

# Matawan Water Department 2016 Water Quality Report

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We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

## **Please Distribute This Report**

Landlords, businesses, schools and health care facilities are encouraged to share this report with other water users at their establishments. Additional copies may be obtained by calling 732-290-2015.

## **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Where does my water come from?**

Matawan is supplied from two, independent water sources. The Middlesex Road ground water plant, owned and maintained by the town, is supplied from the Potomac-Raritan-Magothy aquifer providing water to the town April through October of each year. To prevent the depletion of the well water supply, Matawan is mandated to purchase approximately 40 percent of its water needs from a surface water supplier. New Jersey American Water delivers water to Matawan November through March from its Swimming River Reservoir, which is located in Tinton Falls.

We are pleased to report that during 2016 the water delivered to our customers from each of these sources met or exceeded all state and federal water quality standards.

## **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

## **How can I get involved?**

Contact information for all the members of Matawan's governing body and department heads are on the Matawan web site [www.matawanborough.com](http://www.matawanborough.com). If you would like to discuss particular issues in person, the regular meeting of the mayor and council typically takes place the first and third Tuesday of every month.

Specific questions or concerns about the water system can be directed to John Applegate. 732 290 2015 or [john.applegate@matawanborough.com](mailto:john.applegate@matawanborough.com).

## **Description of Water Treatment Process**

Your water is treated in a "treatment train" (a series of processes applied in a sequence) that includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Coagulation removes dirt and other particles suspended in the source water by adding chemicals (coagulants) to form tiny sticky particles called "floc," which attract the dirt particles. Flocculation (the formation of larger flocs from smaller flocs) is achieved using gentle, constant mixing. The heavy particles settle naturally out of the water in a sedimentation basin. The clear water then moves to the filtration process where the water passes through sand, gravel, charcoal or other

filters that remove even smaller particles. A small amount of chlorine or other disinfection method is used to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water before it is stored and distributed to homes and businesses in the community.

## **Water Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## **Source Water Assessment**

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for the Matawan system, which is available at [www.state.nj.us/dep/swap](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap) or by contacting the NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (609) 292-5550.

## **Additional Informational Resources for Drinking Water Information**

NJDEP – 609-292-5550 \* [www.state.nj.us/dep](http://www.state.nj.us/dep)

USEPA – 1-800-426-4791 \* [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

Center for Disease Control and Prevention – [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

NJDEP Drinking Water Watch [https://www9.state.nj.us/DEP\\_WaterWatch\\_public/](https://www9.state.nj.us/DEP_WaterWatch_public/)

NJ American Water-<https://amwater.com/njaw/>

## Susceptibility Rating for Matawan’s Source Water

Matawan’s source water comes from the upper Potomac-Raritan-Magothy Aquifer. The table below illustrates the susceptibility rating for the seven contaminant categories (and radon) for each source. The table provides the number of wells that rated High (H), Medium (M) or Low (L) for each contaminant category:

	Pathogens	Nutrients	Pesticides	Inorganics
Source	H M L	H M L	H M L	H M L
Wells 2	2	2	2	2
	VOC *	Radio Nuclides	Radon	DBP **
Source	H M L	H M L	H M L	H M L
Wells 2	2	2	2	2

\* Volatile Organic Chemicals    \*\* Disinfection By-product Precursors

## Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## Additional 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. Matawan 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **Additional Information for Nitrate**

Nitrate in drinking water above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months old. High levels of nitrate can cause a condition known as blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

### **Vulnerable Populations Statement**

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 pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)

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## **Water Quality Data Table**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

## Matawan Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Year Sampled	Units	MCL	MCLG	Range Detected	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Total Haloacetic Acids	2016	ppb	60	NA	9.38 – 104.4	Yes	By product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	2016	ppb	80	NA	7.59 – 87.36	Yes	By product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Disinfectants</b>							
Chlorine	2016	ppm	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	.06 to 1.7	Yes	Water additive to control microbes
<b>Inorganic Chemicals</b>							
Sulfate	2016	ppm	250	NA	17.1	Yes	Naturally occurring
Sodium	2016	ppm	50	NA	6	Yes	Naturally occurring
Chloride	2016	ppm	250	NA	7.3	Yes	Naturally occurring
Zinc	2016	ppm	5	NA	0.2	Yes	Naturally occurring
Barium	2016	ppm	2	NA	0.09	Yes	Naturally occurring
<b>Radiological Substances</b>							
Alpha Emitters	2006	pCi/L	15	0	0.10 to 0.94	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium 226 and 228	2006	pCi/L	5	0	0.22 to 1.5	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Lead and Copper Distribution Sampling</b>							
	Year sampled	Units	Action Level	MCLG	Detected (90th percentile)	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Copper	2014	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.05	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead	2014	ppb	15	0	<0.001	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing

## New Jersey American Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Year Sampled	Units	MCL	MCLG	Range Detected	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Chemicals</b>							
Total Chromium	2016	ppb	100	100	ND TO 1.4	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2016	ppm	4	4	0.5 to 0.67	Yes	Water additive to promote dental health
Nitrate	2016	ppm	10	10	0.07 to 0.31	Yes	Fertilizer runoff. Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes	2016	ppb	80	NA	3.4 to 93.4	Yes	By-product of water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids	2016	ppb	60	NA	ND to 54.9	Yes	By-product of water disinfection
<b>Turbidity</b>							
	2016	ntu	TT	NA	0.01 to 0.22	Yes	Soil runoff
<b>Treatment Byproduct Precursor Removal</b>							
Total Organic Carbon	2016	ppm	TT	NA	1.20 to 2.26	Yes	Naturally occurring
<b>Disinfectants</b>							
Chloramines	2016	ppm	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	0.06 to 2.98	Yes	Water additive to control microbes
Carbon Tetrachloride	2016	ppb	5	0	ND to 0.07	Yes	Discharge from chemical plants
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>							
Chlorate	2016	ppb	NA	NA	ND TO 760	NA	Agricultural defoliant, disinfection byproduct
Hexavalent Chromium	2016	ppb	NA	NA	ND TO 0.53	NA	Industrial discharge
Strontium	2016	ppb	NA	NA	37.6 to 508.5	NA	Natural occurring element. Industrial discharge
1,4 Dioxane	2016	ppb	NA	NA	ND TO 0.50	NA	Industrial discharge
<b>Secondary Contaminants</b>							
	Year	Units	RUL	Amount Detected			
Sodium	2016	ppm	50	29.2 to 58			
Hardness	2016	ppm	250	52 to 68			
Aluminum	2016	ppm	0.05	ND to 0.02			

## Explanation of Table Abbreviations

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units. (measurement of water clarity)
RUL	Recommended Upper Limit

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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 contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

***For more information please contact:***

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