Frequently Asked Questions

What can I do to conserve water?

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

Tap vs. Bottled, Rethinking What You Are Drinking

When choosing the water you want to drink, it is often easy to be convinced that bottled water is healthier for you than tap water, but in truth is it? The answer, thanks to a study by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), is not always. First, approximately 25 percent of bottled water is – in reality – bottled tap water. Additionally, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates bottled water; however, their testing standards are not as rigorous as the ones required by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for tap water. Moreover, FDA oversight does not apply to water that is packaged and sold within the same state. According to the NRDC's report, this leaves approximately 60 -70 percent of bottled water, including the contents of watercooler jugs, free of FDA regulation.

It is estimated that people spend almost 5,000 times more per gallon of bottled water than they would for tap water. For those who get their recommended eight glasses of water a day, you could be saving over $1,000 annually if you switched to tap water!

How much water do I use during a typical shower?

Based on the age of your house and your showerheads, anywhere from 20 to 40 gallons of water can be used during a typical shower.

Montclair Water Bureau
54 Watchung Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07043

Questions?
If you have questions concerning this report or your drinking water, please contact Gary Obszarny, Director of Utilities, Licensed Operator, by calling (973) 744-4600.

Montclair & Glen Ridge

Presented by Montclair Water Bureau
PWS ID: #0713001 and #0708001

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Reporting year 2012

2012 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

PWS ID #0713001, 0708001

Our Drinking Water Is Regulated

The Montclair Water Bureau is pleased to share this report with you. This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. Our water meets all state and federal standards. The analysis covers January 1 through December 31, 2012, and was made by using the data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

The Township of Montclair and the Borough of Glen Ridge obtain their water from North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC). The Township of Montclair and the Borough of Glen Ridge are partners in the NJDWSC, which owns and operates the 29.6 billion-gallon Wanaque Reservoir and Treatment Plant and the 7-billion-gallon Monksville Reservoir.

The water is received by the Township of Montclair through its Grove Street Pumping Station and is pumped throughout Montclair. The Montclair system also includes 3 municipal wells, one in each of the 3 pressure zones.

The Borough of Glen Ridge has 3 interconnections with Montclair through which it receives its water supply.

Source of Drinking 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.

All Drinking Water May Contain Contaminants

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 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Required Additional Health Information 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. The Montclair Water Bureau 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Source Water Assessment

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) completed Source Water Assessment Reports and Summaries for all public water systems in 2005. Further information on the Source Water Assessment Program can be obtained by logging onto NJDEP's source water Web site at www.state.nj.us/dep/swap or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. You may also contact the Montclair Water Bureau at (973) 744-4600.

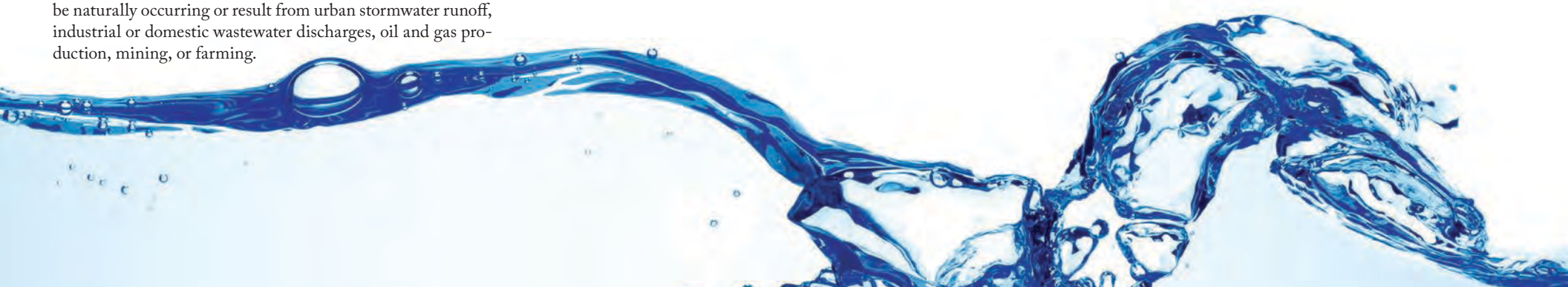
Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen, disinfectant levels, and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use and avoid using hot water, to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.



2012 Test Results

PWS ID #0713001, 0708001

We routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The test results' table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2012. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less often than once per year because concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken. In the table you might find terms and abbreviations you are not familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Definitions

- **Action Level (AL) –** the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Action Level Goal (ALG) –** the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **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. Secondary MCLs are unenforceable guidelines for aesthetic quality of water.
- **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 Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) –** 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.
- **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 contaminants.
- **NA –** not applicable.
- **ND –** not detected.
- **TT –** treatment technique.
- **NTU –** Nephelometric Turbidity Units.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) –** micrograms per liter (µg/L) or one ounce in 7,800,000 gallons of water.
- **Parts per million (ppm) –** milligrams per liter (mg/L) or one ounce in 7,800 gallons of water.
- **RUL (Recommended Upper Limit)** – The highest level of a contaminant recommended in drinking water. RULs are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

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 Substances[1]

				Montclair Water Bureau		NJDWSC		Glen Ridge Water			
Substance (Unit of Measure)	**Year Sampled**	**MCL [MRDL]**	**MCLG [MRDLG]**	**Amount Detected**	**Range**	**Amount Detected**	**Range**	**Amount Detected**	**Range**	**Violation Yes/No**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2012	15	0	6.16[2]	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	2012	5	0	0.86[2]	ND-2.6[2]	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppb)	2012	2	2	ND	NA	0.0063	NA	NA	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppb)	2012	[4]	[4]	0.73	0.62-0.82	0.99	NA	0.353	0.22-0.48	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fecal Coliform or E. coli[3] (# positive samples)	2012	0	0	ND	NA	ND	NA	NA	NA	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2012	60	NA	28.9	19.4-39.4	24.0[4] / 23.9[5]	NA	19.36	12.42-29.7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2012	10	10	2.5	2.4-2.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2012	80	NA	56.7	41.8-74.4	31.6[4] / 34.7[5]	NA	45.73	30.3-69.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliform Bacteria[3] (% positive samples)	2012	5% of monthly samples are positive	0	ND	NA	ND	NA	ND	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon[6] (% removal)	2012	TT	NA	NA	NA	40.4%	32-46%	NA	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity[7] (NTU)	2012	TT=1 NTU	NA	NA	NA	0.27	0.07-0.27	NA	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity[7] (Lowest monthly % of samples meeting limit)	2012	TT=95% of samples <0.3 NTU	NA	NA	NA	100%	NA	NA	NA	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (pCi/L)	2012	30	0	2.54[2]	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Lead and Copper Contaminants

			Montclair Water Bureau			Glen Ridge Water				
Substance (Unit of Measure)	AL	MCLG	Year Sampled	Your Water	# of sites found above AL	Year Sampled	Your Water	# of sites found above AL	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm) (90th percentile)	1.3	1.3	2010	0.0676	0/34	2010	0.1269	0/21	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb) (90th percentile)	15	0	2010	<2	1/34	2010	2.7	0/21	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Substances

			Montclair Water Bureau		NJDWSC		
Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	RUL	Amount Detected	Range	Amount Detected	Range	Likely Source of Contamination
Alkalinity (ppm)	2012	NS	ND	NA	23.4	NA	Naturally present in the environment
Aluminum (ppb)	2012	200	ND	NA	0.070	NA	Erosion of natural deposits; Residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2012	250	156[2]	127-177[2]	28.2	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Color (units)	2012	10	2[2]	2[2]	3	NA	Naturally occurring organic materials
Copper (ppm)	2012	1	ND	NA	0.011	NA	Naturally present in the environment
Hardness [as CaCO3][8] (ppm)	2012	250	331[2]	319-352[2]	39.7	NA	Naturally occurring
Iron (ppb)	2012	300	ND	NA	0.228	NA	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppm)	2012	0.05	ND	NA	0.0023	NA	Naturally present in the environment
pH (units)	2012	6.5-8.5	7.75[2]	7.69-7.79[2]	8.16	NA	Naturally occurring
Sodium (ppm)	2012	50	18.9[2]	ND-29.7[2]	16.8	NA	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2012	250	29.3[2]	19.8-43.4[2]	6.2	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2012	500	488[2]	460-517[2]	137	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Zinc (ppm)	2012	5	ND	NA	0.006	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE)[9]

		Montclair Water Bureau		Glen Ridge Water		
Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	Amount Detected	Range	Amount Detected	Range	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] – IDSE Results (ppb)	2008	23.17	6.0-29.9	27.9	14.0-37.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] – IDSE Results (ppb)	2008	40.66	2.2-65.3	44.5	38.6-47.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection

1 Under a waiver granted on December 30, 1998, by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, our system does not have to monitor for synthetic organic chemicals/pesticides because several years of testing have indicated that these substances do not occur in our source water. The SDWA regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals, and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received monitoring waivers for synthetic organic chemicals and asbestos.

2 Sample taken in 2011.

3 Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

4 Measurement at OTP location.

5 Measurement at Administration Building.

6 Total Organic Carbon (TOC) has no health effect. The disinfectant can combine with TOC to form disinfection by-products. Disinfection is necessary to ensure that water does not have unacceptable levels of pathogens. By-products of disinfection include trihalomethanes (THM) and haloacetic acids (HAA), which are reported elsewhere in this report.

7 Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system. The turbidity rule requires that 95% or more of the monthly samples must be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU (and no sample may exceed 1 NTU).

8 Well water is blended with NJDWSC water, which severely dilutes the hardness of the water that customers receive, and each well is treated with a sequestering agent to lower the effects of calcium hardness.

9 Water systems were required by the U.S. EPA to conduct evaluations of their distribution systems. This is known as an Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) and is intended to identify locations in the distribution systems that have elevated disinfection by-product concentrations. Disinfection by-products (e.g., HAAs and TTHMs) result from continuous disinfection of drinking water and form when disinfectants combine with organic matter that naturally occurs in the source water.