampling.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NA: Not applicable

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

Removal ratio: A ratio of the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

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

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