

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



## Your Tap Water Makes the Grade For The Year 2020!

# 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 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 2019, 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	Water Treatment Plant Result		Typical Source
				PVWC Little Falls WTP PWS ID NJ1605002	NJDWSC Wanaque WTP PWS ID NJ 1613001	
TURBIDITY AND TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON				Highest Results (Range of Results)	Highest Results (Average)	Soil runoff.
Turbidity (NTU)*	Yes	NA	TT=1	0.34 (0.017 - 0.34)	2.1^ (0.09 average)	
	Yes	NA	TT=percentage of samples <0.3 NTU (min 95% required)	Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting the Turbidity Limits	100%	
*Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water, and is monitored as an indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.						
Total Organic Carbon, %	Yes	NA	TT= % removal; or removal ratio	Percent (%) Removal	Removal Ratio	Naturally present in the environment.
				58 - 100 (25 - 50 required)	1.1 (RAA) (1.0 - 1.3)	
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>				Highest Result (Range of Results)		
Barium, ppm	Yes	2	2	Less than 0.10	0.0069	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride, ppm	Yes	4	4	0.050 (ND - 0.050)	ND	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel, ppb	NA	NA	NA	2.53 (ND - 2.53)	ND	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate, ppm	Yes	10	10	2.81 (ND - 2.81)	0.155	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium, ppb	Yes	50	50	Less than 2	ND	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.

^ NJDWSC incurred a Combined Filter Effluent Turbidity violation in May 2019. There is nothing you need to do. You weren't being supplied with water from NJWSC at the time of the turbidity violation. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

PRIMARY CONTAMINANTS	Compliance Achieved	MCLG	MCL	Distribution Systems Samples	Typical Source
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS</b>					
Total Coliform Bacteria (%)	Yes	0	5% of monthly samples are positive.	0	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform or E.coli Bacteria (#)	Yes	0	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste.
<b>DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS</b>					
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Yes	NA	60	Highest LRAA 25.24 (Range 13.60 - 53.90)	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Yes	NA	80	49.63 (Range 22.40 - 99.50)	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		MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Highest Result	
Chlorine (ppm)	Yes			2.10	Water additive used to control microbes.
<b>LEAD AND COPPER</b>					
Copper (ppm)	Yes	MCLG 1.3	Action Level 1.3	90th Percentile 0.2046	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
<b>DETECTED UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS - UCMR3 DATA</b>					
Lead (ppb)	Yes	0	15	10.55	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

## ADDITIONAL PVWC TREATMENT PLAN MONITORING RESULTS

Detected Contaminants, ppb	Little Falls WTP Effluent Average (Range)
Chlorate	(35 - 413)
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	(ND - 0.0021)
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	(ND - 0.0027)
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	(ND - 0.0029)
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	(ND - 0.0054)
1,4 - Dioxane	(ND - 0.09)
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	(ND - 0.0086)
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	(0.0039 - 0.010)

Health advisory levels are non-enforceable and non-regulatory and provide technical information to state agencies and other public health officials on health effects, analytical methodologies, and treatment technologies associated with drinking water contamination.

Test results presented in this table were collected in 2019 as part of a study to determine the general occurrence of these contaminants. PVWC continues to participate in and support these types of regulatory and research efforts to maintain a position of leadership in drinking water supply.

There are currently no EPA drinking water standards in effect for these contaminants although EPA has established health advisory levels for some of these to provide an estimate of acceptable drinking water levels based on health effects information.

EPA has published Health Advisory levels for Perfluorooctanoic acid, (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, (PFOS), of 0.070 parts per billion (ppb) combined.

The results observed in 2019 were below EPA established health advisory levels.

NJDEP adopted a maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 0.013 parts per billion (ppb) for Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) in September 2018 and is considering a maximum contaminant level of 0.014 ppb for PFOA.

## Waiver Information

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals, and synthetic organic chemicals. NJDWSC was granted a monitoring waiver for synthetic organic chemicals for the 2017-2019 monitoring period by NJDEP. PVWC received a monitoring waiver for all of the synthetic organic contaminants except for the contaminant Di(2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate for the 2017-2019 monitoring period.

## Source Water Assessments

NJDEP has prepared Source Water Assessment reports and summaries for all public water systems. The Source Water Assessment for the PVWC system (PWS ID NJ 1605002), and NJDWSC system (PWS ID 1613001) can be obtained by accessing NJDEP's source water assessment web site at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/index.html> 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 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 RATINGS

Intake	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

### SECONDARY PARAMETERS – TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT

Contaminant	N.J. Recommended Upper Limit (RUL)	PVWC Little Falls WTP PWSID NJ1605002		NJDWSC Wanaque WTP PWSID NJ1613001	
		Range of Results	UL Achieved	Result	RUL Achieved
AB/LAS, ppb	500	ND - 60	Yes	ND	Yes
Alkalinity, ppm	NA	28 - 80	NA	40	NA
Aluminum, ppb	200	20 - 42	Yes	28	Yes
Chloride, ppm	250	48 - 161	Yes	44	Yes
Color, CU	10	Less than 5	Yes	2	Yes
Corrosivity	Non-Corrosive	Non-Corrosive	Yes	Non-Corrosive	Yes
Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ), ppm	250	58 - 172	Yes	43	Yes
Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ), grains/gallon	15	3 - 10	Yes	3	Yes
Iron, ppb	300	Less than 100	Yes	17	Yes
Manganese, ppb	50	ND - 211	No	18	Yes
Odor, TON	3	2 - 9	No	ND	Yes
pH	6.5 to 8.5 (optimum range)	8.1 - 8.4	Yes	8.09	Yes
Sodium, ppm	50	28 - 115	No*	23	Yes
Sulfate, ppm	250	9 - 82	Yes	6	Yes
Total Dissolved Solids, ppm	500	190 - 561	No	118	Yes
Zinc, ppb	5,000	Less than 40	Yes	10	Yes

Key	
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

### \*PVWCs FINISHED WATER EXCEEDS SODIUM RUL

PVWCs finished water was above New Jersey's Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) of 50 ppm for sodium in 2019. 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. If you have any concerns, please contact your health care provider.

## Cryptosporidium

*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 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.

PVWC conducted special source water *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* monitoring in 2019. The data collected in 2019 is presented in the table below.

### SOURCE WATER PATHOGEN MONITORING

Contaminant	PVWC Plant Intake	Typical Source
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> , Oocysts/L	0 - 0.57	Microbial pathogens found in surface waters throughout the United States
<i>Giardia</i> , Cysts/L	0 - 1.23	

### UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS FOR WHICH EPA REQUIRES MONITORING

Contaminant	PVWC Plant Intake Average (Range of Results)	Typical Source Average (Range of Results)
Bromide, ppb	44 (33-69)	
Total Organic Carbon, mg/L	6 (4-7)	
Manganese		8 (2-14)

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA requires monitoring but 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.

## Does West Caldwell Test for Asbestos?

Under a waiver issued by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (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.

## 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.

## DEFINITIONS of TERMS and ACRONYMS

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

**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.

**MRDL** - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; 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.

**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.

**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.

## 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 Environmental Protection Agency 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.