

Substances found in Tap Water

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 production, mining, and 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 by-products 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.

Health Notes

In order to ensure that **tap water is safe to drink**, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit 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 that must provide the same protection for public health. All 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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**. Hutchinson Water Company is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Cross-connections

Cross-connections are potentially hazardous situations for public or private potable water supply and a source of potable water contamination. A cross-connection is any potential or actual physical connection between a potable water supply and any source through which it is possible to introduce any substance other than potable water into the water supply. A common cross-connection scenario could include a garden hose whose spout is submerged in a bucket of soapy water or connected to a spray bottle of weed killer.

Cross-connections between a potable water line and a non-potable water system or equipment have long been a concern of the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). MassDEP established regulations to protect the public health of water consumers from contaminants due to back-flow events. The installation of back-flow prevention devices, such as low cost hose bib vacuum breakers, for all inside and outside hose connections is recommended. You can purchase these at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in your community. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water system's cross-connection program, please contact us.

Contact Us

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"Water is essential for all dimensions of life."

World Bank Institute
WATER POLICY REFORM PROGRAM - Nov. 1999

SOUTH ASHMERE WATER ASSOCIATION

State Route 143 | Hinsdale, MA

VIA EMAIL
DELIVERY



2017 Consumer Confidence Report

Your Drinking Water Quality Information

MA DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY ID# 1132002

South Ashmere Water Association Mission Statement:
To provide safe drinking water to our customers, be in compliance with all current and new drinking water regulations, be fiscally sound, and be sensitive to our customers needs.

This report provides a snapshot of the drinking water quality that was achieved last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how its quality compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Your Drinking Water Source

The drinking water for South Ashmere Water Association comes from two ground water wells and services 52 homes. The first well is located on Linden Lane and it is a bedrock well with 220 ft of 6" casing. The depth of the well is measured at 375 ft. The second well is also a bedrock well located on Lakeview Circle. It is constructed with 160 ft of 4" casing and the overall depth of the well is measured at 170 ft. The groundwater source is designated by Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) Source Name and ID Source Number as:
Well #1 [1132002-01G] and Well #2 [1132002-02G]

Public Water System Information

South Ashmere Water Association makes every effort to provide you with safe and uncontaminated drinking water. Our water does not require treatment at this time to meet these goals. The water quality of our source and system distribution is monitored by us and MassDEP to determine if any future treatment may be required.

Our Licensed Water Operators and community volunteers routinely inspect the system. In addition, MA DEP inspects the system every few years to evaluate compliance with current State and Federal regulations. We continue to work with our customers and State agencies to address any concerns regarding our water system. Our last DEP Sanitary Survey was conducted on September 6, 2016. South Ashmere Water Association made the following Improvements to the Water System during 2017; a new Water Tank for Well House #1 and installed New Water Meters for Well House #1 and Well House #2.

Prepared by *Housatonic Basin Sampling and Testing* on behalf of your water supplier. This report is a compilation of best available data sources including: licensed operators' reports; water supply owner's coordination; MA DEP public records; and EPA online records. The report represents an accurate account of your water quality to the best of our knowledge.

South Ashmere Water Association

How are these Sources Protected?

MassDEP prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report that was published in November, 2003 to assist in the identification of potential sources of contamination. A susceptibility ranking of "moderate" was assigned to our system for both well head protection areas using the information collected by the State. Potential contamination sources include residential land use and activities associated with Route 143, a transportation corridor. The complete SWAP report is available by calling any of the contact numbers listed or by contacting the Western Regional Office of MA DEP at (413)755-2215. You may also view this report online at <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/rb/1132002.pdf>.

Opportunities for Public Participation

We will continue to keep our customers informed on issues related to delivering high quality water to their homes. SAWA released its first newsletter in the last quarter of 2013 and will be releasing added issues in the upcoming quarters. Releases are conservation oriented emphasizing protecting the capacity and quality of our well system. Our goal continues to be to keep our customers fully informed about how their water is delivered and how they can help us protect and sustain their water delivery system. Please contact us if you would like to publicly discuss your drinking water system.

Residents can help protect our water resources by:

- Practicing good septic system maintenance
- Supporting water supply protection initiatives and conservation measures
- Taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days
- Limiting pesticide and fertilizer use, etc.

Does My Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?

We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. We are proud to report that last year your drinking water met all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government.

Drinking Water Violations

In October 2017 Housatonic Basin Sampling & Testing, our sample collection service operator, failed to report a tally of results for the Lead and Copper Sampling on the DEP designated Form LCR E in a timely manner. The report is required to be filed within 10 days of the close of the compliance period. We will file the report within the designated timeline in the future. MassDEP and the EPA report no other violations since October 2013 have occurred. For more information regarding our system you may also visit the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/sdwis/search.html>

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – 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 (MCLG) –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.

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

90th Percentile – 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.

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

Unregulated Contaminants –those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG) -concentration of a chemical in drinking water at or below which adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

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

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 contaminants.

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

Level I Assessment—is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in a water system.

Level II Assessment—is a detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. Coli MCL violation and/or why multiple occasions of total coliform bacteria has been reported.

Water Quality Testing Results

The water quality tables below contain the most recent water quality testing results where levels were detected and compares those levels to standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

MassDEP may reduce the monitoring requirements for *volatile organic contaminants (VOC's)*, *inorganic contaminant (IOC's)*, *synthetic organic contaminants (SOC's)* because the source is not at risk of contamination. South Ashmere Water Association currently holds waivers allowing reduced IOC monitoring.

The latest samples for Nitrite, Nitrate and Perchlorate were collected on July 25, 2017, VOCs on October 24, 2017. IOC and Arsenic samples were collected on September 22, 2011. The latest sample for SOC contaminants was collected on May 29, 2015. With the exception of those compounds noted on the tables below, all other compounds in the panels reported undetectable levels.

| | Date(s) Collected | 90th (%) | Action Level | MCLG | Sites Sampled | Regulated Bacteria | Highest # of Positive (month) | MCL | MCLG | Violation |
|---|-------------------|----------|--------------|------|---------------|--|-------------------------------|-----|------|-----------|
| Lead (ppb) | 3rd Quarter | 3.8 | 15 | 0 | 5 | Total Coliform | 0 | 1 | 0 | No |
| *Possible LEAD Contamination sources include Corrosion of household plumbing and erosion of natural deposits. | | | | | | *Possible sources of contamination, naturally present in the environment | | | | |
| Copper (ppm) | 3rd Quarter | 0.034 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 10 | Fecal Coliform (or E.coli) | 0 | * | 0 | No |
| *Possible COPPER Contamination sources include Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits and leaching from wood preservatives. | | | | | | *Possible sources of contamination, human and fecal waste *MCL compliance is determined upon additional repeat testing | | | | |

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

| Group/Chemical | Date(s) Collected | Highest Result | Range Detected | MCL or MCDL | MCLG OR MRDLG | Violation |
|--|--|----------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| IOC-Barium (ppm) | 11 Sept 2011 (01G) 11 Sept 2011 (02G) | 0.023 0.007 | — | 2 | 2 | No |
| *Possible BARIUM Contamination sources include discharge of drilling wastes, metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits | | | | | | |
| IOC-Chromium (ppb) | 22 Sept 2011 (02G) | 1 | — | | 100 | No |
| *Possible CHROMIUM contamination sources include erosion of natural deposits, discharge from steel and pulp mills | | | | | | |

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS & Secondary Contaminants

| Group/Chemical | Date(s) Collected | Result or Range Detected | Average Detected | SMCL | ORSG |
|--|--|--------------------------|------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| Iron (ppb) | 25 April 2017 (01G) | 57.7 | — | 300 | |
| *Possible IRON contamination include natural and industrial sources as well as aging and corroding distribution systems and household piping | | | | | |
| Manganese | 25 April 2017 (01G) 25 April 2017 (02G) | 32 2.9 | — | 50 | 300* (life time Health Advisory) |
| *Possible MANGANESE contamination includes natural sources as well as discharges from industrial uses | | | | | |
| Sodium (ppm) | 25 July 2017 (01G) 25 July 2017 (02G) | 3.21 3.31 | — | — | 20 |
| *Possible SODIUM Contamination sources include natural sources, runoff from use as salt on roadways, by-products of treatment process | | | | | |

Radioactive Contaminants

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------|---|----|--|
| Radium 226 (pCi/L) | 14 October 2015 | 1.29 | — | 15 | Sources include erosion of natural soil deposits |
| Radium 228 (pCi/L) | 14 October 2015 | 1.86 | — | 5 | |
| Combined Radium (pCi/L) | 14 October 2015 | 3.2 | — | 5 | |

Ashmere Water Association Board Members

Donna Hopkins, Director
Peter Persoff, Director
Paul Rochford, Director
Scott Rodman, President
Paul Venti, Treasurer

UNITS OF MEASURE

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
ND = Not Detected
N/A = Not Applicable
NTU =Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
pCi/L =Unit measure of radioactivity