ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT
for the calendar year 2022 Town of West Stockbridge
Public Water System ID# 1326000

21 State Line Road
Box 525
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(413)232-0309 (p)
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Contact: **Michael Buffoni, Primary Operator**
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YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Town operates and maintains both a primary and back-up wells located in a 12 acre town-owned Zone II protected zone behind the Gaston property, off of Swamp Road. Well #1 has a depth of 51' and pumps at a volume of 70 gpm. Well #2 is 48' deep and pumps at 50 gpm. Both wells pump chlorinated water directly up to the Lenox Mtn. Water Storage Tank which has a capacity of 150,000 gallons. In addition to equalizing pressure throughout the system, the tank provides a three-day emergency supply of safe drinking water in the event of an emergency.

The two types of water treatment that the Town employs is "AquaMag". Inserted at the pump station, AquaMag sequesters (keeps in solution) calcium and magnesium, which cause hardness in water. By keeping these compounds in solution, clogging which results in the failure of tankless hot water heaters in household boilers when water is heated is reduced. We also add chlorine for disinfection.

A Source Water Assessment, a comprehensive evaluation of our water source is available for viewing in the Selectmen's Office at the Town Hall.

Today, the West Stockbridge Water Department provides abundant drinking water supplied under high and consistent pressure. The majority of the water systems infrastructure is young by utility standards thereby ensuring uninterrupted and dependable water service and quality for generations to come.

Backflow in water systems; To put it simply, ***backflow*** is the unintentional reversal of flow in a water system. On its own, this physical principle of fluid dynamics is not a bad or good thing - water is non-compressible so it will always flow to the path of least resistance. There are two types of backflow: ***backsiphonage*** occurs when a vacuum or negative pressure causes water to be *pulled* backwards in a water system; and ***backpressure*** occurs when elevation or a mechanical pump *pushes* water backwards in a water system. The most common causes of backsiphonage are fire hydrant flushing or use, water main breaks or bursts, and water mainline repairs.

When is Backflow Dangerous?

Backflow becomes problematic when the demand side of a water system contains contaminants or pollutants that could degrade water quality or even introduce a health hazard if siphoned back into the public drinking supply. Something as simple as a pool fill (which includes a water hose sitting in a pool) could introduce dangerous levels of chlorine into the drinking supply. A landscape sprinkler system has sprinkler heads and drip tubing that are exposed to animal waste, dripping oil from vehicles, pesticides, fertilizers, and raw sewage that could present a health hazard if siphoned into the public drinking supply. On a commercial property, fatal chemicals in mixing tanks, fire sprinkler systems, and chiller units are extremely harmful to animals and humans and would be catastrophic if introduced into the public drinking supply.

Because of these hazards, the State of Massachusetts has strict laws and regulations on backflow prevention and cross connection control. Backflow prevention assemblies must be installed to protect against backflow and assemblies must be tested frequently to ensure proper operation.

WHOM TO CONTACT

TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT:

PWS ID # 1326000

Water problems, meter problems, leaks, water quality and pressure, and miscellaneous questions:

West Stockbridge Water and Sewer Department

232-0309 phone 232-7195 fax watersewer@weststockbridge-ma.gov

Billing information, account information, and water service information:

West Stockbridge Town Hall

232-0300 phone 232-7195 fax accountant@weststockbridge-ma.gov

Emergency water problems:

West Stockbridge Police Department

232-8500

Water Department personnel:

Michael Buffoni, Water-Sewer Supt Office-232-0309, Cell-626-4552

Mark Viola Jr. Assistant Operator Office-232-0309, Cell-626-4554

Curt Wilton, Assistant Operator Office-232-0305, Cell-429-5193

West Stockbridge Sewer and Water Commissioners:

The Commission meets on the last Thursday of each month at 4:30 PM at the Town Offices meeting room, State Line Road. All meetings are open to the public who are encouraged to attend. If you wish to be placed on an upcoming agenda, please call 232-0300x319.

All technical information, including water quality data, related to the source and distribution system is on file at the Town Offices and is available for inspection by calling 232-0300x319.

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 mineral, and in some cases, radioactive material. It 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 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 agricultural, 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants -which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
Radioactive contaminants -which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

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 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 guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Year 2022 Water Quality Data:

- ***Indicates previous years results***

Contaminant (Units)	Highest Detect Value	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Yes / No)	Possible Source of Contamination
Nitrate (mg/l)	Well#1: 0.256 Well#2: 0.559	10 10	10 10	NO NO	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage.
Iron	ND	0.3		NO	Naturally occurring
Manganese	0.016 mg/l	0..05		NO	Naturally occurring
Lead	0.0018 mg/l 90th percentile	0.015 mg/l		NO	Household fixtures/plumbing
Copper	1.27 mg/l 90th percentile	1.3 mg/l		NO	Household fixtures/plumbing

Terms and Abbreviations:

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MDL minimum detection level
n/a**:** not applicable, no let limits.
nd**:** not detectable at testing limit.
ppb**:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter.
ppm**:** parts per million or milligrams per liter.
pCi/l**:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation).
Ug/l: micrograms per liter
Ng/l: nanograms per liter

Lead and Copper: *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. The Town of West Stockbridge Municipal Water System 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 you 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*