



Wilkinsonville Water District

2021

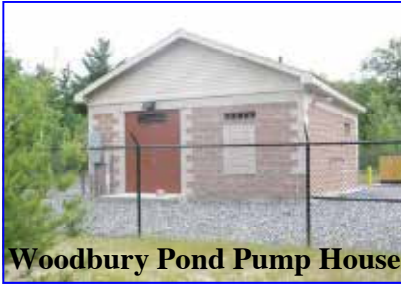
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REPORT ON WATER QUALITY

This is Wilkinsonville Water District's annual report to you on water quality. The statistics in this report are based on testing done throughout 2021 and prior years. We hope you will find it helpful to know the sources of your water and the process by which safe drinking water is delivered to your home.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Wilkinsonville receives its water from three wells. The first well is located at the end of Hatchery Road near Worcester Sand & Gravel. The other two wells are at Woodbury Pond. The well areas are reasonably removed from pollution risks and consist of gravel banks and a series of small streams. The Hatchery Road well, water pump, and treatment equipment are located within a secured well house. The pump house and two wells at Woodbury Pond are also located in a secured area.



Woodbury Pond Pump House

We remain interconnected with the Grafton Water District, located on Follette St., so that additional water can be purchased if necessary.

Maintaining Water Quality

Wilkinsonville Water District continuously strives to produce the highest quality water possible to meet or surpass every water quality standard. We monitor both our source and distribution system very closely. The standards we operate under were enacted by the U.S. Congress as the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974 and were amended in 1986 and 1996.

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Massachusetts DEP prescribe regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants

SHOULD SOME PEOPLE TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

SWAP (Source Water Assessment and Protection)

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the Hatchery Rd. Well. The report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to contamination and makes recommendations.

This report is available at the Wilkinsonville Water District office, 13A Providence Rd. in Sutton, MA, at the local Board of Health (508) 865-8724, and also at the DEP website: www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dw.

If you have any questions, please contact Shelley Gorman at (508) 865-0060.

A susceptibility ranking of **high** was assigned to this system using the information collected during the assessment by the DEP. However, this ranking was based on information that placed the Hatchery Rd. well and its 400 ft. radius (Zone 1) in a location considered inaccurate and in jeopardy of contamination from power line and sand and gravel removal activity. The report is currently under review by the DEP.

Wilkinsonville Water District is addressing the concerns as stated in the SWAP Report and welcomes your input to our planning. If you have any questions, please contact us at (508) 865-0060.

Is My Water Treated?

Wilkinsonville's water is treated with potassium hydroxide to increase the pH of the water which reduces corrosion of household plumbing and fixtures. The flow of the potassium hydroxide is controlled and measured by state-of-the-art equipment. This equipment is inspected on a daily basis.

Wilkinsonville Water District

The Wilkinsonville Water District is operated and managed by WhiteWater, Inc. If you have any questions about this report, please contact :

**Shelley Gorman, Clerk at (508) 865-0060
or email: wilkswater@verizon.net
website: www.wilkswater.org**

Additional copies of this report are available upon request.



Distribution System Characteristics of Wilkinsonville Water System

This report summarizes only those items detected during sampling - not all contaminants that are monitored.

Microbial Results	Highest # Positive in a Month	Total # Positive	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination		
Total Coliform	0	0	1	0	No	Naturally present in the environment		
Fecal Coliform-E.coli	-	0	*	0	No	Human and animal fecal waste		
*Compliance with the Fecal Coliform/E.Coli MCL is determined upon additional testing.								
Total Coliform: Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Your water source is tested monthly and has been found to be free of these contaminants.								
Lead & Copper	Date(s) Collected	90th Percentile of Sample	Action Level	MCLG	# of Sites sampled	# of Sites Above Action Level	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	9/23/20	0.002	15	0	12	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (ppm)		0.95	1.3	1.3			No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Regulated Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Highest Detect Value	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination	
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium (ppm)	5/4/2021	0.053	0.007 - 0.053	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.	
Nitrate (ppm)	5/4/2021	1.71	0.698 - 1.71	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits	
Perchlorate (ppb)	8/10/2021	0.16	0.14 - 0.16	2	N/A	No	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents.	
Sodium (ppm)	5/4/2021	66	0 - 66	20	20	No	Natural sources, road salt.	
Regulated	Detect Result or Range	Quarterly Average	MCL	Violation	Possible Sources		Health Effects	
PSAS6 (ppt)	Woodbury Well #2:0 Hatchery Well:4	0 4	20	No	Discharge and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foams.		Some people who drink water containing these PFAS in excess of the MCL may experience certain adverse effects. These could include effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and fetal development. These PFAS may also elevate the risk of certain cancers.	
Radioactive Contaminants								
Radium 226+228	6/25/19	0.94 pCi/L	N/A	5 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Disinfection By-Products								
Chlorine (ppm) *(Highest Quarterly Running Average)	2021	0.72	0.47 - 0.96	4	4	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMS) (ppb)	2021	13	13	80	-	No	By product of drinking water chlorination	
Haloacetic Acid (HAA5s) (ppb)	2021	3.8	3.8	60	-	No	By product of drinking water chlorination	
Unregulated Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Amount Detected or Range		SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source of Contamination		
Iron (ppb)	6/25/19	ND		300	0.057 - 0.18	Naturally occurring corrosion of cast iron pipes.		
Manganese (ppb)	6/25/19	ND		50	0.012 - 0.0046	Erosion of natural deposits.		
Chloroform (ppb)	8/10/2021	2.7		-	-	By product of drinking water chlorination.		
Bromodichloromethane	8/10/2021	4.4		-	-	By product of drinking water chlorination.		
Bromoform	8/10/2021	1.2		-	-	By product of drinking water chlorination.		
Dibromochloromethane	8/10/2021	4.2		-	-	By product of drinking water chlorination.		
Dichloroacetic Acid	2021	2.2		-	-	By product of drinking water chlorination.		
Dibromoacetic Acid	2021	1.7		-	-	By product of drinking water chlorination.		

TESTING FOR LEAD

Key to Tables

- ppm – Parts per million, corresponds to one penny in \$10,000
- ppb – Parts per billion, corresponds to one penny in \$10,000,000
- pCi/L – Picocuries per liter
- ND – Non-detect
- n/a – non applicable

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. **Wilkinsonville Water District** 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>.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Wilkinsonville Water District is an equal opportunity provider. In accordance with federal law and US Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, marital or familial status. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice of TDD). Hearing Impaired Persons Call: Mass Relay Systems, TTY (800) 439-2370, Voice (800) 439-0183

This report is a snapshot of the quality of the drinking water that we provided last year. The statistics in this report are based on testing done throughout 2021 and prior years. We hope you will find it helpful to know the sources of your water and the process by which safe drinking water is delivered to your home.

SOURCE WATER CHARACTERISTICS

The sources of drinking water in the United States (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, 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production. These contaminants can also come from gasoline storage, 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.

Community Participation

As a Wilkinsonville Water District consumer, you are invited to participate in our monthly meetings to voice your concerns and comments about your drinking water. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Wilkinsonville Water District Office located at 13A Providence Rd., Sutton, MA.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Where to go for more information

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 617-292-5885.
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep>



Massachusetts Drinking Water Education Partnership
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking>

Cross Connection Control and Backflow Protection

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. When the water system has a pressure drop, usually due to a leak in the system, water can sometimes siphon back into the system. An example is when homeowners fertilize their lawn with garden hose type attachments. These devices provide an avenue for the pollutant to siphon backwards into the home or the water system. Wilkinsonville Water District recommends that you install a backflow prevention device such as a hose bib vacuum breaker on all outside faucets. They can be obtained at your local plumbing or hardware store and are easy to attach. This is a great way for you to protect your home as well as the water system.



Typical HBVB



MassDEP Fact Sheet

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Drinking Water: Questions and Answers for Consumers

1. What are PFAS and how are people exposed to them?

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances are a group of chemical compounds called PFAS. Two PFAS chemicals, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), were extensively produced and are the most studied and regulated of these chemicals. Several other PFAS that are similar to PFOS and PFOA exist. These PFAS are contained in some firefighting foams used to extinguish oil and gas fires. They have also been used in a number of industrial processes and to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials (e.g., cookware) that are resistant to water, grease and stains. Because these chemicals have been used in many consumer products, most people have been exposed to them.

While consumer products and food are the largest source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water can be an additional source of exposure in communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example, an airfield at which they were used for firefighting or a facility where these chemicals were produced or used.

2. What is the Massachusetts drinking water standard?

On October 2, 2020, MassDEP published its PFAS public drinking water standard or Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Level (MMCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L), or parts per trillion (ppt) applicable to community (COM) and non-transient non-community (NTNC) systems for the sum of the concentrations of six specific PFAS. The six PFAS are: perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS); perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA); perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS); perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA); perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA); and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA). MassDEP abbreviates this set of six PFAS as “PFAS6.” This drinking water standard is set to be protective against adverse health effects for all people consuming the water. For information on the PFAS6 drinking water standard see: [310 CMR 22.00: The Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations](#). For more information about the technical details behind the MMCL, see MassDEP’s technical support document at: [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\): An Updated Subgroup Approach to Groundwater and Drinking Water Values](#).

3. What health effects are associated with exposure to PFAS6?

The MassDEP drinking water standard is based on studies of the six PFAS substances in laboratory animals and studies of exposed people. Overall, these studies indicate that exposure to sufficiently elevated levels of the six PFAS compounds may cause developmental effects in fetuses during pregnancy and in breastfed infants. Effects on the thyroid, the liver, kidneys, hormone levels and the immune system have also been reported. Some studies suggest a cancer risk may exist following long-term exposures to elevated levels of some of these compounds.

It is important to note that consuming water with PFAS6 above the drinking water standard does not mean that adverse effects will occur. The degree of risk depends on the level of the chemicals and the duration of exposure. The drinking water standard assumes that individuals drink only contaminated water, which typically overestimates exposure, and that they are also exposed to PFAS6 from sources beyond drinking water, such as food. To enhance safety, several uncertainty factors are additionally applied to account for differences between test animals and humans, and to account for differences between people. Scientists are still working to study and better understand the health risks posed by exposures to PFAS. If your water has been found to have PFAS6 and you have specific health concerns, you may wish to consult with your doctor.

4. How can I find out about contaminants in my drinking water?

If you get your water from a public water system, you should contact them for this information. For a contact list for all public water systems in the Commonwealth you may visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-health-safety#contacts> then under “Contacts” click on “MA Public Water Supplier contacts sorted By Town.”

For private well owners see the [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) in Private Well Drinking Water Supplies FAQ](#) for more information.

5. What options should be considered when PFAS6 in drinking water is above MassDEP’s drinking water standard?

- ✓ Sensitive subgroups, including pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system, should consider using bottled water that has been tested for PFAS6, for their drinking water, cooking of foods that absorb water (like pasta) and to make infant formula. Bottled water that has been tested for PFAS6, or formula that does not require adding water, are alternatives.
- ✓ For older children and adults, the MMCL is applicable to a lifetime of consuming the water. For these groups, shorter duration exposures present less risk. However, if you are concerned about your exposure while steps are taken to assess and lower the PFAS6 concentration in your drinking water, use of bottled water that has been tested for PFAS6 will reduce your exposure.
- ✓ Water contaminated with PFAS6 can be treated by some home water treatment systems that are certified to remove PFAS6 by an independent testing group such as NSF, UL, or Water Quality Association. These may include point of entry (POE) systems, which treat all the water entering a home, or point of use (POU) devices, which treat water where it is used, such as at a faucet.
- ✓ In most situations the water can be safely used for washing and rinsing foods and washing dishes.
- ✓ For washing items that might go directly into your mouth, like dentures and pacifiers, only a small amount of water might be swallowed and the risk of experiencing adverse health effects is very low. You can minimize any risk by not using water with PFAS6 greater than the MMCL to wash such items.
- ✓ The water can be safely used by adults and older children for brushing teeth. However, use of bottled water should be considered for young children as they may swallow more water than adults when they brush their teeth. If you are concerned about your exposure, even though the risk is very low, you could use bottled water for these activities.
- ✓ Because PFAS are not well absorbed through the skin, routine showering or bathing are not a

significant concern unless PFAS6 levels are very high. Shorter showers or baths, especially for children who may swallow water while playing in the bath, or for people with severe skin conditions (e.g. significant rashes) would limit any exposure from the water.

- ✓ For pets or companion animals, the health effects and levels of concern to mammalian species, like dogs, cats and farm animals, are likely to be similar to those for people. However, because these animals are different sizes, have different lifespans, and drink different amounts of water than people it's not possible to predict what health effects an animal may experience from drinking water long-term with PFAS6 concentrations greater than the MMCL. There is some evidence that birds may be more sensitive to PFAS6. There is little data on PFAS6 effects on other species like turtles, lizards, snakes and fish. As a precaution, if you have elevated levels of PFAS6 in your water, you may wish to consider using alternative water for your pets. If you have concerns, you may also want to consult with your veterinarian.
- ✓ For gardening or farming, certain plants may take up some PFAS6 from irrigation water and soil. Unfortunately, there is not enough scientific data to predict how much will end up in a specific crop. Since people eat a variety of foods, the risk from the occasional consumption of produce grown in soil or irrigated with water contaminated with PFAS6 is likely to be low. Families who grow a large fraction of their produce would experience higher potential exposures and should consider the following steps, which should help reduce PFAS6 exposures from gardening:
 - Maximize use of rainwater or water from another safe source for your garden.
 - Wash your produce in clean water after you harvest it.
 - Enhance your soil with clean compost rich in organic matter, which has been reported to reduce PFAS uptake into plants.
 - Use raised beds with clean soil.
- **NOTE ON BOILING WATER:** Boiling water will not destroy these chemicals and will increase their levels somewhat due to water evaporation.
- **NOTE ON BOTTLED WATER:** Bottled water should only be used if it has been tested. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires companies licensed to sell or distribute bottled water or carbonated non-alcoholic beverages to test for PFAS. See <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-quality-standards-for-bottled-water-in-massachusetts#list-of-bottlers->
- **NOTE ON POU and POE TREATMENT DEVICES:** Point of Use (POU) and Point of Entry (POE) treatment devices are not specifically designed to meet Massachusetts' drinking water standard for PFAS6, there are systems that have been designed to meet the USEPA's Health Advisory of 70 ng/L for the sum of PFOS and PFOA. Any treatment device you use should be certified to meet the [National Sanitation Foundation \(NSF\)](#) standard P473 to remove PFOS and PFOA compounds so that the sum of their concentrations is below the USEPA Health Advisory of 70 ng/L. **Please be aware that 70 ng/L is significantly greater than the MassDEP's drinking water standard of 20 ppt for the PFAS6 compounds.** Many of these treatment devices certified to meet NSF standard P473 will likely be able to reduce PFAS6 levels to well below 70 ppt, but there are no federal or state testing requirements for these treatment devices. If you chose to install a treatment device, you should check to see if the manufacturer has independently verifiable PFAS6 monitoring results demonstrating that the device can reduce PFAS6 below 20 ppt. See more detailed information on POU/POE treatment systems in the Private Well Factsheet at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-private-well-drinking-water-supplies-faq>.

6. Where can I get more information on PFAS?

MassDEP PFAS Information. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

[Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) in Private Well Drinking Water Supplies FAQ](#)

Massachusetts Department of Public Health PFAS webpage: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water>

Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) PFAS resources. <https://www.itrcweb.org/Team/Public?teamID=78>

Association of State Drinking Water Administrators PFAS webpage <https://www.asdwa.org/pfas/>

EPA's Drinking Water Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Statement for PFOS and PFOA can be found at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>

7. Where can I find more information about Treatment Devices for PFAS?

MassDEP information on drinking water treatment devices: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/home-water-treatment-devices-point-of-entry-and-point-of-use-drinking-water>

NSF PFAS information: <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/perfluorooctanoic-acid-and-perfluorooctanesulfonic-acid-in-drinking-water>

USEPA information on PFAS and treatment devices: <https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters/reducing-pfas-drinking-water-treatment-technologies>

UL information on PFAS and treatment devices: <https://www.ul.com/offerings/testing-and-certification-water-filtration-products>

The Water Quality Association information on PFAS, including treatment: <https://www.wqa.org/Portals/0/WQ&A%20sheets/WaterQA%20PFAS.pdf>

For further information on PFAS in drinking water, including possible health effects, you may contact the Massachusetts Department Environmental Protection, Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@state.ma.us or 617-292-5770.