

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

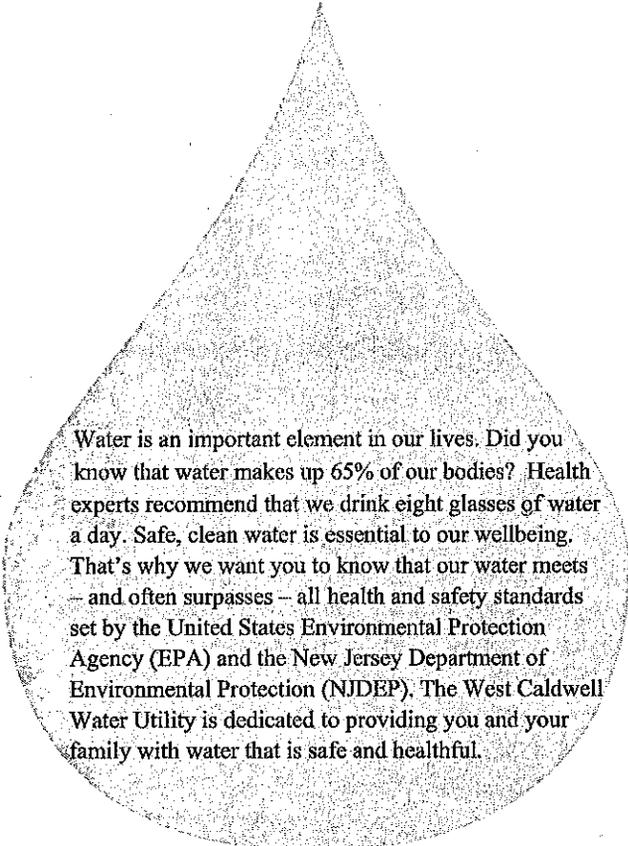


Your tap water makes the grade for the year 2025!

West Caldwell's Drinking Water News

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 can attend the West Caldwell Township Council Public Meeting, which begins 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 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.

Water Quality Table

During 2024, 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.

2024 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.

2024 Water Quality Results - Table of Detected Contaminants

Regulated Contaminant (units)	Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	PVWC Little Falls-WTP PWSID NJ1605002	NJDWSC Wanaque-WTP PWSID NJ1613001	Source of Substance	Violation?
Treated Drinking Water at Treatment Plant						
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	Treatment Technique (TT) = 1NTU	Highest Level Detected and Range (Min. to Max.)		Soil run-off	No
			0.135 (0.027-0.135)	0.619 (0.015 - 0.619)		
	NA	TT=% of sample <0.3 NTU (Min 95%)	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limits			
			100%	99.98%		
<i>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.</i>						
Total Organic Carbon (%)	NA	TT=% removal or Removal Ratio	% Removal	Removal Ratio	Naturally present in the environment.	No
			54,65 – 84,84 (25 - 50 required)	RAA: 1.1 % Removal Range: 35.4-51.3 Removal Ratio Range 1.0-1.5		
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.025 (0.0106-0.025)	0.006	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	<0.07 (<0.05-0.07)	0.1 ¹	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Nickel (ppb)	NA	NA	2.77 (1.99-2.77)	ND	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	2.91 (0.53-2.91)	0.119	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Radium (pCi/L)	0	5	<1 (2023 Data)	1.5 (2023 Data)	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	0	13 ²	5.42 HRAA (3.6-7.1)	2.61	Discharge from manufacturing and industrial chemical facilities, use of certain consumer products, occupational exposures and certain firefighting activities.	No
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)	0	14 ²	8.76 HRAA (5.5-11.0)	3.63	Discharge from manufacturing and industrial chemical facilities, use of certain consumer products, occupational exposures and certain firefighting activities.	No

These values taken from NJ Drinking Water Watch. MCL created by the state of New Jersey. The EPA's new regulatory threshold for PFAS, which must be included in the CCR, will take effect on April 26, 2027

N/A- Not Applicable

ND – Not Detected.

Primary Contaminants	Compliance	MCLG	MCL	Distribution System	Typical Source
Microbiological Contaminants	Achieved			Samples	
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	By Products			Highest LRRR	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Yes	N/A	60	25.8(Range 8.09 – 25.8)	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) (ppb)	Yes	N/A	80	63.20(Range 18.1 – 63.20)	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Monitoring Period 2024
Location Running Annual Average (LRAA) results

Total Trihalomethane Monitoring Results (in ppb)	Location	1st Quarter 2024	2nd Quarter 2024	3rd Quarter 2024	4th Quarter 2024
Site 1 Quarterly Results	459 Passaic Avenue	27.0	27.3	54.6	33.5
Site 1 - LRAA*		68.6	59.9	47.9	41.5
Site 2 Quarterly Results	61 McKinley Avenue	22.0	25.4	45.5	38.7
Site 2 - LRAA*		50.0	47.7	41.9	39.5
Site 3 Quarterly Results	30 Clinton Road	18.1	20.6	59.5	38.9
Site 3 - LRAA*		51.9	49.0	39.6	36.5
Site 4 Quarterly Results	42 Fairfield Place	47.2	34.4	63.2	52.3
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

Chlorine (ppm)	Yes	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Highest Result	1.16	Water additives are used to control microbes.
				(Range ND-2.38)		

LEAD AND COPPER

Copper (ppm)	Yes	MCLG	Action Level	90th Percentile	1.3	1.3	0.072
--------------	-----	------	--------------	-----------------	-----	-----	-------

Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives. Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

DETECTED UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS - UCMR3 DATA

Lead (ppb)	Yes	MCLG	Action Level	90th Percentile	0	15	0.77
------------	-----	------	--------------	-----------------	---	----	------

ADDITIONAL PWWC TREATMENT PLAN MONITORING RESULTS

Contaminant	PWWC Little Falls-WTP PWSID NJ1605002	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.
	Range of Results	

Treated Drinking Water at the Entry Point to the Distribution System

Chlorate (ppb)	183.5 107.2 -246.9.	PVWC monitors the presence of perfluorochemicals in source water and finished drinking water monthly.
1,4-Dioxane (ppb)	<0.07	
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid [PFBS] (ppt)	<2-3.4	
Perfluoroheptanoic acid [PFHpA] (ppt)	<2-3.4	
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid [PFHxS] (ppt)	<2-3.1	

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 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

2024 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	80.0-140.0	YES	<50.0	YES
Alkalinity (ppm)	N/A	38.0-81.0	N/A	32.0	N/A
Aluminum (ppb)	200	14.6-25.0	YES	33.8	YES
Chloride (ppm)	250	43.5-138.1	YES	33.8	YES
Color (color units)	<10	<5	YES	<2	YES
Copper (ppm)	<1	ND	YES	0.022	YES
Hardness, CaCO3 (ppm)	250	66-154	YES	52.0	YES
Iron (ppb)	300	<100	YES	<200	YES

Treated Drinking Water at the Entry Point to the Distribution System (Continued)

Manganese (ppb)	50	9.84-14.11	YES	<2.0	YES
Odor (Threshold Odor Number)	3	3.0-25.0	NO ⁶	<1	YES
pH	6.5 to 8.5 (optimum range)	7.87-8.46	YES	7.93	YES
Sodium (ppm)	50	40.66-103.8	NO ⁷	22.6	YES
Sulfate (ppm)	250	30.2-84.3	YES	6.14	YES
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	500	172.5-445.0	YES	80.0	YES
Zinc (ppb)	5000	1.75-3.64	YES	<10	YES

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES (UCMR5 2024 DATA)

	MCL	MCLG	RANGE	Highest	Average	Source
PFOA (ppb)	NO MCL	NO MCLG	0 - 0.0083	0.0083	0.0080	N/A
PFOS (ppb)	NO MCL	NO MCLG	0 - 0.0055	0.0055	0.0050	N/A
PFPeA (ppb)	NO MCL	NO MCLG	0 - 0.0067	0.0067	0.0047	N/A
PFHxA (ppb)	NO MCL	NO MCLG	0 - 0.0062	0.0062	0.0045	N/A
PFBA (ppb)	NO MCL	NO MCLG	0 - 0.0051	0.0051	0.0050	N/A

* - The recommended upper limit for manganese is based on staining of laundry. Manganese is an essential nutrient, and toxicity is not expected from high levels which would not be encountered in drinking water.

"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 illnesses. 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 other means than drinking water.

Source Water Pathogen Monitoring		
Contaminant	Results for PVWC Plant Intake	Typical source
Cryptosporidium (Oocysts/L)	N/D - 0.72	Microbial pathogens found in surface waters throughout the United States.
Giardia (Cysts/L)	N/D - 0.27	

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

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 the 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. (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Violations from 2024/2025

Violation 2024-415; During the monitoring period of 1/1/2024 through 7/1/2024 our system was required to maintain pH levels at or above the minimum set by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) as part of our corrosion control treatment under the Lead and Copper Rule. On 5/1/2024, the pH dropped below the required minimum value of 7.0 resulting in a monitoring violation. We have taken corrective actions to ensure proper treatment is restored and pH levels are maintained above the minimum requirement.

Violation 2025-416; As part of our corrosion control treatment program required under the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), we are required to monitor and report specific water quality parameters (WQPs)- including pH, alkalinity, and corrosion inhibitor levels- at designated locations. During the monitoring period of January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024, we did not complete the required monitoring and/or failed to report the results to the New Jersey of Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) This resulted in monitoring and reporting violation. We have addressed the issue and have resumed full monitoring and reporting.

Violation 2025-417; We are required to collect and report lead and copper tap samples in accordance with the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). During the monitoring period from July 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, required sampling was not conducted or not properly reported for the sample point identified as the DS (Distribution System) Resulting in a monitoring and reporting violation. We have taken corrective steps to ensure future samples are collected and reported on time, including reviewing our sampling schedule.

Violation 2025-418; As part of our corrosion control treatment program required under the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), we are required to monitor and report specific water quality parameters (WQPs)- including pH, alkalinity, and corrosion inhibitor levels- at designated locations. During the monitoring period of July 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, we did not complete the required monitoring and/or failed to report the results to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). This resulted in a monitoring and reporting violation. We have addressed the issue and have resumed full monitoring and reporting.

Violation 2025-419; During the monitoring period of February 1, 2025, to February 28, 2025, we failed to collect all routine samples for *E. coli* and total coliform rule (RTCR). This monitoring is required to assess the microbiological quality of the drinking water system. The missing samples were from the sample point: DS (Distribution System) We have taken corrective actions to ensure timely collections and reporting of future RTCR samples. Staff have been retrained, and our compliance calendar has been updated to prevent recurrence.

Violation 2025-420; During the monitoring period March 11, 2025, we failed to collect all routine samples for *E. coli* and total coliform rule (RTCR). This monitoring is required to assess the microbiological quality of the drinking water system. The missing samples were from the sample point: DS (Distribution System) We have taken corrective steps to ensure all future samples are collected and reported as required.

Violation 2025-421; During the monitoring period of 7/1/2024 through 12/31/2024 our system was required to maintain pH levels at or above the minimum set by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) as part of our corrosion control treatment under the Lead and Copper Rule. During our quarterly samples for the distribution system the average of the 10 sites, pH dropped below the required minimum value of 7.0 resulting in a monitoring violation. We have taken corrective actions to ensure proper treatment is restored and pH levels are maintained above the minimum requirement.

Violation 2025-422; During the reporting year 2024, our system incurred one or more violations that required us to issue public notice under the Public Notification Rule. These notices inform consumers of the nature of the violation, potential health risks (if any), and the steps taken to correct the issue. WQP Level Non-Compliance (LCR) (Violation #415) Violation period was 1/1/2024-7/1/2024. This is a Tier 2 Violation. We are in the process of correcting this violation.

Violation 2025-423; We are required to monitor the chlorine levels in the distribution system to ensure that the water is properly disinfected and to limit the formation of harmful disinfection byproducts (DBPs). From February 1, 2025, to February 28, 2025, we did not conduct the required routine monitoring for chlorine as required by the disinfection by products rule (DBPR). This is considered a major monitoring violation. We have taken corrective action by resuming proper monitoring procedures and reviewing internal protocols to ensure compliance with all future monitoring requirements.

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 2024.

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 with 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.