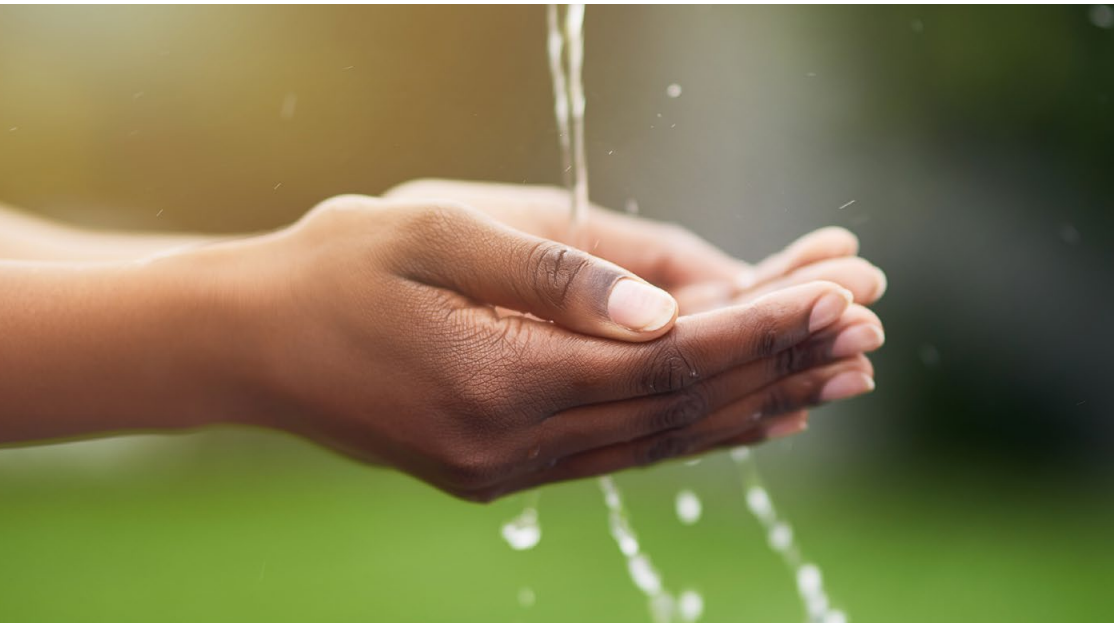
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025









Presented By

Town of
Millis
Massachusetts

PWS ID#: 2187000



Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The origin of our water is six groundwater supply wells referred to as D'Angelis 01G and 02G, Village 03G, South End Pond 04G, and Paine 05G and 06G. The groundwater supply is not exposed to air or subject to direct pollution and contamination like a river or reservoir (surface water). In fact, groundwater is the highest quality of water available to meet the public health demand intended for human consumption.

Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment has been completed for our system. The purpose of the assessment is to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source to potential contaminant sources. The report includes background information and a relative susceptibility rating of higher, moderate, or lower. It is important to understand that a higher susceptibility rating does not imply poor water quality, only the system's potential to become contaminated within the assessment area. The assessment findings are summarized in the following table:

SUSCEPTIBILITY OF SOURCES TO POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT SOURCES

SOURCE NAME	SUSCEPTIBILITY RATING	SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PLANT (SWAP) REPORT DATE
Well 1	Lower	May 2017

If you would like a copy of our assessment, please feel free to contact our office during regular business hours at (508) 376-5424.

Water Treatment Process

Chlorine is added as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.) Fluoride (to prevent tooth decay) and a corrosion inhibitor (to protect distribution system pipes) are added before the water is pumped to water towers and into your home or business.

Community Participation

We invite you to join our monthly public forum to share questions or concerns about your drinking water. Meeting dates, times, and agendas are posted on the Town of Millis website at millisma.gov/.

Protecting Your Water

Bacteria are a natural and important part of our world. There are around 40 trillion bacteria living in each of us; without them, we would not be able to live healthy lives. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern, however, because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease.

In 2016 the U.S. EPA passed a regulation called the Revised Total Coliform Rule, which requires water systems to take additional steps to ensure the integrity of the drinking water distribution system by monitoring for the presence of bacteria like total coliform and E. coli. The rule requires more stringent standards than the previous regulation, and it requires water systems that may be vulnerable to contamination to have procedures in place that will minimize the incidence of contamination. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment and correct any problems quickly. The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under this regulation due to its more preventive approach to identifying and fixing problems that may affect public health.

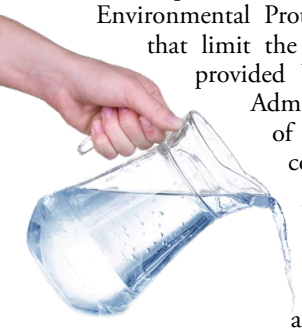
Though we are fortunate in having the highest-quality drinking water, our goal is to eliminate all potential pathways of contamination into our distribution system, and this requirement helps us accomplish that goal.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available by emailing the U.S. EPA at safewater@epa.gov.

QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call David Rachmaciej, Department of Public Works director, at (508) 376-5424.

Substances That Could Be in Water



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

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. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

What Are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit bit.ly/3Z5AMm8.

The Benefits of Fluoridation

Fluoride is naturally occurring in many water supplies in trace amounts. In our system, the fluoride level is adjusted to an optimal level averaging 0.7 part per million (ppm) to improve oral health and prevent tooth decay. At this level, it is safe, odorless, colorless, and tasteless. There are over 4 million people in Massachusetts water systems and 184 million people in the U.S. who receive the health and economic benefits of fluoridation.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. Millis Water Department is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes 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 it is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling 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, or 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 and wish to have your water tested, contact David Rachmaciej, Millis Water Department, at (508) 376-5424. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service inventory may be found on the Town of Millis website, millisma.gov. In the search box, type "Lead Service Line Inventory and Replacement Plan." Please contact David Rachmaciej at (508) 376-5424 if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

Test Results



Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2025	15	0	0.76	-0.33–0.76	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	0.60	0.14–1.05	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	4	4	0.96	0.53–0.96	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5s] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	3.50	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	10	10	2.56	0.49–2.56	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
PFAS6 (ppt)	2025	20	NA	9.22	ND–11.50	No	Discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with the production or use of PFAS, including production of moisture- and oil-resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials; Use and disposal of products containing PFAS, such as firefighting foams
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	19.20	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity[1] (NTU)	2025	TT	NA	0.38	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2025	1.3	1.3	0.05	ND–0.05	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2025	15	0	1.58	ND–4.60	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2025	250	NA	71.70	21.40–187.00	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Manganese (ppb)	2025	50[2]	NA	86.13	ND–484.00	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor (TON)	2025	3	NA	1.25	ND–3.00	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
pH (units)	2025	6.5–8.5	NA	7.85	7.58–8.22	No	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	250	NA	11.40	8.00–17.00	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2025	500	NA	211.50	144.00–363.00	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Zinc (ppm)	2025	5	NA	ND	ND–0.01	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES [3]				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alkalinity (ppm)	2025	74.50	40.00–123.00	NA
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2025	0.72	ND–5.89	NA
Bromoform (ppb)	2025	0.43	ND–2.74	NA
Calcium (ppm)	2025	23.48	12.70–41.50	NA
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	2025	0.95	ND–6.65	NA
Chloroform (ppb)	2025	0.44	ND–3.95	NA
Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	08/26/2025	2.04	NA	NA
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	08/26/2025	1.46	NA	NA
Hardness, Total [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2025	90.23	47.50–168.00	NA
Magnesium (ppm)	2025	7.67	3.83–15.60	NA
Potassium (ppm)	2025	1.92	1.27–2.57	NA
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS] (ppt)	2025	0.84	ND–2.28	NA
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid [PFHpA] (ppt)	2025	0.14	ND–0.96	NA
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid [PFHxS] (ppt)	2025	3.94	ND–3.94	NA
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppt)	2025	0.23	ND–1.77	NA
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS] (ppt)	2025	1.41	ND–4.92	NA
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppt)	2025	1.09	ND–4.03	NA
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2025	417.50	270.00–780.00	NA

[1] Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of disinfectants.

[2] Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in rocks, soil, groundwater, and surface water. Manganese is necessary for proper nutrition and part of a healthy diet, but it can have undesirable effects on certain sensitive populations at elevated concentrations. The U.S. EPA and DEP have established public health advisory levels for manganese to protect against concerns of potential neurological effects.

[3] Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the U.S. EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.



Definitions

90th %ile: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. This number is compared to the Action Level to determine lead and copper compliance.

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

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

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.

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.

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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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.

NA: Not applicable.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

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

TON (Threshold Odor Number): A measure of odor in water.

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

µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter): A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

What's a Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air-conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection. For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.