ADAMS FIRE DISTRICT

ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

2024

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

MassDEP PWSID # 1004000

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This report is a snapshot of drinking water quality that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State and Federal standards. We are committed to providing you with information so you can be assured of you and your family's water quality.

1. PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

*** Adams Fire District licensed staff**

Contact Person: *John Barrett, Adams Fire District Superintendent

Telephone: 743:0978 Ext 13

*Nick Johnson, Adams Fire District Assistant Superintendent

*Joshua Sworzen, Water Distribution and Treatment operator

*Kyle Bentley, Water Distribution operator

Sutye Vilayvanh, Under two year apprenticeship for licensure

Water System Improvements

Our water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). MassDEP inspects our system for its technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, the water system is operated by Massachusetts licensed Drinking Water and Treatment Operators listed above who oversee the routine operation of the system. As part of our commitment to our valued customers we have successfully completed our Federal required Service Line Inventory. Pending approval, we will be engineering for upgrades to our East Orchard tank to increase water quality and minimize damage we are incurring from seasonal temperatures. This is the first of a three step process to merge two separate hi-pressure systems together as a cost saving measure and to increase our fire protection capabilities. Throught the year we replaced 8 hydrants, upsized hydrant piping to industry standard and installed several new gates in addition to completing bi-annual system wide leak detection.

Opportunities for Public Participation

If you would like to participate in discussions regarding your water quality, you may attend our monthly Prudential Committee meetings which are posted 48 hours in advance at the District Office and Town Hall. Our meetings are typically on the last Monday of every month. Please call the District Office for more information at (413) 743-0179.

2. YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?

Your drinking water comes from three wells sunk about 80-100 feet into an underground source of water located in the Upper Hoosac River Valley in the Town of Cheshire. These wells are known as Cheshire Harbor Wells #2A, 3, and 4. These locations also serve as District's Treatment Facilities. The District owns the land around them and restricts any activity that could contaminate them. The three wells are gravel-packed wells with a combined capacity of 3600 GPM. Your water is provided by the following sources listed below:

Source Name	MassDEP Source ID#	Source Type	Location of Source
Well 2A	1004000-02G	Groundwater	264 East View Drive, Cheshire, MA
Well 3	1004000-03G	Groundwater	264 East View Drive, Cheshire, MA
Well 4	1004000-04G	Groundwater	264 East View Drive, Cheshire, MA

Is My Water Treated?

Our water system makes every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water. To improve the quality of the water delivered to you, we treat it to remove contaminants.

- Chlorine (sodium hypochlorite), a disinfectant, is added to protect against microbial contaminants.
- The water is treated with CalciQuest® to reduce corrosion.

The water quality of our system is constantly monitored by our staff and MassDEP through multiple daily, monthly and quarterly reporting to determine the effectiveness of the existing water treatment and to determine if any additional treatment is required.

How Are These Sources Protected?

The Adams Fire District continues to remind our water users of the importance of protecting our source water. Protecting our drinking water source is essential for maintaining and improving the quality of human health and the environment. MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply source(s) serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to contamination by summarizing information about the activities and land uses within the recharge area.

What is My System's Ranking?

Our drinking water source, the Cheshire Harbor Wellfield, was given a susceptibility ranking of moderate to high using the information collected during MassDEP assessment. A "moderate to high" susceptibility ranking is a measure of a water supply's potential to become contaminated due to land uses and activities within its recharge area.

Where Can I See the SWAP Report?

The complete SWAP report is available at the Adams Board of Health at 8 Park Street and online at https://www.mass.gov/doc/adams-fire-district-swap-report/download

For more information, call Water Superintendent John C. Barrett at (413) 743-0978, ext. 13.

What Are the Key Issues for Our Water Supply?

The SWAP Report notes the key issues of following best management practices related to spill prevention and implementing a wellhead protection plan for the water supply protection area of Wells #2A, 3, and 4.

What Can Be Done To Improve Protection?

The SWAP report recommends:

- That the Adams Fire District follows Best Management Practices (BMP's) focusing on spill prevention, and operational practices to reduce the use and release of hazardous materials.
- That the Adams Fire District and the Town of Cheshire work together to implement a Wellhead Protection Plan and establish wellhead protection controls for the Cheshire Harbor Wellfield.

Residents can help protect sources by:

- Practicing good septic system maintenance,
- Supporting water supply protection initiatives at District meetings,
- Taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days,
- Volunteering for education outreach programs at schools,
- Limiting pesticide and fertilizer use, etc.

3. SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER

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, and 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.

Radioactive contaminants –can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil/gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

All 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).

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 some 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 and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed),and young children**. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and home plumbing.** The Adams Fire District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. **Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes**. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water, and wish to have your water tested, contact the Adams Fire District Superintendent John Barrett at (413) 743-0978. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at the following site, https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

4. IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

90th Percentile – Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

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

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG) – This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

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 (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) 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 (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) below which there is no known of expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Running Annual Average (RAA) – The average of four consecutive quarters of data.

Non-Detect (ND) – The laboratory did not detect the contaminant in the sample.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) – These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Abbreviations

ppm	= parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l) or 1 gallon per million gallons	NTU	= Nephelometric Turbidity Units
ppb	= parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l) or 1 gallon per billion gallons	ND	= Not Detected
ppt	= parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter or 1 gallon per trillion gallons	N/A	= Not Applicable
pCi/L	= picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)	mrem/year	= millimrems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body

5. WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

What Does This Data Represent?

The water quality information presented in the table(s) is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown has been collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the table(s).

In 2021, the US EPA published revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule that required all Public Water Systems (PWS) to complete an inventory of all service line material connected to our systems.
The purpose of the inventory is to address lead concentrations in drinking water, by developing an inventory to identify the location of lead service lines, and Galvanized Requiring Replacement**.**

The Adams Fire District is not under the ownership of service lines on public or private property, our inventory of service lines is accessible by request at our office location on 3 Columbia Street, or by contacting us at (413) 743-0978 ext 13

The **90th percentile** listed below is a statistical measure used to evaluate the concentration of lead and copper in water samples taken in homes and represents the concentration in a water sample that is exceeded by only **10%** of the samples collected within the homes plumbing. For more information, please refer to page 4, and section 6.

	Date(s) Collected	90TH percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	7/23-7/24-7/27-7/29-7/31	1.4	15	0	20	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	7/23-7/24-7/27-7/29-7/31	0.370	1.3	1.3	20	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

Total Coliform: Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an **indicator** that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. Resampling was completed to confirm validity of initial sample. All resamples came back negative.

Bacteria	MCL / TT	MCLG	Value	Date	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources
Total Coliform Bacteria	1	0	Positive	05/20/24	N*	Human and animal fecal waste
*We had one total coliform sample that was positive. All repeat samples came back with No Detect (ND). Therefore, it is not a violation of the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR).						

Disinfection By-products (TTHM & HAA5) – Chemicals that form when chlorine used for disinfecting water to prevent disease, react with organic or inorganic matter in water.

Free Chlorine/Chlorine Residual- The amount of Chlorine measured in parts per million, that is available to eliminate harmful microbes within our distribution system. We record this data at 13 approved representative points throughout our distribution system monthly.

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	08-05-24	4.10	ND – 4.10	80	N/A	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	08-05-24	ND	ND	60	N/A	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Free Chlorine (ppm)	13 Monthly	0.23	0.16 - 0.29	4	4	N	Water additive used to control microbes

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Nitrate (ppm)	04-08-24	0.688	0.688	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Nitrite (ppm)	04-03-23	ND	-	1	1	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	2	N/A	N	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents
PFAS6 (ppt)	01-08-24	ND	-	20	N/A	N	Discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foams.

Volatile Organic Contaminants: By-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
Benzene (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	5	0	N	Discharge from factories; leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Carbon tetrachloride (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	5	0	N	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Chlorobenzene (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	100	100	N	Discharge from and agricultural chemical factories
o-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	600	600	N	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
p-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	5	5	N	Discharge from industrial chemical factories

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	5	0	N	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	7	7	N	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	70	70	N	Breakdown product of trichloroethylene and tetrachloroethylene
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	100	100	N	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Dichloromethane (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	5	0	N	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	5	0	N	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	700	700	N	Leaks and spills from gasoline and petroleum storage tanks
Styrene (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	100	100	N	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; leaching from landfills
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	5	0	N	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners; residual of vinyl-lined water mains
1,2,4-Triclorobenzene (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	70	70	N	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	200	200	N	Discharge from use in septic system cleaners
1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	5	3	N	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Trichloroethylene (TCE) (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	5	0	N	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Toluene (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	1	1	N	Leaks and spills from gasoline and petroleum storage tanks; discharge from petroleum factories

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	2	0	N	Leaching from PVC piping; discharge from plastics factories
Xylenes (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	10	10	N	Leaks and spills from gasoline and petroleum storage tanks; discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories

Synthetic Organic Contaminants: By-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Synthetic Organic Contaminants							
2,4-D (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	70	70	N	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
2,4,5-TP (Silvex) (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	50	50	N	Residue of banned herbicide
Acrylamide	07-08-24	ND	-	TT= 5%	0	N	Added to water during sewage/wastewater treatment
Alachlor (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	2	0	N	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Atrazine (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	3	3	N	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Benzo(a)pyrene (ppt)	07-08-24	ND	-	200	0	N	Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines
Carbofuran (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	40	40	N	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa
Chlordane (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	2	0	N	Residue of banned termiticide
Dalapon (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	200	200	N	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Di (2-ethylhexyl) adipate (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	400	400	N	Discharge from chemical factories
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	6	0	N	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP) (ppt)	07-08-24	ND	-	200	0	N	Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, and orchards
Dinoseb (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	7	7	N	Runoff from herbicide used on soybeans and vegetables
Diquat (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	20	20	N	Runoff from herbicide use
Dioxin [2,3,7,8-TCDD] (ppq)	07-08-24	ND	-	30	0	N	Emissions from waste incineration and other combustion; Discharge from chemical factories
Endothall (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	100	100	N	Runoff from herbicide use
Endrin (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	2	2	N	Residue of banned insecticide
Epichlorohydrin	07-08-24	ND	-	TT= 1%	0	N	Discharge from industrial chemical factories; an impurity of some water treatment chemicals

Synthetic Organic Contaminants							
Ethylene dibromide (EDB) (ppt)	07-08-24	ND	-	20	0	N	Residue of leaded gasoline or runoff from soil fumigant used on tobacco or strawberries
Glyphosate (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	700	700	N	Runoff from herbicide use
Heptachlor (ppt)	07-08-24	ND	-	400	0	N	Residue of banned pesticide
Heptachlor epoxide (ppt)	07-08-24	ND	-	200	0	N	Breakdown of heptachlor
Hexachlorobenzene (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	1	0	N	Discharge from metal refineries and agricultural chemical factories
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	50	50	N	Discharge from chemical factories
Lindane (ppt)	07-08-24	ND	-	200	200	N	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cattle, lumber, gardens
Methoxychlor (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	40	40	N	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock
Oxamyl (Vydate) (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	200	200	N	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on apples, potatoes and tomatoes
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) (ppt)	07-08-24	ND	-	500	0	N	Runoff from landfills; discharge of waste chemicals; residue of banned use in electrical transformers
Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	1	0	N	Discharge from wood preserving factories
Picloram (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	500	500	N	Runoff from herbicide use
Simazine (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	4	4	N	Runoff from herbicide use
Toxaphene (ppb)	07-08-24	ND	-	3	0	N	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cotton and cattle

In addition to the listed Regulated Contaminants, we also tested for 34 other Unregulated Volatile Organic Contaminants and 13 Unregulated Synthetic Organic Contaminants with NO DETECTS.

Radioactive contaminants: may be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production/mining activities

Regulated Contaminant	Date Collected	Highest Result	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha (pCi/l) (minus uranium)	07/08/24	2.23	-	15	0		Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L) (combined values)	07/08/24	0.7	0.180 0.520	5	0		Erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Contaminants: Established 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 at the SMCL (SMCL definition listed on page 5).

Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL		ORSG	Possible Source
Secondary Contaminants							
Iron (ppb)	04-08-24	ND	-	300		N/A	Naturally occurring, corrosion of cast iron pipes
Manganese* (ppb)	04-08-24	ND	-	50		Health Advisory of 300 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits
** EPA has established a lifetime Health Advisory (HA) for manganese of 0.3 mg/L and an acute HA at 1.0 mg/L*							

6. COMPLIANCE WITH DRINKING WATER REGS

Does My Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?

We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. We are proud to report that last year your drinking water met all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government.

Do I Need To Be Concerned About Certain Contaminants Detected In My Water?

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.** Adams Fire District 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.

7. EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

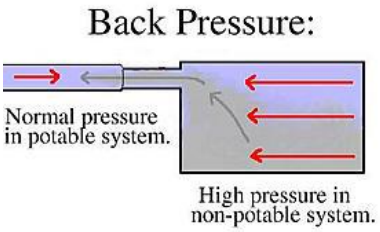
The Adams Fire District makes every effort to ensure that the water delivered to your home and business is clean, safe and free of contamination. Our staff works very hard to protect the quality of the water delivered to our customers from the time the water is extracted via deep wells from underground aquifers throughout the entire treatment and distribution system. But what happens when the water reaches your home or business? Is there still a need to protect the water quality from contamination caused by a cross-connection? If so, how?

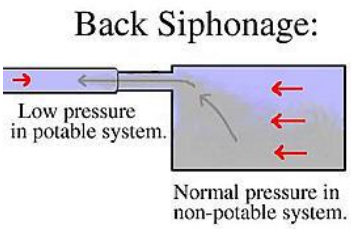
What is a Cross Connection and What Can I do about it?

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home. For instance, you're going to spray fertilizer on your lawn. You hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the water pressure drops (say because of fire hydrant use in the area) when the hose is connected to the fertilizer, the fertilizer may be pulled back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. Using an attachment on your hose called a backflow-prevention device can prevent this problem.

What is a backflow?

Backflow is the undesired reverse of the water flow in the drinking water distribution lines. This backward flow of water can occur when the pressure created by equipment or a system such as a boiler or air-conditioning is higher than the water pressure inside the water distribution line (back pressure), or when the pressure in the distribution line drops due to routine occurrences such as water main breaks or heavy water demand causing the water to flow backward inside the water distribution system (back siphonage). Backflow is a problem that many water consumers are unaware of, a problem that each and every water customer has a responsibility to help prevent.





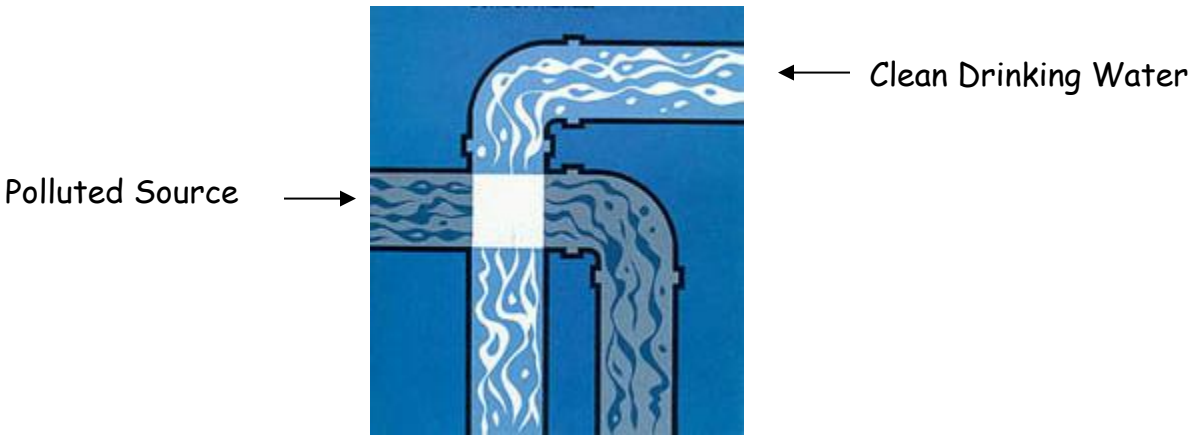
What can I do to help prevent a cross-connection?

Without the proper protection something as simple as a garden hose has the potential to contaminate or pollute the drinking water lines in your house. In fact, over half of the country's cross-connection incidents involve unprotected garden hoses. There are very simple steps that you as a drinking water user can take to prevent such hazards, they are:

- NEVER submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, pet watering containers, pool, tubs, sinks, drains or chemicals.
- NEVER attach a hose to a garden sprayer without the proper backflow preventer.
- Buy and install a hose bibb vacuum breaker in any threaded water fixture. The installation can be as easy as attaching a garden hose to a spigot. This inexpensive device is available at most hardware stores and home-improvement centers.
- Identify and be aware of potential cross-connections to your water line.
- Buy appliances and equipment with a backflow preventer.
- Buy and install backflow prevention devices or assemblies for all high and moderate hazard connections.

If you are the owner or manager of a property that is being used as a commercial, industrial, or institutional facility you must have your property's plumbing system surveyed for cross-connection by your water purveyor. If your property has NOT been surveyed for cross-connection contact your water department to schedule a cross-connection survey.

What is a Cross Connection and what can I do about it?



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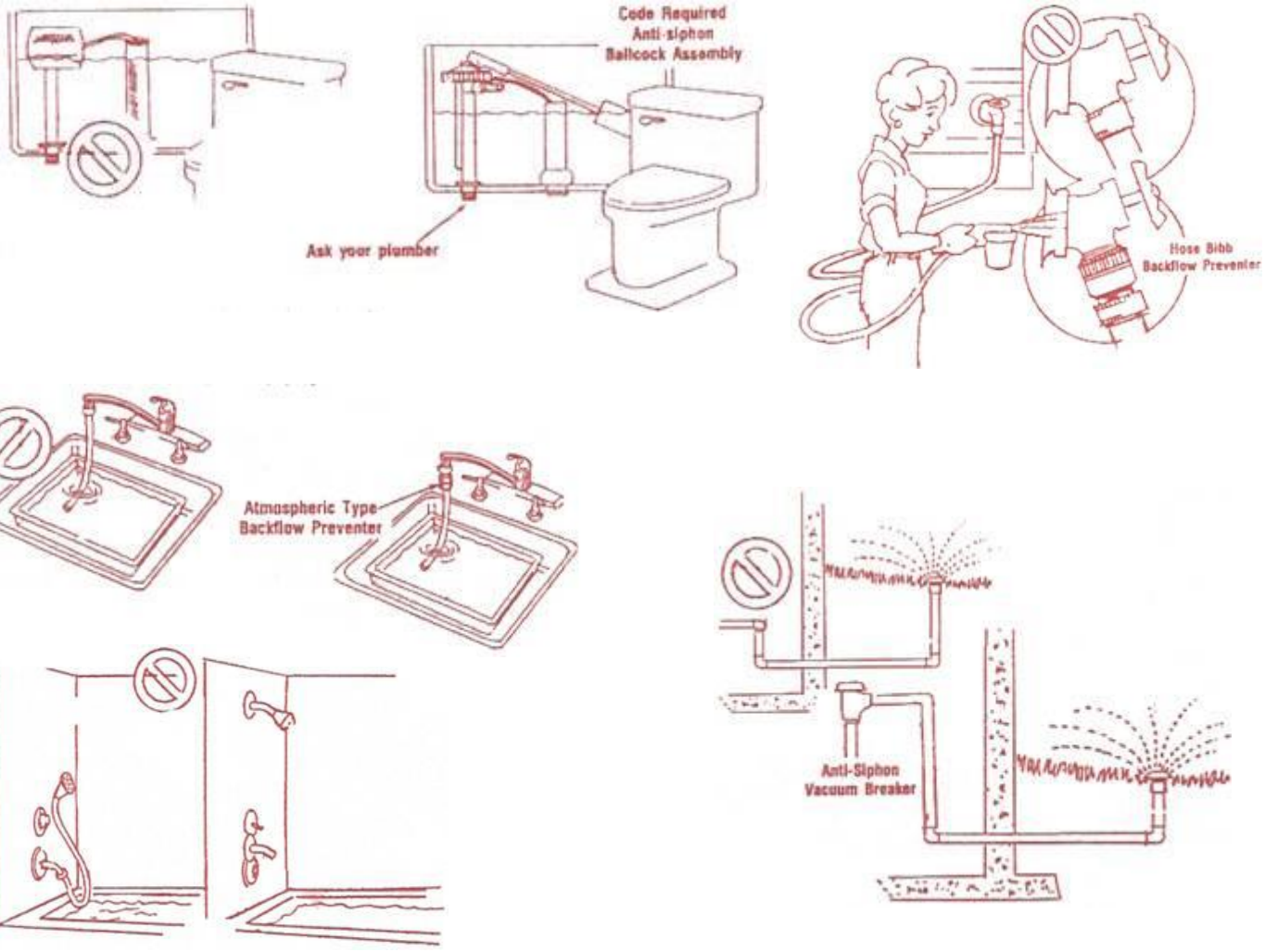
The Adams Fire District recommends the installation of backflow prevention devices, such as a **low-cost** hose bibb vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections. You can purchase these devices at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a fantastic way for you to help protect the water in your home while our check valve installed at our meter set protects drinking water provided to you before entering your home. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water system's cross connection program, please call Adams Fire District Superintendent John C. Barrett at (413) 743-0978, ext. 13.

The Adams Fire District distribution system is **fully contained** with the installation of backflow prevention devices at all metering locations to protect our distribution system against cross connection contamination.

Some examples where cross-connections occur.



8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This report is written in house, with printing completed locally by our friends at Adams Specialty and Printing. Many of the entries within this report are not required, however we believe presenting to you a full report of our water quality parameters evaluated throughout the year is not only deserving, but essential to creating transparency and confidence that we are proactive in providing the best services in the most efficient manner we can to our customers. It is our goal with this report to meet requirements, but more important for us, is to present a report to you that may be easier to understand as you seek knowledge about your water. If you have questions in regard to this report, or any water related question, please feel free to contact me.

Pumping totals for the year 2024 were 238,611,000 gallons, with an average pumping of 653,729 gallons per day. We completed 199 Total coliform samples, 48 samples to monitor our Corrosion Control injection program and a minimum of 156 chlorine residuals throughout our distribution system to evaluate our chlorine injection program. Please refer to page 6 for more information on Chlorine.

We have been busy with all our Best Management Practices (BMP's) implemented to lower our Unaccounted Water losses and minimize costs for lost water that is not billed/accounted for. I am happy to write that we have met compliance again for the second year now.

Decreasing lost water increases our systems cost efficiency. More importantly as our systems water demand lowers from leaking water, we have more capacity to sustain larger demands for fires, while still providing water for your needs. The management and documentation of our water system and Fire Department operations is what ISO evaluates to arrive at your fire protection insurance rates.

As I write this report for you, we have just had a 9 Department response for the mill fire on Harmony Street. During that fire we supplied over 2,200 gallons per minute through three hydrant connections, while still supplying the Towns demand for water without a single call for dirty or low water pressure! A carefully navigated feat as we too have to manage our pumping and treatment facilities to meet this irregular demand. Every function of our system is documented 24-7 via our Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System which indicated this draw of water from the ground pulled from over 700 feet from the well and the ground water recuperation time was just over 24 hours to return back to normal levels preceding the fire demand.

We have completed the Federal requirement for service line inventory. There are approximately 278 houses with these old, original steel pipe connections and approximately 2,708 connected with copper. Unfortunately, the next step in compliance with this Federal Regulation at this time is the mandatory excavation of the 278 old connections and 270 copper connections to meet the two point verification requirement that has an approximate cost of up to $1,500 per hole, including restoration of excavation. At this time, I do not see an economical solution to the debt and staffing oversight required to meet this requirement that is being pushed off to the District and our customers to fund.

Coming into the year 2025 we had under 200 meters left to install within all of these houses listed above, another project we have completed in house over the last ten years. I wish to thank all of our customers for taking the time to speak with us, make appointments, and allow us in your home to complete installations. It was nice to meet everyone. The cost for these meters is now over $300 a piece, a markup of 100% in ten years. Our assets in the metering assemblies, meters and reading system alone are nearly a million dollars.

Please remember, the Fire District is not part of the Town. We have 5 people listed on page two committed to providing the operation and maintenance to serve water on a 24-7 basis to over 3,000 connections through 56 miles of transmission lines, three well / treatment facilities, two pump stations, two booster stations, 3 tanks, 2 pressure reducing stations, 366 hydrants in addition to maintaining our office facility, which is burdening us with substantial costs recently not anticipated. These services are funded by our customer's payment of water bills. I appreciate the time you have taken to gain knowledgeable insight into your water, our system, and the operations necessary to provide this public service to you, our customer.

Please see our 148th Annual Report, which may be obtained at our office for more District information. Please visit our website, www.adamsfiredistrict.com and follow us on Facebook for more current information.

Adams Fire District Superintendent

John Barrett