

This report contains important information about your drinking water. If you do not understand it, please have someone translate it for you.

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Borough of Lake Como Water Department

For the Year 2026, Results from the Year 2025

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. We purchase water from New Jersey American Water (NJAW) – Coastal North (Monmouth System). This system's water comes from a blend of sources that may include groundwater from the Potomac-Raritan-Magothy Aquifer System (PRM) and surface water from the Glendola Reservoir, the Manasquan River / Reservoir, the Shark River and the Swimming River / Reservoir.

If you are a landlord, you must distribute this Drinking Water Quality Report to every tenant as soon as practicable, but no later than three business days after receipt. Delivery must be made 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 NJ P.L. 2021, c.82 (C.58:12A-12.4 et seq.).

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued Source Water Assessment Reports and Summaries for this public water system, which is available at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/index.html> or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. The NJAW Source Water Assessment Report and Summary is included.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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).

Borough of Lake Como 2025 Test Results						
PWSID# NJ1347001						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MC LG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants:						
Copper Result at 90 th Percentile Test results Yr. 2024	N	0.016 No samples exceeded the action level. 10 samples. Range of detections: (0.013 – 0.018)	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead Result at 90 th Percentile Test results Yr. 2024	N	ND No samples exceeded the action level. 10 samples. Range of detections: (All ND))	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Byproducts:						
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes	N	Range = 25 - 76 Highest LRAA = 555	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids	N	Range = 6 - 20 Highest LRAA = 13	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Regulated Disinfectants		Level Detected		MRDL		MRDLG
Chloramines		Range = 0 – 1.41 ppm Average = 0.33 ppm		4.0 ppm		4.0 ppm

Chloramines: Water additive used to control microbes.

HAA5 and TTHM compliance is based on a Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA), calculated at each monitoring location. The LRAA calculation is based on four completed quarters of monitoring results.

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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 some small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The Borough of Lake Como Water Department and New Jersey American Water routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables show the results of that monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2025. 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 is more than one year old.

Sources of Lead in Drinking Water

The Borough of Lake Como Water Department and New Jersey American Water are responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. Although most lead exposure occurs from inhaling dust or from contaminated soil, or when children eat paint chips, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from lead in drinking water. Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40 percent to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water. Lead is rarely found in the source of your drinking water but enters tap water through corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing materials. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipes, brass, and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, service lines made of or lined with lead. New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free", may still contain a small percentage of lead, and contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free". However, prior to January 4, 2014, "lead free" allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified. Visit the NSF website at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions. When water stands in lead service lines, lead pipes, or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon if the water has not been used all day, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water

For a full list of steps visit: <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-consumer.html>

Run the cold water to flush out lead. Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer the water resides in plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet. Let the water run from the cold-water tap based on the length of the lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home. In other words, the larger the home or building and the greater the distance to the water main (in the street), the more water it will take to flush properly. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one gallon of water.

Use cold, flushed water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Because lead from lead-containing plumbing materials and pipes can dissolve into hot water more easily than cold water, never drink, cook, or prepare beverages including baby formula using hot water from the tap. If you have not had your water sampled or if you know, it is recommended that bottled or filtered water be used for drinking and preparing baby formula. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.

Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead; however, it is still safe to wash dishes and do laundry. Lead will not soak into dishware or most clothes.

Use alternative sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters.

Determine if you have interior lead plumbing or solder. If your home/building was constructed prior to 1987, it is important to determine if interior lead solder or lead pipes are present. You can check yourself, hire a licensed plumber, or check with your landlord.

Replace plumbing fixtures and service lines containing lead. Replace brass faucets, fittings, and valves that do not meet the current definition of "lead free" from 2014 (as explained above). Visit the NSF website at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

Remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures. Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.

Test your water for lead. Please call at 732-681-3393 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.

Get your child tested. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure. New Jersey law requires that children be tested for lead in their blood at both 1 and 2 years of age and before they are 6 years old if they have never been tested before or if they have been exposed to a known source of lead.

Have an electrician check your wiring. If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electrical code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. DO NOT attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.

Water softeners and reverse osmosis units will remove lead from water but can also make the water more corrosive to lead solder and plumbing by removing certain minerals; therefore, the installation of these treatment units at the point of entry into homes with lead plumbing should only be done under supervision of a qualified water treatment professional.

Health Effects of Lead

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 Lake Como Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, call the Borough of Lake Como Water Department at 732-681-3393 for information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

In July 2021, P.L.2021, Ch.183 (Law) was enacted, requiring all community water systems to replace lead service lines in their service area within 10 years. Under the law, the Borough of Lake Como Water Department is required to notify customers, non-paying consumers, and any off-site owner of a property (e.g., landlord) when it is known they are served by a lead service line*. Our service line inventory is available upon request.

DEFINITIONS

In the "Test Results" tables you may find some terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or nanogram per liter - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 20,000 years, or a single penny in \$100,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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

Total Organic Carbon - Total Organ Carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. The *Treatment Technique* for TOC requires that 35% - 45% of the TOC in the raw water is removed through the treatment processes.

Turbidity - Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium microbial growth.

Turbidity is measured as an indication of the effectiveness of the filtration process. The *Treatment Technique* for turbidity requires that no individual sample exceeds 1 NTU and 95% of the samples collected during the month must be less than 0.3 NTU.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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 -The "Goal"(MCLG) is 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 contamination

Secondary Contaminant- Substances that do not have an impact on health. Secondary Contaminants affect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.

Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) - Recommended maximum concentration of secondary contaminants. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. RULs are recommendations, not mandates.

New Jersey American Water – Coastal North: Monmouth System 2025 Test Results						
PWSID # NJ1345001						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MC LG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants:						
Turbidity	N	Range = 0.03 – 0.19 95 % < 0.3 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT 95% of monthly samples < 0.3 NTU	Soil runoff
Total Organ Carbon (TOC)	N	Range = 0.71– 1.7 Highest removal = 1.7 24 – 59%	ppm	N/A	TT % of removal	Soil runoff
Inorganic Contaminants:						
Fluoride	N	Range = ND – 0.52 Highest detect = 0.52	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	Range = ND – 1.8 Highest detect = 1.8	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
PFAS Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances:						
PFOS Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid	N	Range = ND – 2.6 Highest detect = 2.6	ppt	N/A	13	Discharge from industrial, chemical, and manufacturing factories, release of aqueous film forming foam.
PFOA Perfluorooctane Acid	N	Range = ND – 8.7 Highest detect = 8.7	ppt	N/A	14	Discharge from industrial, chemical, and manufacturing factories, release of aqueous film forming foam.
Regulated Disinfectants		Level Detected		MRDL		MRDLG
Chloramines		Range = 0.7 – 3.42 Highest Average = 1.62		4.0 ppm		4.0 ppm

Chloramines: Water additive used to control microbes.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5)

New Jersey American Water participated in the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule. Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA and DEP in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether regulation is warranted. Their results are available upon request.

Additional Unregulated Contaminant collected at the Treatment Plants 2025					
Substance (with units)	Year Sampled	NJDEP Guidance Level/Proposed U.S EPA MCL	Average Amount Detected	Range Detected	Typical Source
1,4 Dioxane (ppb)	2025	NA	0.19	ND to 0.19	Used as a solvent in manufacturing and processing of paper, cotton, textile products, automotive coolant, cosmetics and shampoos
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppt)	2025	NA	0.69	ND to 9.7	Manufactured chemical(s) used in household goods for stain, grease, heat, and water resistance.
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHXA) (ppt)	2025	NA	0.91	ND to 4.0	
Perfluorohexane acid (PFHXS) (ppt)	2025	NA	NA	ND	
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHPA) (ppt)	2025	NA	0.316	ND to 2.6	

In 2023, U.S. EPA proposed drinking water standards for six PFAS chemicals – PFOA (4 ppt), PFOS (4 ppt) and GenX, PFBS, PFNA, and PFHxS as a group using a Hazard Index of 1. For more information on the U.S. EPA’s proposed PFAS drinking water standards, including the Hazard Index, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>.

UNREGULATED CHEMICALS UCMR5 - COASTAL NORTH SYSTEM PLANTS (2023 - 2024)						
Parameter	Year Sampled	Average Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Proposed U.S. EPA MCL	Hazard Index Calculation	Typical Source
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	2023-2024	2.5ppt	ND to 7.5 ppt	4.0 ppt	N/A	Manufactured chemical(s); used in household goods for stain, grease, heat and water resistance.
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	2023-2024	0 ppt	ND	4.0 ppt	N/A	
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA) (GenX chemicals)	2023-2024	0 ppt	ND	Calculated Value: 1 (unitless)	0.0045	
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	2023-2024	0.47 ppt	ND to 9.2 ppt			
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)	2023-2024	0 ppt	ND			
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	2023-2024	0 ppt	ND			
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	2023-2024	1.22 ppt	ND to 4.6 ppt	N/A	N/A	
Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)	2023-2024	0.73 ppt	ND to 4.1 ppt	N/A	N/A	
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (6:2FTS)	2023-2024	0.18 ppt	ND to 6.8 ppt	NA	N/A	
Lithium	2023-2024	0.27 ppb	ND to 10.2 ppb	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring with multiple commercial uses

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. The NJAWC System received monitoring waivers for asbestos and synthetic organic chemicals.

Our Water Research Efforts

Cryptosporidium is a protozoan found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, people with severely weakened immune systems have a risk of developing a life-threatening illness. We encourage such people to consult their doctors regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease. It can also be spread through means other than drinking water. For additional information regarding cryptosporidiosis and how it may impact those with weakened immune systems, please contact your personal health care provider.

The U.S. EPA issued a rule in January 2006 that requires systems with higher *Cryptosporidium* levels in their source water to provide additional treatment. To comply with this rule, New Jersey American Water once again began conducting 24 consecutive months of monitoring for *Cryptosporidium* in our raw water sources starting in 2015. The monitoring to date indicates the presence of these organisms in the source water. The samples were collected from the source before the water was processed through our treatment plants. We continued monitoring until April 2017. The data collected is presented in the Source Water Monitoring table below.

Source Water Monitoring

Contaminant	Swimming River source water	Jumping Brook source water	Oak Glen source Water	
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> , Oocysts/L	ND – 0.100	ND	ND	Microbial pathogens found in surface waters throughout the United States.
<i>Giardia</i> , Cysts/L	0 – 0.558	0 – 0.089	0 – 0.558	

If you have any questions about this report or are concerning your drinking water, please call the Lake Como Water Department at 732-681-3393. We want our valued customers to be informed about their drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Township Meetings. The Borough of Lake Como Council meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Boro Hall, 1740 Main Street.

NJ American Water –Coastal North - Monmouth System - PWSID # NJ1345001

NJ American Water – Coastal North – Monmouth System is a public community water system consisting of 30 wells, 5 surface water intakes, and 4 purchased ground water sources.

This system’s source water comes from the following aquifers and surface water bodies: Upper Potomac-Raritan-Magothy Aquifer System, Swimming River Reservoir, Shark River, Middle Potomac-Raritan-Magothy Aquifer System, Jumping Brook, Glendola Reservoir (NJWSA Manasquan System), Glendola Reservoir (Shark River)

This system can purchase water from the following water systems: Red Bank Water Department, Allenhurst Water Department and Aberdeen Township Water Department

Susceptibility Ratings for NJ American Water – Coastal North – Monmouth System Sources

The table below illustrates the susceptibility ratings for the seven contaminant categories (and radon) for each source in the system. The table provides the number of wells and intakes that rated high (H), medium (M), or low (L) for each contaminant category. For susceptibility ratings of purchased water, refer to the specific water system’s source water assessment report.

The seven contaminant categories are defined at the bottom of this page. DEP considered all surface water highly susceptible to pathogens, therefore all intakes received a high rating for the pathogen category. For the purpose of Source Water Assessment Program, radionuclides are more of a concern for ground water than surface water. As a result, surface water intakes’ susceptibility to radionuclides was not determined and they all received a low rating.

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, DEP may customize (change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings.

Sources	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radionuclides			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 - 30			30			30			30			30		18	12		19	11			30		18	12
Surface water intakes - 5	5			1	4			2	3		5		3	2				5			5	5		

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

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

Volatile Organic Compounds: Man-made chemicals used as solvents, degreasers, and gasoline components. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.

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

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

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

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 (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.