

YOUR HEALTH IS OUR PRIORITY

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. In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, EPA and MassDEP prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Lead in Drinking Water

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Your water is lead-free when it leaves our treatment plant. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Weir River 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 and 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 at 800.426.4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. To learn more about lead, please visit: www.weirriverwater.com or <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Where does your water come from?

The water delivered to our Hingham, Hull and North Cohasset customers is obtained from several surface water and ground water supplies. Surface water is diverted from Accord Brook and pumped from Accord Pond to our centrally located water treatment facility. Ground water from our 9 active drinking water supply wells is also pumped to our water treatment facility, where the water is blended together and then treated. The treated water is then pumped to our customers using a network of over 194 miles of pipe and two water storage tanks. Our water supply system is all located within the Weir River Watershed and provides water for approximately 33,739 people during the winter and 45,339 people in the summer.

The average amount of water delivered during 2024 was 3.171 million gallons per day. On average, 55,098 gallons per day was pumped through the Cohasset interconnection. In addition, our distribution system has emergency interconnections with the Weymouth and Norwell water systems.

Cryptosporidium

The EPA requires public water systems that use surface water sources to monitor for Cryptosporidium. This is a microbial pathogen found in lakes and rivers throughout the U.S. that can cause gastrointestinal illness if consumed. We continue to monitor its surface water sources and did not detect Cryptosporidium in the reservoir that serves the Weir River Water System in our most recent testing.

Source Water Assessment Report:

The Massachusetts DEP's Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), which evaluates each water source to identify potential contamination, states that the water sources that supply drinking water to the Weir River Water System have a high susceptibility to potential contamination. The SWAP report is available at the state DEP website: mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/4131000.pdf.

Information for persons with compromised immune systems:

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. 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.

Questions About Your Water Quality Report

Customers who have questions about water quality, should contact the WRWS toll-free, 24 hours per day at **877-253-6665**.

For other questions, or to report discolored water/service problems, or if you would like to participate in a public meeting you can also contact the same 24 hour number or visit the customer service center located at: 185 Lincoln Street, Unit 200B, Hingham, MA 02043.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection:
www.mass.gov/info-details/public-drinking-water-system-operations

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline:
800-426-4791 or www.epa.gov/safewater

How is your water treated?

All of the water from our wells and surface water supplies is treated at our water treatment facility in Hingham. The water receives both physical and chemical treatment including: the addition of lime for pH adjustment; the addition of potassium permanganate for oxidation; rapid mixing, flocculation, and coagulation using alum and polymer; clarification using an upflow clarifier; filtration using granular-activated carbon filter media; disinfection using chlorine; fluoridation using hydrofluorsilicic acid; and corrosion control using lime and zinc orthophosphate. The water that we receive from Cohasset is treated similarly at Cohasset's water treatment facility and matches our own target water quality goals for pH, chlorine, and fluoride.

Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention

The Weir River Water System makes every effort to ensure that the water delivered to your home and business is clean, safe and free of contamination. Our staff works very hard to protect the quality of the water delivered to our customers from the time the water is extracted via deep wells from underground aquifers or withdrawal point from a surface water source, throughout the entire treatment and distribution system. But what happens when the water reaches your home or business? Is there still a need to protect the water quality from contamination caused by a cross-connection? If so, how?

What is a cross-connection?

A cross-connection occurs whenever the drinking water supply is or could be in contact with potential sources of pollution or contamination. Cross-connections exist in piping arrangements or equipment that allows the drinking water to come in contact with non-potable liquids, solids, or gases (hazardous to humans) in event of a backflow.

What is a backflow?

Backflow is the undesired reverse of the water flow in the drinking water distribution lines. This backward flow of water can occur when the pressure created by equipment or a system such as a boiler or air-conditioning is higher than the water pressure inside the water distribution line (back pressure), or when the pressure in the distribution line drops due to routine occurrences such as water main breaks or heavy water demand causing the water to flow backward inside the water distribution system (back siphonage). Backflow is a problem that many water consumers are unaware of, a problem that each and every water customer has a responsibility to help prevent.

What can I do to help prevent a cross-connection?

The Weir River Water System recommends the installation of backflow prevention devices, such as a low cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections. You can purchase this 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 town! For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water systems cross connection program, please contact Weir River Customer Service at WRCS@Veolia.com



Hydrant Flushing

In a continuing effort to deliver the highest quality of water, the Weir River Water System proactively engages in system maintenance to reduce discolored water. Hydrant flushing is utilized to remove loose sediment and other deposits that may slowly build up on the inside of the water mains over time causing discolored water. Flushing at the appropriate velocities aid in the removal of these sediments and deposits and improves taste, odor and color that may be problematic.



Weir River Water System Customer Service
185 Lincoln Street, Unit 200B
Hingham, MA 02043

Operated by: Veolia North America

Annual Water Quality Report

Water testing performed in calendar year 2024

Weir River Water System
PSWID: 4131000



Water Commissioners

Liz Klein, Chair
Joe Fisher
Bill Ramsey

Russell E. Tierney
Managing Director / Superintendent
tierneyr@hingham-ma.gov





Proudly Operated By



Footnotes and Definitions for Table on Left:

< Less than
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 contamination.

NA: Not Applicable

ND: Not detected

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units: a measure of the presence of particles. Low turbidity is an indicator of high-quality water.

ORSG: Office of Research and Standards Guideline –State of Massachusetts

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

SMCL: Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level

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

90th percentile value in copper monitoring. Result is representative of customer sampling stagnant water. No locations exceeded the action level for copper.

90th percentile value in lead monitoring. Result is representative of customer sampling stagnant water. One location exceeded the action level for lead.

Reported value is the highest locational, annual average of quarterly measurements for disinfection by-products in the distribution system. Values in the range are individual measurements.

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.

Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) 2024

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER - Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants for Weir River Water System as required by US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a public health protection standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact (877) 253-6665 or 185 Lincoln Street Unit 200B, Hingham MA 02043.

For additional FAQs <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>

WEIR RIVER WATER SYSTEM WATER QUALITY TABLE

Your water has been tested for more than 100 compounds that are important to public health. Of those detected, all were below the amounts allowed by state and federal law. Most of these compounds are either naturally occurring or introduced as treatment to improve water quality. Monitoring frequency varies from daily to once every nine years per EPA regulation, depending on the parameter. Our testing encompasses the full range of regulated inorganic, organic and radiological compounds and microbiological and physical parameters. Results shown below are for detected compounds only.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER QUALITY								
This report summarizes only those items detected during sampling - not all contaminants that are monitored								
Microbial Results	MCL/TT	MCLG	Values	Date	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination		
Total Coliform Bacteria **	0	0	Positives	July & August 2024	No	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the		
Fecal Coliform or E. coli	0	0	0	0	No	Human and animal fecal waste		
**We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify any problems that were found during these assessments. During the past year, three Level 2 assessments were required to be completed for our water system. Three Level 2 assessments were completed. No sanitary defects were found. Zero corrective actions were required, however, ten corrective actions were taken as precaution and to further monitor and investigate/assess the system.								
Lead & Copper	Dates Collected	90th	Action	MCLG	# of	# of Sites Above Action	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppm)	6/04&05/2024	0	0.015	0	30	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural
Copper (ppm)	6/04&05/2024	0.447	1.3	1.3	30	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural
TESTING FOR LEAD - 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. Weir River 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 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 .								
Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts	Date Collected	Highest Detect Value	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination	
Chlorine (ppm)	Daily	0.97	0.53-0.97*	4	4	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Quarterly	98.2	34.1-98.2*	80	-	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Quarterly	48	7.63-48.0*	60	-	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination (TT)	
*Site specific samples ** Running Annual Average (RAA). ***Local Running Annual Average (LRAA)								
SUMMARY OF FINISHED WATER CHARACTERISTICS								
Turbidity	TT	Lowest Monthly % of Samples	Highest Detected Daily Value	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination			
Daily Compliance (NTU)	6	100%	0.084	No	Soil runoff			
Monthly Compliance*	At least 95%	100%	0.084	No				
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality.								
*Monthly turbidity compliance is related to a specific treatment technique (TT). Our system filters the water so at least 95% of our samples each month must be below the turbidity limits specified in the regulations.								
Inorganic Contaminants:	Date Collected	Highest	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination	
Fluoride (ppm)	8/20/2024	0.76	0.31-0.76	4	4	No	Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories; erosion of	
Nitrate* (ppm)	8/20/2024	0.36	NA	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage;	
*Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.								
Organic Contaminants	Date Collected	Highest Detect Value	Range Detected	ORSG	MCLG	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination	
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	Quarterly	19.20	13.2-19.2	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
Bromoform (ppb)	Quarterly	ND	ND	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	Quarterly	18.5	2.18-18.5	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
Chloroform (ppb)	Quarterly	49.4	17.5-49.4	70	NA	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
Dibromoacetic (ppb)	Quarterly	1.69	ND-1.69	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
Trichloroacetic (ppb)	Quarterly	28.80	2.62-28.8	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
Dichloroacetic (ppb)	Quarterly	18.5	2.18-18.5	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
Synthetic Organic Contaminants	Date Collected	Highest	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination	
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb)*	Triannually	ND	ND	NA	NA	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories	
*Health effects unknown								
Secondary Contaminants	Date Collected	Highest Detect Value	Range Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source of Contamination		
Magnesium (ppm)	8/28/2024	5.67	NA	-	-	Natural Mineral and Organic Matter		
Aluminum (ppb)	8/28/2024	0.02	NA	-	200	Residue from water treatment process; erosion of natural deposits		
Chloride (ppm)	8/28/2024	97.1	NA	250	NA	Natural Mineral, Road Salt		
Calcium (ppm)	8/28/2024	43.4	NA	-	-	Natural Mineral and Organic Matter		
Copper (ppm)	8/28/2024	0.47	NA	1	-	Naturally occurring element; corrosion of household plumbing		
Manganese (ppm)*	8/28/2024	0.062	NA	0.05	0.3	Erosion of Natural Deposits		
Potassium (ppm)	8/28/2024	2.93	NA	-	-	Natural Mineral and Organic Matter		
Sulfate (ppm)	8/28/2024	64.5	NA	250	250	Natural Sources		
Alkalinity (ppm)	8/28/2024	62	NA	-	-	Natural Sources		
Hardness (ppm)	8/28/2024	132	NA	-	-	Natural Sources		
Total Dissolved solids (ppm)	8/28/2024	332	NA	500	-	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence		
PH	8/28/2024	6.9	NA	6.5-8.5	-	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence		
Zinc (ppm)	8/28/2024	0.286	NA	5	NA	Erosion of Natural Deposits, and Industrial Discharge		
*EPA has established a lifetime health advisory (HA) for manganese at 0.3ppm and an acute at 1ppm								
Radioactive Contaminants	Date(s)	Highest	Range Detected	MCL	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination		
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	5/2/2023	1.36		15	N	Erosion of natural deposits		
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L) combined value	5/2/2023	0.898		5	N	Erosion of natural deposits		
Unregulated Contaminant	Date Collected	Highest Detect Value	Range Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source of Contamination		
Sodium** (ppm)	8/27/2024	61.1	NA	n/a	20	No	Road salting; erosion of natural deposits	
**Sodium is a naturally-occurring common element found in soil and water. It is necessary for the normal functioning of regulating fluids in human systems. Some people, however, have difficulty regulating fluid volume as a result of several diseases, including congestive heart failure and hypertension. The guideline of 20mg/L for sodium represents a level in water that physicians and sodium sensitive individuals should be aware of in cases where sodium exposures are being carefully controlled. For additional information, contact your health care provider, your local board of health or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment at 617-624-5757.								

PFAS DETECTED IN 2024							
Regulated	Dates	Range	Average	MCL (ppt)	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination	Health Effects
PFOS, PFOA, PFNA, PFHxS, PFHpA, PFDA	Quarterly 2024	6.53 - 8.63	7.64	20	No	Discharges 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.
Unregulated	Dates	Range	Average	ORSG (ppt)	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination	Health Effects
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA)	Quarterly 2024	2.69 - 6.1	4.21	**	No	Manmade chemical; breakdown product of stain- and grease-proof coatings on food packaging and household products	Based on studies of laboratory animals, depending on the level and length of exposure, PFHxA in drinking water may affect the liver, the blood, the thyroid and may cause effects on the developing fetus. PFHxA is generally considered less toxic than PFOA and is cleared from the body much faster than PFOS, PFOA and other longer chain PFAS.
On October 2, 2020, The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) published final regulations establishing a drinking water standard or a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The MCL is 20 parts per trillion (ppt) for what regulations call PFAS6 or the sum of six PFAS compounds: perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHPS), perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA). PFAS are a family of chemicals widely used since the 1950s to manufacture common consumer products. They have been linked to a variety of health risks, particularly in women who are pregnant or nursing, and in infants. In using the sum of six PFAS compounds, the new standard protects public health for sensitive subgroups including pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants. Please consult your health practitioner if you have any health related questions.							
**There is no ORSG or other health value for this contaminant.							