

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

### The Town of Hammonton Public Utilities Department

For the Year 2012, Results from the Year 2011

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. All of our drinking water supply is ground water. We have five wells, which draw water from two different aquifers the Cohansey and the Kirkwood. We have two standing water storage towers with a combined storage capacity of 1.8 million gallons. We also have two underground storage facilities with a combined total of 100,000 gallons.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Test Results						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MC LG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Radioactive Contaminants:</b>						
Gross Alpha Test results Yr. 2011	Y	Range = 5.9 – 28.0 Highest detect = 28.0 Highest Average = 20.6	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium 228 & 226 Test results Yr. 2011	Y	Range = 1.9 – 6.7 Highest detect = 9.1 Highest Average = 5.5	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants:</b>						
Arsenic Test results Yr. 2011	N	Range = ND – 0.9 Highest detect = 0.9	ppb	n/a	5	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium Test results Yr. 2011	N	Range = 0.04 Highest detect = 0.13	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium Test results Yr. 2011	N	Range = ND – 0.09 Highest detect = 0.09	ppb	4	4	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cadmium Test results Yr. 2011	N	Range = ND – 1.2 Highest detect = 1.2	ppb	5	5	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Copper Test results Yr. 2011 Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	N	0.28 No samples exceeded the action level.	Ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium Test results Yr. 2011	N	Range = ND – 1.2 Highest detect = 1.2	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Lead Test results Yr. 2011 Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	N	10 2 samples out of 30 exceeded the action level.	Ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) Test results Yr. 2011	N	Range = 1.3 – 4.9 Highest detect = 4.9	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel Test results Yr. 2011	N	Range = 1.4 – 2.4 Highest detect = 2.4	ppb	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Mercury (inorganic) Test results Yr. 2011	N	Range = ND – 0.05 Highest detect = 0.05	ppb	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Selenium Test results Yr. 2011	N	Range = ND – 3.1 Highest detect = 3.1	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Thallium Test results Yr. 2011	N	Range = ND – 0.04 Highest detect = 0.04	ppb	0.5	2	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants / Disinfection Byproducts:</b>						
Tetrachloroethylene Test results Yr. 2011	N	Range = ND – 0.97 Highest detect = 0.97 Highest Average = 0.88	ppb	0	1	Leaching from PVC pipes; discharge from factories and dry cleaners
THM Total Trihalomethanes Test results Yr. 2011	N	Range = 1 - 5 Annual Average = 3	Ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids Test results Yr. 2011	N	Range = ND – 1 Average = 1	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
Total coliform Bacteria	N	1 positive routine sample in September 2011		0	1 positive monthly sample.	Naturally present in the environment

## Hammonton Water Department- PWSID # 0113001

Hammonton Water Department is a public community water system consisting of 4 well(s), 0 wells under the influence of surface water, 0 surface water intake(s), 0 purchased ground water source(s), and 0 purchased surface water source(s).

This system's source water comes from the following aquifer(s) and/or surface water body(s) (if applicable): Atlantic City "800-foot" sand aquifer, Kirkwood-Cohansey water-table aquifer system

This system purchases water from the following water system(s) (if applicable):

### Susceptibility Ratings for Hammonton Water Department 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			Radio-nuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproduct Precursors		
	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
Wells - 4			4	2		2		2	2	1		3		2	2	2		2		1	3	1	3	
GUDI - 0																								
Surface water intakes - 0																								

- **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.

Regulated Disinfectants	Level Detected	MRDL	MRDLG
Chlorine	Average = 0.3 ppm	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm

The Town of Hammonton Public Utilities Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table shows the results of that monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued a Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for this public water system, which is available at [www.state.nj.us/dep/swaq](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swaq) or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. You may also contact your public water system to obtain information regarding the Town of Hammonton's Source Water Assessment. The Town of Hammonton's source water susceptibility ratings and a list of potential contaminant sources is attached.

As you can see from the table we had a positive Total Coliform Bacteria sample in September 2011. We immediately re-sampled and all test results were negative. Total Coliform Bacteria are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

We have exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Gross Alpha and Combined Radium 226/228 of which you were notified. We are continuing to work with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to resolve this issue.

**Gross Alpha emitters:** Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Combined Radium 226/228:** Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please call Anthony DeCicco - Town of Hammonton Public Utilities Department at 609-567-4332. 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 Town Meetings.

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, 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that 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.

**Lead:** 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 Town of Hammonton Public Utilities Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but can not 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 and 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>.

#### DEFINITIONS:

In the following table you will find many 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.

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

**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.

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received monitoring waivers for asbestos and synthetic organic chemicals. We add calcium hydroxide (also known as lime) to raise the pH of the water to an acceptable level. We also add klenphos as a corrosion inhibitor and chlorine for disinfection.

We at the Town of Hammonton Public Utilities Department work hard to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office if you have questions.