

West Caldwell Township  
Water Utility  
30 Clinton Road  
West Caldwell, NJ 07006  
PWS ID NJ0721001



## Your Tap Water Makes the Grade For The Year 2014!

# 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? And 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 is held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:15 p.m., Town Hall, 30 Clinton Road, West Caldwell.

# Water Quality Table

During 2013, 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.

## SDWA Primary Standards (Directly related to the safety of drinking water)

PRIMARY CONTAMINANTS	Compliance Achieved	MCLG	MCL	Plant Effluent PSW ID NJ1605002 PVWC	Sample Results PWS ID NJ1613001 NJDWSC	Typical Source
Turbidity (NTU)	Yes	NA	TT=1	0.69 (0.03-0.69)	0.59 (0.07Average)	Soil runoff.
	Yes	NA	TT=percentage of samples <0.3 NTU (min 95% required)	99.9%	99.9%	
Total Organic Carbon (%)	Yes	NA	TT= % removal	58% (lowest) (25%-50% required) Range 58-73%)	35% (average) (35% required) (Range 28 to 41%)	Naturally present in the environment.

### INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Arsenic (ppb)	Yes	0	5	0.98 (ND - 0.98)	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass & electronics production wastes.
Barium (ppm)	Yes	2	2	0.025 (0.015 - 0.025)	0.01	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium (ppb)	Yes	100	100	0.24 (ND - 0.24)	ND	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	Yes	4	4	0.096 (0.076 - 0.096)	ND	Erosion of natural deposits;
Nickel (ppb)	NA	NA	NA	2.4 (1.9 - 2.4)	ND	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (ppm)	Yes	10	10	4.4 (0.083 - 4.4)	0.21	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

### 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	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or E.coli Bacteria (#)	Yes	0	0	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste.

#### DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS

Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Yes	NA	60	Highest LRAA 21.70 (Range 11.42 - 29.55)	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Yes	NA	80	58.97 (Range 23.0 - 83.6)	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

#### DISINFECTANTS

Chlorine (ppm)	Yes	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Highest Result 1.4	Water additive used to control microbes.
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#### LEAD AND COPPER

	Compliance Achieved	MCLG	MCL Action Level	90th Percentile	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	Yes	1.3	1.3	0.075	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (ppb)	Yes	0	15	2	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Table 6. Table of monitored Contaminants Not Detected in 2013

Little Falls-WTP Effluent	Asbestos, Antimony, Beryllium, Bromate, Cadmium, Cyanide, Iron, Mercury, Selenium, Silver, Surfactants, Thallium, and Volatile Organic Compounds.
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**SDWA Secondary Standards (Related to the aesthetic quality of drinking water)**

**Key**

Contaminant	N.J. Recommended Upper Limit (RUL)	PVWC-Little Falls WTP PWSID NJ1605002		NJDWSC-Wanaque WTP PWSID NJ1613001	
		Range of Results	RUL Achieved	Result	RUL Achieved
Alkalinity, ppm	NA	54 - 81	NA	36	NA
Aluminum, ppb	200	16 - 29	Yes	40	Yes
Chloride, ppm	250	70 - 130	Yes	40	Yes
Color, CU	10	ND	Yes	3	Yes
Corrosivity	Non-Corrosive	Non-Corrosive	Yes	-	NA
Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ), ppm	250	84 - 192	Yes	57	Yes
Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ), grains/gallon	14.5	5 - 11	Yes	3	Yes
Manganese, ppb	50	5 - 10	Yes	ND	Yes
Odor, TON	3	3 - 5	No	-	NA
pH (optimum range)	6.5 to 8.5	7.9 - 8.3	Yes	7.9	Yes
*Sodium, ppm	50	32 - 121	No*	22	Yes
Sulfate, ppm	250	56 - 105	Yes	9	Yes
Total Dissolved Solids, ppm	500	282 - 483	Yes	152	Yes
Zinc, ppb	5,000	2 - 5	Yes	15	Yes

- AL** Action Level
- CU** Color Unit
- MCL** Maximum Contaminant Level
- MCLG** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
- NA** Not Applicable
- ND** Not Detected
- ppb** Parts Per Billion—The equivalent of 1 second in 32 years
- ppm** Parts Per Million—The equivalent of 1 second in 12 days
- pCi/L** Picocuries per liter—The equivalent of 1 second in 32 million years
- NTU** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
- TON** Threshold Odor Number
- TT** Treatment Technique
- RAA** Running Annual Average
- LRAA** Locational Running Annual Average
- RUL** Recommended Upper Limit

\* Sodium: PVWC was above New Jersey's Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) for Sodium. 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 of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

**Definitions**

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

**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 allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level at which a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Detected Substances**

Your water was tested for more than 178 substances. As you can see from our water quality tables on the preceding 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>.

**What About Bottled Water?**

Typically, 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, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Federal Drug Administration (FDA) 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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.

## Source Water Assessments

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has prepared Source Water Assessment reports and summaries for all public water systems. The Source Water Assessment, and related questions, for the West Caldwell System (PSW ID NJ 0721001), the PVWC system (PWS ID NJ 1605002), as well as the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (PWS ID NJ 1613001), can be obtained by logging onto NJDEP's source water assessment Web site at [www.state.nj.us/dep/swap](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap) or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550. 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 source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. The source water assessments performed on the intakes for each system lists the following susceptibility ratings as indicated in the tables below. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

### Intake Susceptibility Ratings

Intakes	Pathogens	Nutrients	Pesticides	Volatile Organic Compounds	Inorganic Contaminants	Radionuclides	Radon	Disinfection Byproduct Precursors
PVWC 4 Surface Water	4 - High	4 - High	1 - Medium 3 - Low	4 - Medium	4 - High	4 - Low	4 - Low	4 - High
NJDWSC 5 Surface Water	5 - High	5 - High	2 - Medium 3 - Low	5 - Medium	5 - High	5 - Low	5 - Low	5 - High

### Source Water Pathogen Monitoring-PVWC Sourcewaters

Contaminant	Pompton River	Passaic River	Typical Source
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> , Oocysts/L	0 - 0.4	0 - 0.2	Microbial pathogens found in surface waters throughout the United States
<i>Giardia</i> , Cysts/L	0 - 0.9	0 - 0.6	
MPN E.coli per 100 ml	16.1 - greater than 2419.6	25.6 - 1553.1	Human and animal fecal waste.

*Cryptosporidium* is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the United States. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly-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 dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of the 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 risks 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 be spread through means other than drinking water.

### UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS FOR WHICH EPA REQUIRES MONITORING

Contaminant	Little Falls WTP Effluent (Range of Results)	NJDWSC's Wanaque WTP Effluent (Range of Results)	Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.
1,4 - Dioxane, ppb	ND - 0.135	ND	
Chlorate, ppb	320 - 430	36 - 95	
Chromium (Total), ppb	ND - 0.24	ND - 0.36	
Hexavalent Chromium, ppb	0.047-0.12	ND - 0.035	
Strontium, ppb	140 - 150	40 - 46	
Testosterone, ppb	ND - 0.00097	ND	
Vanadium, ppb	ND - 0.31	ND	

### ADDITIONAL PVWC TREATMENT PLANT MONITORING RESULTS

Contaminant	Little Falls WTP Intake	Little Falls WTP Effluent	The data presented in this table presents PVWC data collected in 2013 as part of a study to determine the general occurrence of perchlorate. Currently, there is no drinking water standard for perchlorate to compare the results to and thus they are presented for informational purpose only. PVWC continues to participate in and support these types of regulatory and research efforts to maintain a position of leadership in drinking water supply.
Perchlorate, ppb	ND	0.12	

## 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 to our customers a safe, sure supply of water 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

## Health Note

**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 infections by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.**

## 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.