

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024



Presented By
Easthampton Water Department



Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

Where Does My Water Come From?

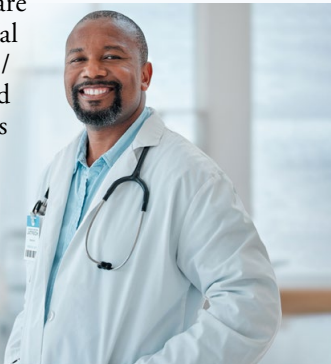
Easthampton is one of many communities across the state that rely on groundwater for its source of drinking water. Our drinking water comes from the Barnes Aquifer system, a complex of several productive aquifers extending about 12 miles beneath portions of four communities: Westfield, Holyoke, Southampton, and Easthampton. In acknowledgment of the importance of this source, the U.S. EPA designated the Barnes Aquifer a sole-source aquifer on May 12, 1995. To earn this designation, the aquifer must supply more than 50 percent of the drinking water for the service area, and the area must have no viable economical source alternative.

Think Before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit <https://bit.ly/3IeRyXy>.

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, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or [epa.gov/safewater](https://www.epa.gov/safewater).



About Our Violation

Our 2023 CCR was written, published, and submitted to the public on time; however, we were late on our submission to DEP, which caused a violation.

Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment has been completed for our system. A susceptibility ranking of high was assigned to this system using the information collected during the assessment by DEP. The complete SWAP report is available at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/western-region-source-water-assessment-protection-swap-program-reports/download>.

Safeguard Your Drinking Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain it to reduce leaching to water sources, or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use U.S. EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with others in your neighborhood. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Clay Weglarz at the Easthampton Water Department at (413) 529-1422.

Substances That Could Be in Water

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. EPA and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration and Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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.

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. 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.

Automatic Irrigation Systems

To better serve our customers, we are asking for those who have an automatic irrigation system to call the water department at (413) 529-1422 so we may take inventory. This information may help prevent accidental strikes while digging. Please visit easthamptonma.gov/Water for more information on conservation.



Lead in Home Plumbing

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and home plumbing. Easthampton Water Department is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure it is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling does not remove lead from water.

Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead or galvanized service line requiring replacement, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead and wish to have your water tested, contact the Easthampton Water Department at (413) 529-1422. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service inventory was contracted out to Tighe and Bond, and we are in the final stages of completing that now. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use three to six gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

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, and we are pleased to report that your drinking water exceeds all federal and state requirements.

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 is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if U.S. EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | MCL [MRDL] | MCLG [MRDLG] | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|---|
| Arsenic (ppb) | 2023 | 10 | 0 | 3.8 | NA | No | Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes |
| Atrazine (ppb) | 2021 | 3 | 3 | 0.11 | ND-0.11 | No | Runoff from herbicide used on row crops |
| Barium (ppm) | 2020 | 2 | 2 | 0.42 | 0.20-0.42 | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits |
| Chlorine (ppm) | 2024 | [4] | [4] | 0.22 ¹ | 0.19-0.30 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| Chromium (ppb) | 2020 | 100 | 100 | 2.4 | 1.2-2.4 | No | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits |
| Cyanide (ppb) | 2020 | 200 | 200 | 24 | ND-24 | No | Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories |
| Nitrate (ppm) | 2024 | 10 | 10 | 2.4 | 1.5-2.8 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| Perchlorate (ppb) | 2023 | 2 | NA | 0.23 | 0.19-0.23 | No | Inorganic chemicals used as oxidizers in solid propellants for rockets, missiles, fireworks, and explosives |
| Trichloroethylene (ppb) | 2024 | 5 | 0 | 0.15 | 0.15-0.50 | No | Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories |

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) | RANGE LOW-HIGH | SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----|------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Copper (ppm) | 2023 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.140 | NA | 0/30 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits |
| Lead (ppb) | 2023 | 15 | 0 | 0.250 | NA | 0/30 | 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 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|------|------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|--|
| Chloride (ppm) | 2022 | 250 | NA | 46 | 31-46 | No | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits |
| Iron (ppb) | 2024 | 300 | NA | 0.014 | NA | No | Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |
| Manganese (ppb) | 2024 | 50 | NA | 0.0027 | NA | No | Leaching from natural deposits |
| Sulfate (ppm) | 2022 | 250 | NA | 18 | 15-18 | No | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |
| Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm) | 2023 | 500 | NA | 250 | 190-250 | No | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits |
| Zinc (ppm) | 2022 | 5 | NA | 0.048 | 0.0020-0.048 | No | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES²

| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | TYPICAL SOURCE |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|
| Acetone (ppb) | 2024 | 1.7 | NA | Industrial use; automobile exhaust; landfills; natural sources |
| Chloroform (ppb) | 2024 | 0.17 | NA | Sanitary landfills; industrial effluent |
| Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS] (ppt) | 2024 | 0.74 | NA | Industrial use; fire suppression foams; landfills |
| Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid [PFHxS] (ppt) | 2024 | 0.89 | NA | Industrial use; fire suppression foams; landfills |
| Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppt) | 2024 | 0.97 | NA | Industrial use; fire suppression foams; landfills |
| Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppt) | 2024 | 0.91 | NA | Industrial use; fire suppression foams; landfills |
| Sodium (ppm) | 2023 | 16 | 5.1–16 | Naturally occurring |

¹ Monthly average.

² 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.

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 (µg/L) (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

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

ppt (ng/L) (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.

