

# 2023 Annual Water Quality Report

## Borough of Freehold

908-415-1947

PWS ID # NJ1315001

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### What's the Quality of My Water?

The Freehold Borough Water Department is pleased to share this water quality report with you. It describes to you the quality of your drinking water. This report covers the calendar year of 2022. The Borough of Freehold's drinking water supply surpassed the strict regulations of both the State of New Jersey and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which requires all water suppliers to prepare reports like this every year.

In 2022 our water department distributed over 415.672 million gallons of water to our customers. Our water sources are ground water aquifer and pumped from six wells. The new water treatment facility construction is well under way, and will be completed in 2023. The distribution system continues to be systematically upgraded and flushed twice annually. Two of our wells draw from the Englishtown Aquifer; the other four wells draw from the Upper and Middle Potomac Raritan Magothy Aquifers.

The Borough of Freehold treats your water using disinfection and filtration to inactivate and reduce harmful contaminants that may come from the source water. Chlorine is used to disinfect the water, Fluoride is added to aid in the prevention of tooth decay and Ortho-phosphate is used to create a protective barrier on plumbing surfaces to reduce the release of lead in drinking water from all sources, including lead service lines and plumbing.

As required by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, the New Jersey Bureau of Safe Drinking Water completed a source water assessment plan (SWAP) in 2004. The report included a delineation of areas providing water for each of Freehold Borough Water Department's water sources, an inventory of the regulated and unregulated drinking water contaminants within the delineated area, and a determination of the system's relative susceptibility to contamination. The report showed a MEDIUM susceptibility for Inorganics (2 wells), Radionuclides (2 wells), and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors (4 wells), and a LOW susceptibility for Pathogens, Nutrients, Pesticides, Volatile Organic Compounds, Radon, Inorganics (4 wells) and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors (2 wells). **The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. The full report is available for viewing at [www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/index.html](http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/index.html) .** If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact SirNile White, Superintendent, by calling 908-415-1947 or by writing to this address: 30 Mechanic Street; Freehold, NJ 07728. We like our residents to be informed about their water utility. You can attend City Council meetings on the first and third Monday of each month, at 7:30 pm, in Borough Hall, located at 30 Mechanic Street in Freehold.

### The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants you to know:

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 regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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 (1-800-426-4791).

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems. *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### Lead Information

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 Borough of Freehold 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>.

## 2022 Monitoring Results for Borough of Freehold

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Contaminant Name	Range Detected	Violation Yes/No	MCL	MCLG	Year Sampled	Source of Contamination
Coliforms	No Positive Monthly Samples	No	1 Positive Monthly Sample	0	2022	Naturally Present in the Environment
<b>Disinfectant &amp; Disinfectant ByProducts</b>	<b>Range Detected</b>	<b>Violation Yes/No</b>	<b>Running Annual Average</b>	<b>MDRL/ MRDLG</b>		
Chlorine	0.10 - 2.12	No	0.69	4.0 ppm	2022	
<b>Stage 2 Disinfectant ByProducts</b>	<b>Range Detected</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Running Annual Average</b>	<b>MDRL/ MRDLG</b>		<b>Quarterly Testing for Stage 2 Began Oct 2013</b>
TTHM's	0.5 - 8.64 ppb	No	0.003 mg/L	mcl-80ppb	2022	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Some people who drink water containing total trihalomethanes in excess of the mcl over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidney, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer						
HAA5's	1.11 - 11.24 ppb	No	0.004 mg/L	mcl-60ppb	2022	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Some people who drink water containing Haloacetic acids in excess of the mcl over many years have an increased risk of getting cancer.						
	<b>Range detected</b>	<b>Results at the 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile</b>	<b>Number of Sites That Exceeded the Action Level</b>		<b>Action Level</b>	<b>Source of Contamination</b>
Lead (Tested 2022)	<0.002 mg/L	<0.00 mg/L	0		15 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits, plumbing fixtures
Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop high blood pressure or kidney problems.						
Copper (tested 2022)	<0.04 - 0.48 mg/L	0.33 mg/L	0		1.3ppm	Plumbing fixtures, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives
Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.						
<b>Other Contaminants</b>	<b>Level detected</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Year Sampled</b>	<b>Source of Contamination</b>
Inorganics	<0.0002 - <0.9			N	2020	Erosion of Natural deposits
Volatile Organics	<0.5			N	2020	
Radiologicals	<1 - <3 pCi/L			N	2017	
Flouride	0.9 mg/L			No	2020	Erosion of natural deposits. Also water additive which promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrates	<0.1 mg/L			No	2022	
<b>Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4</b>	<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Minimum Detection Limit</b>				
Dibromoacetic Acid	<1.0 ug/L	.50 ug/L	60 ug/l		2022	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Dichloroacetic Acid	.111 - 2.71 ug/L	.50 ug/L	60 ug/l		2022	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Trichloroacetic Acid	1.0 - 1.24 ug/L	.50 ug/L	60 ug/l		2022	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Manganese	<0.04 mg/L	.005 ug/L	0.05 mg/l		2022	Naturally Occuring
<b>EPA 504 Contaminants</b>						
1,2,3- TCP	<0.0064 ug/l				2021	
EDB	<0.0075 ug/l				2021	
DBCP	<0.006 ug/l				2021	
PFNA	<0.002				2022	

Regulated Secondary Substances				
Regulated to protect odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.				
Substance	Unit	Amount Detected	Recommended Upper Limits	Year Sampled
Sodium	ppm	<10mg/l	50	2020
Sulfate	ppm	7.3	250	2020
Manganese	ppm	<.04	0.05	2022
Iron	ppm	0.04	0.3	2022

**Unregulated Secondary Substances**  
 Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants

Substance	Unit	Amount Detected	Year Sampled
Alkalinity	ppm	60-112 mg/l	2022
Hardness	ppm	84	2020
pH	su	7.10-8.41	2022
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	88	2020

Most recent sampling done in accordance with the regulation

### Definitions

**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.

**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.

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

**Variance:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile:** 90% of samples are equal to or less than the number in the chart.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND:** Not detectable at testing limits.

**PPB:** (parts per billion): micrograms per liter (µg/L).

**PPM:** (parts per million): milligrams per liter (mg/L).

**CDC:** Centers for Disease Control.

**EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**SU:** Standard Unit.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During May 7-20, 2021 and December 17-30, 2021, and May 5-19, 2022, we did not monitor for pH and orthophosphate levels at the point of entry, as required every 2 weeks. While we have performed regular sampling on an ongoing basis, the 2-week window prescribed by regulation was missed by a day or two in each instance. This was due to scheduling errors in our biweekly testing schedule. Therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. All results are available on NJ's Drinking Water Watch web site.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

## Notes

### Waiver

Under a waiver granted on December 30, 1988 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.

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 accurate, are more than one year old.

## Special Notices

### Tier 3 Public Notice

In accordance with the Water quality plan-optimal monitoring for lead & copper rule, the water system is required to monitor for pH and orthophosphate at the point of entry and within the distribution system. This required sampling ensures that an orthophosphate residual of  $\geq 1.0$  mg/l and pH read of 7.0-8.0 is present in the distribution system at any given time. These two parameters work together to prevent lead from leaching into potable water from the water mains and services that supply water to our residents. 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 water system received a notice of non-compliance on 02/06/2023 for failing to perform required sampling during the monitoring period for 07/01/2022 to 12/31/2022. Subsequent sampling has taken place and at this time no action needs to be taken by our residents, the water system is in-compliance and the water produced remains safe to consume. Any questions regarding this notice should be directed to SirNile White, Treatment Superintendent, 908-415-1947 email: whitefreeholdboro.org.

### Special Considerations Regarding Children, Pregnant Women, Nursing Mothers and Others

Children may receive a slightly higher amount of a contaminant present in the water than do adults, on a body weight basis, because they may drink a greater amount of water per pound of body weight than do adults. For this reason, reproductive or developmental effects are used for calculating a drinking water standard if these effects occur at lower levels than other health effects of concern. If there is insufficient toxicity information for a chemical (for example, lack of data on reproductive or developmental effects), and extra uncertainty factor may be incorporated into the calculation of the drinking water standard, thus making the standard more stringent, to account for additional uncertainties regarding these effects. In cases of lead and nitrate, effects on infants and children are the health endpoints upon which the standards are based.

### Nitrate Information

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

### Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

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 the drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. The 4th round of this testing was performed in 2018. Most required parameters were tested for but not detected. Freehold Water Department continues to participate in and support these types of regulatory and research efforts to maintain a position of leadership in drinking water supply.

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).