

Borough of Pennington  
30 North Main Street  
Pennington, N.J. 08534

**OPEN IMMEDIATELY**

***ANNUAL DRINKING  
WATER REPORT***

**Important Information**

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

**2023** (2022 Data)

Pennington Water Department  
PWSID# NJ1108001



Pennington Water Department's goal is to provide you with water that meets or surpasses all the standards for safe drinking water.

These health and safety standards are set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). We're at work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide you and your family with top quality water. We regularly test water samples to be sure that your water meets the safety standards. All the test results are on file with the NJDEP, the agency that monitors and regulates drinking water quality in our state. Both the EPA and the NJDEP require water suppliers to send a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to customers on an annual basis.

This CCR provides important information about your drinking water. It shows how your drinking water measured up to government standards during 2022. Please read it carefully and feel free to call the Pennington Water Department at 609-737-9440 or the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 with any questions. If you have specific questions about water as it relates to your personal health, we suggest that you contact your health care provider.

### Where does your water come from?

We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water sources include four wells. Our wells draw groundwater from the Passaic Formation at a depth between 270 and 400 feet deep. Each year we deliver approximately 80 million gallons of water to our customers. To comply with state and federal regulations, the Pennington Water Department issues an annual Consumer Confidence Report describing the quality of the drinking water.

The water quality report for the Pennington Borough can also be found at <https://www.penningtonboro.org/>

### Landlord Distribution

Landlords must distribute this information to every tenant as soon as practicable, but no later than three business days after receipt. Delivery must be done by hand, mail, or email, and by posting the information in a prominent location at the entrance of each rental premises, pursuant to section 3 of P.L. 2021, c. 82 (C.58:12A-12.4 et seq.).



## How do drinking water sources become polluted?

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 (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.

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.

## Source Water Assessments

The NJDEP has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for public water systems, which are available at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap> or by contacting the NJDEP’s Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking 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. As a result of the assessments, NJDEP may customize or change existing monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings.

If you have questions regarding the source water assessment report or summary please contact the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at [watersupply@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:watersupply@dep.state.nj.us) or 609-292-5550.

**Pathogens:** Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria and viruses. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes.

**Nutrients:** Compounds, minerals and elements (both naturally occurring and man-made) that aid plant growth. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.

**Pesticides:** Man-made chemicals used to control pests, weeds and fungus. Common sources include land application and manufacturing of pesticides. Examples include herbicides such as atrazine, and insecticides such as chlorodane.

**Radionuclides:** Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include radium and uranium.

**Volatile Organic Compounds:** Man-made chemicals used as solvents,

degreasers, and gasoline components. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.

**Inorganics:** Mineral-based compounds that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include arsenic, asbestos, copper, lead, and nitrate.

**Radon:** Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment. For more information go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rpp/radon/index.htm> or call 800-648-0394.

**Disinfection Byproduct Precursors:** A common source is naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Disinfection byproducts are formed when the disinfectants used to kill pathogens (usually chlorine) react with dissolved organic material (leaves, etc.) in surface water.

Sources	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radio-nuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproduct Precursors		
	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
Wells – 5		3	2	5				2	3	4		1	3	2		5		5				5		

## Monitor Waivers

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. Our system received monitoring waivers for asbestos.

## Contact Information

If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact Rick Smith at 609-737-9440. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you wish to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Borough Council meetings at Borough Hall, 30 North Main Street. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. For more information on Borough events and notices, please visit the Borough’s website: <http://www.penningtonboro.org/>.



## People with Special Health Concerns

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemo-therapy, 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### 2022 Water Quality Results

The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data though representative, are more than one year old.

Inorganic Chemicals	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source
Arsenic Test Results Year 2022 - 2021	n/a	5 ppb	Range: 2.2 - 5.0 Highest: 5.0	N	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards, runoff from glass and electronics production waste
Barium Test Results Year 2021	2 ppm	2 ppm	Range: 0.31 - 0.69 Highest: 0.69	N	Discharge of drilling wastes, metal refineries, and erosion of natural deposits
Chromium Test Results Year 2021	100 ppb	100 ppb	Range: ND - 0.9 Highest: 0.9	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel Test Results Year 2021	n/a	none	Range: 1.5 - 1.9 Highest: 1.9	N	Runoff from fertilizer, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, and erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) Test Results Year 2022	10 ppm	10 ppm	Range: 1.6 - 2.2 Highest: 2.2	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits
Copper & Lead	MCLG	AL	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source
Copper Test Results Year 2021	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	90th Percentile: 0.272 Samples > AL: 0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits
Lead Test Results Year 2021	0 ppb	15 ppb	90th Percentile: 1.25 Samples > AL: 0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits
Regulated Disinfectants	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source
Chlorine Test Results Year 2022	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	Range: 0.08 - 0.81 RAA: 0.48	N	Water additive to control microbes
Volatile Organic Compounds / Disinfection By-products	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids Test Results Year 2022	n/a	60 ppb	Range: 0 - 1 Highest LRAA: 1	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes Test Results Year 2022	n/a	80 ppb	Range: 5.8 - 19.98 Highest LRAA: 19.98	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Regulated PFAS	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Violation	Likely Source
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) Test Results Year 2022	n/a	13 pt	Range: ND - 7.2 Highest LRAA: 1.81	N	Discharge from industrial, chemical factories, release of aqueous film forming foam.
Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA) Test Results Year 2022	n/a	14 ppt	Range: ND - 2.4 Highest LRAA: 0.60	N	Discharge from industrial, chemical factories, release of aqueous film forming foam.
Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS) Test Results Year 2022	n/a	13 pt	Range: ND - 7.1 Highest LRAA: 1.78	N	Discharge from industrial, chemical factories, release of aqueous film forming foam.



Microbiologicals-Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)	Number Required	Number Completed	Corrective Actions Required	Corrective Actions Completed	
Level 1 Assessment - Total Coliform	0	0	0	0	

Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Pennington Borough had 0 positive results for coliform bacteria in 36 samples.

Secondary Contaminants	RUL	Level Found	Violation	Likely Source
Alkalinity, Total Test Results Year 2022	N/A	Range: 163 - 276 Highest: 276	N	
Chloride Test Results Year 2021	250 ppm	Range: 55 - 90 Highest: 90	N	Erosion from natural deposits
Hardness, Carbonate Test Results Year 2021	250 ppm	Range: 187 - 308 Highest: 308	N	Naturally present in the environment
Sodium Test Results Year 2021	50 ppm	Range: 11.3 - 15.5 Highest: 15.5	N	Naturally present in the environment
Sulfate Test Results Year 2021	250 ppm	Range: 12 - 16 Highest: 16	N	Erosion from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

Secondary standards are non-mandatory guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color, and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health.

### Definitions

<b>ppm</b> <b>Parts Per Million:</b> equivalent of one second in 12 days	<b>MCL</b> <b>Maximum Contaminant Level:</b> The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.	<b>MRDL</b> <b>Maximum Residual Disinfection Level</b> 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.
<b>ppb</b> <b>Parts Per Billion:</b> equivalent of one second in 32 years		
<b>ppt</b> <b>Parts Per Trillion:</b> equivalent of one second in 32,000 years		
<b>NA</b> <b>Not Applicable</b>	<b>MCLG</b> <b>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:</b> The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.	<b>MRDLG</b> <b>Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal</b> The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefit of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.
<b>RUL</b> <b>Recommended Upper Limit</b>		
<b>ND</b> <b>Not Detected</b>		
<b>RAA</b> <b>Running Annual Average</b>	<b>AL</b> <b>Action Level</b> The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.	<b>Primary Standards:</b> Federal drinking water regulations for substances that are health-related. Water suppliers must meet all primary drinking water standards.
<b>LRAA</b> <b>Locational Running Annual Average</b>		
<b>TT</b> <b>Treatment Technique:</b> A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.	<b>CU</b> <b>Color Unit</b> <b>pCi/L</b> <b>Picocuries Per Liter:</b> equivalent of one second in 32 million years	<b>Secondary Standards:</b> 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.

### Lead Notice

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. Pennington Borough Water Department 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 609-737-9440 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. For additional educational information, updates, and lead service line inventory visit the Borough's website at <https://www.penningtonboro.org/>

