A dynamic, high-speed photograph of water splashing, creating numerous droplets and a large, turbulent splash on the right side. The background is a clear, light blue gradient. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2021

*Presented By*  
Hatfield Water Department



## 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.

## 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 two 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](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. According to the SWAP, our water system had a susceptibility rating of high. If you would like to review the SWAP report, please feel free to contact our office during regular business hours.

## Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. The selectmen normally meet every other Tuesday evening at Town Hall. For meeting schedules and locations, call (413) 247-0481 or visit [www.townofhatfield.org](http://www.townofhatfield.org). We welcome your participation.

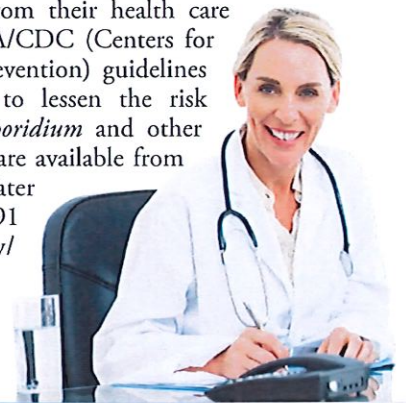
## Where Does My Water Come From?

The Town of Hatfield Water Department customers are fortunate because we enjoy an abundant water supply from three sources. The town's primary drinking water supply is surface water, which the water treatment plant draws from the Running Gutter Brook Reservoir (DEP ID# 1127000-01S). The reservoir holds about 1.6 million gallons of water. This facility filters the water and disinfects it with chlorine before it enters the distribution system. The other sources are the West Hatfield (DEP ID# 1127000-01G) and Omasta (DEP ID# 1127000-02G) groundwater wells. In fact, groundwater is the safest and highest-quality water available. These well sources are not treated in any manner at this time due to their high quality.

“  
When the well is dry, we  
know the worth of water.  
—Benjamin Franklin  
”

## 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>.



**QUESTIONS?** For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Tony Lastowski, Water Department Superintendent, at (413) 345-0345.



## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) prescribe regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) 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 and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up 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 which 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.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

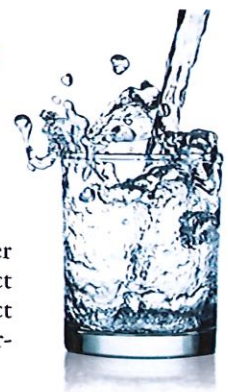
- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>.



### Water Treatment Process

The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from our water source and pumped into two sand filter tanks. The sand filters out sedimentation that is common in surface water supply. After filtering, chlorine is added to disinfect the water, which is stored in a contact tank until it is pumped to the main storage tank and customers.





## 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 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 (ppm)	2021	2	2	0.0187	ND-0.0187	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits			
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]-Stage 1 <sup>1</sup> (ppb)	2021	60	NA	47	ND-47	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection			
Nitrate (ppm)	2021	10	10	1.35	0.281-1.35	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits			
TTTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]-Stage 1 (ppb)	2021	80	NA	48.3	16.9-48.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection			
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			
Lead (ppb)	2021	15	0	2.2	0/10	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits			

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES										
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE			
Copper (ppm)	2021	1.0	NA	0.524	ND-0.524	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits			
Manganese <sup>2</sup> (ppb)	2021	50	NA	183	ND-183	No	Leaching from natural deposits			
pH (units)	2021	6.5-8.5	NA	8.28	7.07-8.28	No	Naturally occurring			
Sulfate (ppm)	2021	250	NA	13.8	ND-13.8	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes			

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES <sup>3</sup>										
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE						
Bromochloromethane (ppb)	2021	5.8	2.6-5.8	By-product of drinking water disinfection						
Chloroform (ppb)	2021	42	14.3-42	By-product of drinking water disinfection						
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS] <sup>4</sup> (ppt)	2021	5.1	ND-5.1	Stain-resistant coatings						
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppt)	2021	16	ND-16	Stain-resistant finish on furniture and carpets						
Sodium (ppm)	2021	2.37	ND-2.37	Naturally occurring						

<sup>1</sup> Caused by high organic loading due to rain.

<sup>2</sup> Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in rocks, soil, groundwater, and surface water. Manganese is necessary for proper nutrition and part of a healthy diet, but it can have undesirable effects on certain sensitive populations at elevated concentrations. U.S. EPA and MADEP have established public health advisory levels for manganese to protect against concerns of potential neurological effects.

<sup>3</sup> Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist U.S. EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

<sup>4</sup> MADEP's Office of Research & Standards has issued a guidance value of 2,000 ppt.



## Definitions

**90th %ile:** Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. This number is compared to the Action Level to determine lead and copper compliance.

**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.

**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).

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

## What's a Cross-connection?

**C**ross-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 (backsiphonage).

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.

