West Caldwell Township
Water Utility
30 Clinton Road
West Caldwell, NJ 07006

Your tap water makes the grade for the year 2022!

West Caldwell's Drinking Water News

Water is an important element in our lives. Did you know that water makes up 65% of our bodies? Health experts recommend that we drink eight glasses of water a day. Safe, clean water is essential to our wellbeing. That's why we want you to know that our water meets – and often surpasses – all health and safety standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). The West Caldwell Water Utility is dedicated to providing you and your family with water that is safe and healthful.

The West Caldwell Water Utility purchases our water from the Passaic Valley Water Commission. Last year, West Caldwell and the Passaic Valley Water Commission regularly collected and tested water samples to assure your water met all safety standards; and we're proud to let you know that it did. All the test results are on file with the NJDEP, the agency that monitors and regulates drinking water quality in our State. In all cases, our water was as good as – or better than – the government requirements.

The EPA and NJDEP establish drinking water regulations. They also require water suppliers to make available Drinking Water Quality Reports to customers on an annual basis. This Drinking Water Quality Report provides important information about your drinking water. Please read it carefully, and feel free to call us at 973-226-2300 if you have any questions about your water or your water service. Or you can call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791. In addition, you may attend the West Caldwell Township Council Public Meeting, which begin at 7:15pm. All meetings are open to the public. Schedules of the Council meetings can be obtained from the Office of the Township Clerk or visiting the Township calendar.

Water Quality Table

During 2021, your water met or surpassed all standards for safety.

The water quality table shows how the quality of your drinking water compares to the standards set by the EPA and the NJDEP, as outlined in the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). When standards differed the more stringent standard was used for the MCL.

2021 Water Quality Results - Table of Detected Contaminants

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 1-800-426-4791.

Regulated Contaminant (units)	Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	PVWC Little Falls-WTP PWSID NJ1605002	NJDWSC Wanaque-WTP PWSID NJ1613001	Source of Substance	Violation?
2021 Water Quality Results - Table of Detected Contaminants						
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	Treatment Technique (TT) = 1NTU	Highest Level Detected Range (Low-High)		Soil run-off	No
			0.275 (0.029-0.275)	0.5 (0.01 - 0.5)		
	NA	TT=% of sample <0.3 NTU (Min 95%)	Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limits			
			100%	99.99%		
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water and is monitored as an indicator of water quality. High turbidity can limit the effectiveness of disinfectants.						
Total Organic Carbon (%)	NA	TT=% removal or Removal Ratio	% Removal	Removal Ratio	Naturally present in the environment.	No
			51-82 (25 - 50 required)	RAA: 1.1 33-48% Removal Range Removal Ratio Range 0.9-1.4		
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.023 (0.014-0.023)	0.0095	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Bromate (ppb)	NA	10	0.94 (<5.0-16.17)	ND	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	<0.05 (ND-0.05)	ND	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Nickel (ppb)	NA	NA	2.8 (1.48-2.80)	ND	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	1.06 (0.51-1.68)	0.26	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Radium (pCi/L)	0	5	<1 (2014 Data)	<1 (2014 Data)	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	0	13*	4.86 HRAA (3.4-6.6)	2.84**	Metal plating and finishing, discharge from industrial facilities, aqueous film-forming (firefighting) foam	No
Perflourooctanoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)	0	14*	7.9 HRAA (5.5-11)	3.6**	Metal plating and finishing, discharge from industrial facilities, aqueous film-forming (firefighting) foam	No

**MCL created by the state of New Jersey. Currently there is no federal MCL for perfluorinated compounds.*
***These values are taken from NJ Drinking Water Watch.*

PRIMARY CONTAMINANTS	Compliance Achieved	MCLG	MCL	Distribution Systems Samples	Typical Source
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS					
Total Coliform Bacteria (%)	Yes	0	5% of monthly samples are positive.	0	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform or E. coli	Yes	0	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste.
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS				Highest LRAA	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Yes	NA	60	25.98 (Range 18.49-25.98)	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Yes	NA	80	71.35 (Range 36.50-71.35)	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Monitoring Period 2021

Location Running Annual Average (LRAA) results

Total Trihalomethane Monitoring Results (in ppb)	Location	1st Quarter 2021	2nd Quarter 2021	3rd Quarter 2021	4th Quarter 2021
Site 1 Quarterly Results	459 Passaic Avenue	35.0	31.9	61.1	38.0
Site 1- LRAA*		**68.6**	**59.9**	**47.9**	**41.5**
Site 2 Quarterly Results	61 McKinley Avenue	36.8	33.6	58.0	29.6
Site 2 - LRAA*		**50.0**	**47.7**	**41.9**	**39.5**
Site 3 Quarterly Results	30 Clinton Road	34.0	36.3	45.7	30.0
Site 3 - LRAA*		**51.9**	**49.0**	**39.6**	**36.5**
Site 4 Quarterly Results	42 Fairfield Place	46.1	41.9	60.8	40.6
Site 4 - LRAA*		**71.4**	**65.2**	**53.1**	**47.4**

*Reported LRAA for quarters 1-3 are based on results from previous quarters not reported on this table.

DISINFECTANTS				Highest Result	
Chlorine (ppm)	Yes	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	1.97 (Range 0.63-1.97)	Water additive used to control microbes.
LEAD AND COPPER		**MCLG**	**Action Level**	**90th Percentile**	
Copper (ppm)	Yes	1.3	1.3	0.072	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
DETECTED UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS - UCMR3 DATA					
Lead (ppb)	Yes	0	15	0.77	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

ADDITIONAL PVWC TREATMENT PLAN MONITORING RESULTS

Contaminant	PVWC Little Falls-WTP PWSID NJ1605002 Range of Results	**Test results presented in this table were collected in 2021 to monitor the occurrence of emerging contaminants. There are currently no EPA drinking water standards for these contaminants.**
Treated Drinking Water at the Entry Point to the Distribution System		
Chlorate (ppb)	115.5-305	
1,4-Dioxane (ppb)	N/D	
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid [PFBS] (ppt)	<2.0-3.6	PVWC monitors for the presence of perfluorochemicals in source water and finished drinking water monthly. The NJDEP has formally established MCLs for Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluoroocanesulfonic acid (PFOS) of 14 ppt and 13 ppt respectively. These rules were effective January 1, 2021. The results observed in 2021 were below the NJDEP newly established MCL.
Perfluoroheptanoic acid [PFHp/A] (ppt)	<2.0-3.9	
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid [PFHxS] (ppt)	<2.0-3.0	
Perfluorohexanoic [PFHxA] (ppt)	3.1-8.4	
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid [PFOS] (ppt)	3.4-6.6	
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppt)	5.5-11.0	

Source Water Assessment

NJDEP has prepared the Source Water Assessment reports and summaries for all public water systems. The Source Water Assessment for the PVWC system (PWS ID 1605002) and the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC) (PWS ID 1613001) can be found online at the NJDEP's source water assessment website- http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/index.html or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550 or watersupply@dep.nj.gov.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contamination category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of a source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any of those contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. The source water assessments performed on the intakes for each system list the following susceptibility ratings for a variety of contaminants that may be present in source waters:

Intake Susceptibility Rating								
Sources	**Pathogens**	**Nutrients**	**Pesticides**	**Volatile Organic Compounds**	**Inorganic Contaminants**	**Radionuclides**	**Radon**	**Disinfection Byproduct Precursors**
PVWC Surface Water (4 intakes)	(4) High	(4) High	(1) Medium (3) Low	(4) Medium	(4) High	(4) Low	(4) Low	(4) High
NJDWSC (5 intakes)	(5) High	(5) High	(2) Medium (3) Low	(5) Medium	(5) High	(5) Low	(5) Low	(5) High

2021 Water Quality Results - Table of Detected Secondary Parameters

Contaminant	NJ Recommended Limit (RUL) Upper	PVWC Little Falls-WTP PWSID NJ1605002		NJDWSC Wanaque-WTP PWSID NJ1613001	
		Range of Results	RUL Achieved?	Range of Results	RUL Achieved?
Treated Drinking Water at the Entry Point to the Distribution System					
Alkylbenzene Sulfonate [ABS]/Linear Alkylbenzene Sulfonate [LAS] (ppb)	500	25-90	YES	<50	YES
Alkalinity (ppm)	N/A	45.0-67.5	N/A	49.6	N/A
Aluminum (ppb)	200	15.1-43.7	YES	38.1	YES
Chloride (ppm)	250	89.71-100.7	YES	51.2	YES
Color (color units)	<10	<5	YES	2	YES
Copper (ppm)	<1	0.68-1.06	NO	0.013	YES
Hardness, CaCO3 (ppm)	250	86-148	YES	52	YES
Iron (ppb)	300	<100	YES	104	YES
Treated Drinking Water at the Entry Point to the Distribution System (Continued)					
Manganese (ppb)	50	2.69-17.97	YES	3.7	YES
Odor (Threshold Odor Number)	3	1-20	NO	<1	YES
pH	6.5 to 8.5 (optimum range)	8.03-8.58	NO	7.98	YES
Sodium (ppm)	50	42.33-96.5	NO*	29.4	YES
Sulfate (ppm)	250	42.1-55.6	YES	7.78	YES
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	500	279.5-354.5	NO	170	YES
Zinc (ppb)	5000	1.04-5.06	YES	<10	YES

"PVWC's finished water was above New Jersey's Recommended Upper Limit (RUL). Possible sources of sodium include natural soil runoff, roadway salt runoff, upstream wastewater treatment plants, and a contribution coming from chemicals used in the water treatment process. For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important, because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the recommended upper limit may be a concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the United States. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are viable or capable of causing disease. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps.

Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may spread through means other than drinking water.

Source Water Pathogen Monitoring		
Contaminant	**Results for PVWC Plant Intake**	**Typical source**
Cryptosporidium (Oocysts/L)	N/D	Microbial pathogens found in surface waters throughout the United States.
Giardia (Cysts/L)	0.0 - 0.46	

PVWC regularly samples source water for *Cryptosporidium* and Giardia. The data collected in 2021 is presented in the table above.

Violations from 2021

***Violation 2021-414**; WC Water failed to complete 1 set of bi-weekly monitoring samples for pH and Orthophosphate between 6/18/2021 through 7/1/2021 at the point of entry. WC Water will conduct follow-up water quality parameter monitoring during two consecutive 6-month monitoring periods beginning July 1st, 2022, in accordance with 40 CFR 141.87(c).*

***Violation 2021-413**; WC Water failed to complete 10 of 20 biannual samples for pH, Orthophosphate, and Alkalinity between 3/26/2021 through 7/1/2021 in the distribution system. WC Water will conduct follow-up water quality parameter monitoring during two consecutive 6-month monitoring periods beginning July 1st, 2022, in accordance with 40 CFR 141.87(c).*

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. We did not complete all monitoring and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water at that time. Please share this information with all the other people that drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly.

Does West Caldwell Test for Asbestos?

Under a waiver issued by the State (NJDEP), the Township of West Caldwell does not have to monitor for asbestos because the State has determined that West Caldwell's system is not considered susceptible to asbestos contamination. The State has determined that monitoring and testing for asbestos is not required at this time. West Caldwell has been granted SOC waivers in prior years and expects to receive a waiver for the current compliance period upon NJDEP determination in 2022.

A Sure Safe Supply

The Township of West Caldwell bulk purchases our water from the Passaic Valley Water Commission. Passaic Valley Water Commission's (PVWC) Little Falls Water Treatment Plant treats surface water diverted from the Passaic and Pompton rivers or Point View Reservoir. Treated water is then blended with treated water obtained from the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission's (NJDWSC) Treatment Plant. Water is then pumped through underground pipes to West Caldwell. Emergency interconnections with other water purveyors exist throughout the distribution system. The Township of West Caldwell Water Department is committed to providing our customers a safe, sure supply of water 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

DEFINITIONS of TERMS and ACRONYMS

ABS/LAS - Alkylbenzene Sulfonate and Linear Alkylbenzene Sulfonate (surfactants).

Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Disinfection By-product Precursors - A common source is naturally occurring organic material in surface water. Disinfection by-products are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (DBP precursors) present in surface water.

Location Running Annual Average (LRAA) - The annual average taken from the present month going back twelve months for a specific location.

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 allowed for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the 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 contamination.

Primary Standards - Federal drinking water regulations for substances that are health-related. Water suppliers must meet all primary drinking water standards.

PWS ID - Public Water System identification.

Radioactive Contaminants/Radionuclides - Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made may be present in source water naturally or as a result of oil and gas production and mining activities. Examples include radium, radon and uranium.

Radon - Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment.

RUL Achieved - A "YES" entry indicates the State-recommended upper limit was not exceeded. A "NO" entry indicates that State recommended upper limit was exceeded.

Running Annual Average (RAA) - The annual average taken from the present month going back twelve months.

Secondary Standards - Federal drinking water measurements for substances that do not have an impact on health. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as taste, odor, and appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.

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

What About Bottled Water?

The 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 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 agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 1-800-426-4791.

So, what's the bottom line? If bottled and tap water meet the Federal standards, they are both safe to drink. However, your tap water costs less than one penny per gallon and is substantially less expensive than bottled water. Additionally, tap water is always available in your own home.

Detected Substances

Your water was tested for more than 178 substances. As you can see from our water quality tables on the proceeding page, the amounts we found were less than the amounts allowed by the EPA. Listed below is information that may be of special interest to our customers.

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. West Caldwell 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 is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. Call us at 973-226-2300 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water.