



# 2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## Wannacomet Water Department • Nantucket, Massachusetts

(PWS) ID # 4197000

We are pleased to present the 2020 edition of our annual water quality report. It is being delivered to all customers, the Nantucket Board of Health, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

We are charged with the responsibility of protecting and managing the island's public water supply. For over 140 years the Wannacomet Water Company has been safeguarding Nantucket's precious water.

We provide high quality drinking water that exceeds all Federal and Commonwealth drinking water standards. We provide the highest level of customer and water-related support services achievable; educate and inform the public of the need to protect Nantucket's water resources; and we accomplish this using prudent utility practices and responsible fiscal management. As Nantucket's public water provider, we are carefully monitoring your water, improving our aging infrastructure and expanding service areas to make sure the water continues to be safe and available 24/7.

Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in 1974 to protect public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supply and protecting sources of drinking water. A public water system (PWS) is defined as one that serves piped water

to at least 25 persons or 15 service connections for at least 60 days each year. SDWA is administered by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its state partners. The SDWA requires public notification of water systems violations, other notices and annual reports (Consumer Confidence Reports) to customers on contaminants found in their drinking water. [www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr). This report is mandated by the federal government and presents many topics of interest along with the results of our 2020 Water Quality Data collected from January 1 through December 31, 2020 and summarizes the past year's activities at Wannacomet Water Company. It is intended to inform the public about the quality of the water and the effort made by us to maintain it. We are committed to ensure the quality of your water and strive to adopt new and better methods for delivering drinking water to you.

**If you need a large print version of this Annual Water Quality report, please contact us at 508-228-0022**

### Our Annual Water Quality Report

Wannacomet Water Company has prepared this annual drinking water Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to provide you with information regarding your drinking water. This report includes detected contaminants found in your drinking water, compliance issues related to the water quality, operational matters, and general education information regarding the condition of your drinking water.

Share this report: Landlords, businesses, schools, the hospital, and other groups are encouraged to share this important water quality information with water users at their location.

For water or meter problems, leaks, fire hydrants, water billing, and miscellaneous water-related questions – please call Wannacomet Water at 508-228-0022. For comments and suggestions please e-mail us at [water@nantucket-ma.gov](mailto:water@nantucket-ma.gov)

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### Important Contacts

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

[www.state.ma.us/dep](http://www.state.ma.us/dep)

(617) 292-5500

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

[www.state.ma.us/dph](http://www.state.ma.us/dph)

(617) 624-6000

Town of Nantucket

[www.nantucket-ma.gov](http://www.nantucket-ma.gov)

US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) • (800) 232-4636

Environmental Protection Agency

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) • (800) 426-4791

List of Certified Water Quality Testing Labs

[www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com) • (617) 242-5323

Wannacomet Water Company

[www.wannacomet.org](http://www.wannacomet.org)

508-228-0022

## Where Does My Water Come From?

Wannacomet's water is a groundwater supply. Water is pumped from four different ground water wells located in Nantucket's Sole Source Aquifer (geologic formations containing water). Our customers receive their drinking water from two different levels of the aquifer. The wells are located throughout the mid-island. The water is distributed through a network of water mains ranging in size from 2 inches to 16 inches in diameter. We depend on rainfall to recharge our water supply. The annual recharge to the aquifer from an average of 43 inches of precipitation more than makes up for the amount of water pumped from all sources.

WANNACOMET WELLS	MADEP SWS#	SOURCE	LOCATION
Pump 12	419700-02G	Groundwater	Wyers Valley
State Forest Well	419700-03G	Groundwater	Lovers Lane
North Pasture	419700-04G	Groundwater	Polpis Road
Well 15	419700-05G	Groundwater	Wyers Valley
Well 16	419700-06G	Groundwater	Wyers Valley

## S.W.A.P. What is SWAP?

The **Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP)** program, established under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, requires every state to:

- inventory land uses within the recharge areas of all public water supply sources;
- assess the susceptibility of drinking water sources to contamination from these land uses; and
- publicize the results to provide support for improved protection.

Source: *Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Report*

The SWAP report was compiled by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection with assistance from the Wannacomet Water Company staff to inventory land uses within the Wellhead Protection District (WPD) and assess their potential to negatively impact the aquifer.

Wannacomet Water Company's complete SWAP report can be viewed at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/wannacomet-water-company-swap-report>

## Special Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons 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 of infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and 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).

**On-Call 24/7** We have an emergency on-call utility person available during non-business hours, weekends and holidays. In the event of an emergency during non-business hours please contact us through the Nantucket Police Department at **508-228-1212**.

## Contaminants in Bottled Water and Tap Water

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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

## What the EPA Says About Drinking Water Contaminants

General 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 animal or 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;

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities;

**Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water run-off, and residential uses;

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water run-off, industrial or domestic waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

**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 run-off and septic systems.

## 2020 Water Demands & Statistics

Gallons produced & delivered: **616,839,337**

New Services: **130**

Peak Day - July 27th: **4,142,125 Gallons**

Total Water Services: **6522**

Total Fire Hydrants: **726**

Total Miles of Water Mains: **89.86**

Total Volume of Water Storage Tanks: **4,000,000 Gallons**

Rainfall in 2019: **35.76"**

## Important Definitions

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to healthy persons. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**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.

**CDC:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**ND:** Not detected. Laboratory analysis indicated that the contaminant is not present.

**Variations and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

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

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

**Parts Per Million (ppm):** one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts Per Billion (ppb):** one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**PCI/L:** picoCuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

**DEP:** Department of Environmental Protection

**EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency

**NA:** Not applicable

**Unregulated Contaminants:** Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**ppt** = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter and corresponds to a single penny in \$10 million

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** The U.S. EPA Office of Water ([www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) websites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has a website ([www.state.ma.us/dep](http://www.state.ma.us/dep)) that provides complete and current information on water issues in our state.

- Our Public Water Supply (PWS) ID # MA 4197000
- Member: American Water Works Association (AWWA),
- New England Water Works Association (NEWWA),
- Barnstable County Water Utility Association (BCWUA),
- Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA)

# What you need to know about lead in your tap water

Lead and Copper samples were collected from our system in August 2019.  
No Lead and Copper levels were detected above action limits. The results are below:

## Lead & Copper

	Range of Detection (mg/l)	MCLG (mg/l)	Action Level (mg/l)	Possible Source of Contamination
<b>Lead</b>	0.0 - 0.004	0	0.015	Corrosion of Plumbing
<b>Copper</b>	0 - 0.384	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of 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. Wannacomet 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>.

Call the Department of Public Health at 1-800-532-9571 or EPA at 1-800-424-LEAD (5323) for health information.

Lead can get into tap water through pipes in your home, your lead service line, lead solder used in plumbing, and some brass fixtures. Corrosion or wearing away of lead-based materials can add lead to tap water, especially if water sits for a long time in the pipes before it is used.

Under EPA rules, Wannacomet must test tap water in a sample of homes that are likely to have high lead levels. These are usually homes with lead service lines or lead solder. The EPA rule requires that 9 out of 10, or 90%, of the sampled homes must have lead levels below the Action Level of 15 parts per billion (ppb).

The Wannacomet Water Company proactively sampled all five of its active well supplies for PFAS compounds in September of 2020 in accordance with EPA Method 537.1. Results indicated that no PFAS compounds were detected above drinking water standards. After confirmatory samples one water well measured PFAS above the laboratory detection limits.

Location	Compound*	Concentration**	Proposed MA MCL***
Wyer's Valley Well 15	PFOA	2.54 ppt	20 ppt

\*Perfluorooctanoic Acid

\*\*Parts per trillion parts (ppt)

\*\*\*The Massachusetts maximum contaminant level is 20 Parts per trillion for the total allowable concentration for up to six specific PFAS compounds which includes PFOA

Drinking water PFAS MCLs are set based upon lifetime exposure, and a number of safety factors, for the most vulnerable population. These results are below the stringent PFAS MCL by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. You may continue to safely use water from the Wannacomet Water Company well supplies for drinking, cooking, washing and all other purposes. More information on PFAS compounds may be found at [https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas?\\_ga=2.167965921.1311254421.1600286553-225829661.1600286553](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas?_ga=2.167965921.1311254421.1600286553-225829661.1600286553) in the attached documentation from MassDEP. If you have further questions, you can contact the Wannacomet Water Company directly at **508-228-0022** or [water@nantucket-ma.gov](mailto:water@nantucket-ma.gov)

## Wannacomet Water Quality Testing Results 2020

	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Possible Source of Contamination
<b>Fluoride</b>	0.10 - 0.11	mg/l	4	4	Leaching from fertilizers & erosion of natural deposits
<b>Barium</b>	0.002	mg/l		2	Erosion of natural deposits & leaching from agricultural supplies
<b>Sodium</b>	12-16	mg/l		20	Erosion of natural deposits & runoff from impervious surfaces
<b>Arsenic</b>	0.002	mg/l		0.010	Erosion of natural deposits & leaching from agricultural supplies
<b>Chloroform</b>	0.55 - 0.85	ugl	0.5	0.5	Erosion of natural deposits in coastal areas
<b>Nitrate</b>	0.39 - 1.24	mg/l	10	10	Leaching from fertilizers & erosion of natural deposits
<b>Manganese</b>	0.008-0.016	mg/l	0	none	Erosion of natural deposits

### Microbiological Contaminants

The Total Coliform Rule requires systems to test bacteria on a regular monthly schedule. Bacteria are naturally present in the environment. Wannacomet Water tests multiple locations in the system every month. The test results are given with a Positive or Negative result of these contaminants. In September of 2020 a non-routine sample was collected by a home owner that showed a positive presence of Total Coliform. MADEP was notified of the lab results. The location was isolated, and the water mains were flushed. Additional samples were collected, and the home owner sample continued to show the presence of Total Coliform. All water main samples collected were clean. The water mains in the area were flushed and the home owner's service line was flushed. All samples collected following the flushing program came back clean. A Level 2 Assessment was completed and submitted to MADEP in October of 2020.

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

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

### Sewer Rates

Sewer rates changed in 2020. The Select Board review sewer rates annually. Rate payers should check the town's website ([www.nantucket-ma.gov](http://www.nantucket-ma.gov)) and search budget information and/ or the sewer web page for the latest in sewer rate increases and proposals considered by the town.

### Water Rates

Water Rates remained unchanged in 2020 at \$4.00 per 100 cubic feet. The base service charge is \$25.00. For current rates, connection fees and important notices go to [www.wannacomet.org](http://www.wannacomet.org).

### Water Conservation Tips

Wasted water can add up quickly. We take our water supplies for granted, yet they are limited. The average American uses about **90 gallons** of water each day in the home. We urge you to use it wisely and responsibly.

- Insulate hot water heater and piping.
- Install low flow fixtures.
- Don't run tap water to get it cold, keep a bottle in the refrigerator.
- Know where your main shut off valve is and make sure it works. If the valve doesn't work, contact a licensed plumber to have it repaired. Eliminate drafts around water lines.
- When leaving for an extended period of time, turn off the water at the main valve.
- After turning on the irrigation system, check and repair leaks promptly.
- Be aware of leaky toilets and fixtures and fix them promptly using a licensed plumber.
- When planting, choose native grasses and plants that require less water.
- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth or shaving: save 1-2 gallons per minute.
- That trickling sound you hear in the bathroom could be a leaky toilet wasting 50 gallons of water a day or more. But sometimes it leaks silently. Your flapper or flush valve may need to be replaced. Parts are inexpensive and fairly easy to replace.