



ON TAP

2025 Annual Water Quality Report



**Grafton
Water
District**



www.graftonwaterdistrict.org
Editor: David Erickson

Spring 2026
Vol. 35, No. 1



2025 Annual Water Quality Report

As part of the requirements of the Safe Water Drinking Act the Grafton Water District (District) is pleased to submit its annual water quality report. This report will detail the requirements for reporting set by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. This report highlights testing that was required in the year 2025 and any contaminants that may have been detected during testing. This report will not show testing results that were undetected.

The District is committed to providing our customers with high quality drinking water that meets or surpasses state and federal standards for quality and safety. To ensure delivery of a quality product, We have in the last twenty-seven years made significant changes to our pumping, distribution system and operations.

Where the District's Water Comes From

The District obtains its water from four gravel packed ground water wells. These wells are located at the following locations: 98 Worcester St., 2110000-02G; 30 East St. which has two wells, East St. #2A and #3, 2110000-06G, 2110000-04G; Follette St., 211000-05G and 25R Trinity Ave. 2110000-07G.

As part of the distribution system the District maintains over 72.00 miles of water mains, two booster stations, three storage tanks, hydrants, gate valves and services. The water system is maintained and operated by four licensed operators 24 hours a day 365 days a year. The system is also connected to South Grafton, Millbury, Shrewsbury, Upton, Northbridge, Worcester, and the Wilkinsonville Water District. These interconnections provide water to our system in the event of an emergency.

Want to know more about the District's water system? Please call our office at 508-839-2302 during the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, with any questions or concerns. We are located at 44 Millbury Street, Grafton, MA 01519. The District's Board of Water Commissioners typically meets monthly as posted. Special meetings will be posted separately.

Information on sources of drinking water, contaminants that may be present in source water, and EPA/FDA regulations

- 

"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".
- 

"In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink. The DEP and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health".
- 

Explanation of the vulnerability of some populations to contaminants in drinking water: "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/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 from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426- 4791)".

Source	MassDEP Source ID	Source Type	Location
Well #1	2110000-02G	Groundwater	98 Worcester St.
Well #2A	2110000-06G	Groundwater	30 East St.
Well #3	2110000-04G	Groundwater	30 East St.
Well #4	211000-05G	Groundwater	Follette St
Well #5	2110000-07G	Groundwater	25R Trinity Ave

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2025 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 - December 31, 2025. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year or have never been detected.

TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED BELOW

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 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.

Action Level (AL)

The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Sodium

Sodium-sensitive individuals, such as those experiencing hypertension, kidney failure or congestive heart failure, who drink water containing sodium should be aware of levels where exposures are being carefully controlled.

Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are substances without MCLs for which EPA requires monitoring. For some of these substances, the Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards (ORSG) has developed state guidelines or secondary MCLs.

ORSG *Office of Research and Standards Guideline*

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.

SMCL *Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level*

These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

LEAD: Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water to reduce lead content. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 800-426-4791.

pci/L - Picocuries per liter:

A measure of radioactivity in water.

***ppb**: parts per billion or micrograms per liter

***ppm**: parts per million or milligrams per liter

mtbe: Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether

Contaminants That may be Present in Water

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Pesticides and Herbicides, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic, volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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

Volatile Organic Compounds, (VOC's) a group of chemicals that are usually associated with man-made products such as gasoline, heating oil, degreasers, cleaners, solvents and the like. VOC's in a water supply can result from fuel spills, leaking underground tanks, industrial discharges, illegal dumping and run-off from industrial areas or heavily traveled roads.

Ingesting water containing VOC's in excess of the MCL may increase the risk of getting certain cancers, liver damage or neurological problems. Health effects vary depending on the specific contaminant, its concentration, and the duration of exposure.

Grafton Water District 2025 Annual Water Quality Report

Water Quality Testing Results

What Does This Data Represent?

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)**.

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2025 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 - December 31, 2025. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year or have never been detected.

	Date(s) Collected	90th Percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action-Level	Exceeds Action-level? (Y/N)
Lead (ppb)	8/17/2025 - 8/20/2025	.0083	.015	.015	52	1	N
Copper (ppm)	8/17/2025 - 8/20/2025	1.12	1.3	1.3	52	2	N

Possible sources: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Running Avg.	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
-----------------------	-------------------	--------------------------------	----------------	-------------	---------------	-----------------	-------------------------------------

Inorganic Contaminants

Arsenic (ppb)	1/29, 6/27, 9/18, 12/16 2025	0	ND	.010	N/A	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	6/28/2024	0.024	ND - .025	2	2	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	6/28/2024	13	ND - 13	200	200	N	Discharge from metal, plastic and fertilizer factories
Nitrate (ppm)	6/20/2025 6/27/2025	.58	.05 - 1.2	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural depositis

Radioactive Contaminants

Gross Alpha (pCi/l) (minus uranium)	6/20/2025	0.6	.6 - .8	15	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L) (combined values)	6/28/2024	0.4	ND-0.4	5	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	Quarterly in 2025	40	14 - 69	80	N/A	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)	Quarterly in 2025	16	3 - 38	60	N/A	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm) (free, total or combined)	Monthly in 2025	0.39	0.02 - 1.2	4	4	N	Water additive used to control microbes

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Running Avg.	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)							
PFAS6 (ppt)	Monthly in 2025	11	2.3 -13.7	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

PFAS Health Effects: Some people who drink water containing these PFAS in excess of the MCL may experience certain adverse effects. These could include effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and fetal development. These PFAS may also elevate the risk of certain cancers.

Secondary Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG or Health Advisory	Possible Source
Iron (ppb)	2025	ND-1.74	0.141mg/L	300	0.3 mg/L	Naturally occurring, corrosion of cast iron pipes
Manganese* (ppb)	2025	ND-1.06	0.199mg/L	50	0.05 mg/L	Natural sources as well as discharges from industrial uses.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which there are no established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist regulatory agencies in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Secondary Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG or Health Advisory	Possible Source
1,4-Dioxane (ppt)	2025	.40 - .52	.46 ug/L	N/A	.3 ug/L	Discharge from chemical manufacturing and landfills
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (PFBS) (ppt)	2025	.867 - 3.7	2.3	N/A	N/A	Manmade chemical; used in products to make them stain, arease, heat and water resistant
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppt)	2025	ND-2.6	1.9	N/A	N/A	Manmade chemical; used in products to make them stain, arease, heat and water resistant
Sodium (ppm)	2025	18-85	57	N/A	20	Discharge from the use and improper storage of sodium containing de-icing compounds or in water-softening agents

Sodium-Sensitive individuals, such as those experiencing hypertension, kidney failure or congestive heart failure, who drink water containing sodium should be aware of levels where exposures are being carefully controlled.

MassDEP (ORS) risk assessment indicates that, while the concentrations of 1,4-dioxane in the Follette Street well exceed the ORSG, the water does not pose an unacceptable risk for residential uses over a lifetime of use

UCMR5 Sampling Results

Our system is participating in the US EPA's fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) as required, which includes sample collection for 30 chemical contaminants between 2023 and 2025. The data collected under UCMR5 improves understanding of the prevalence and amount of 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium in the nation's drinking water systems. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help US EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. Please refer to the table below for the results of our UCMRS testing. Additional information regarding UCMRS can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>

What were the results of the District's UCMR 5 sampling?

All the results of the 2024 monitoring are presented in the chart below. Two unregulated PFAS contaminants (PFPeA and PFHxA) were detected during the monitoring. PFAS6 contaminants, which are regulated and treated as a single contaminant in Massachusetts, were also detected. Lithium was not detected in any of the samples.

Unregulated UCMRS Contaminant	Date Collected	Range of Detects	Average	Level Allowed MCL	Possible Source
PFOS (ppt)	8/20/2025	1-6.8	3.0	*	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.
PFOA (ppt)	8/20/2025	1-6.3	3.2	*	
PFHxA (ppt)	8/20/2025	0-2.7	1.9	N/A	Man made chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat, and water resistant.
PFPeA (ppt)	8/20/2025	0-3.5	1.6	N/A	Man made chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat, and water resistant.
Lithium (ppb)	9/25/2025	0	N/A	N/A	Abundant element in the earth's crust, present in certain minerals, especially in areas of volcanic activity and in fluids associated with gas and oil well drilling; anthropogenic sources of lithium include its use in batteries, ceramics, glass, lubricants, metallurgy, and medicine and so it may be found in leachate from landfills, septic systems, and sewage treatment plants.

ppt = parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

* PFAS6 contaminants (sum of PFOS, PFOA, PFHpA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFDA) are regulated in Massachusetts under a combined MCL of 20 ppt.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

pCi/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ND = Not Detected

NIA = Not Applicable

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.

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

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

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

Unregulated Contaminants

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

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.

Running Annual Average (RAA) - The average of four consecutive quarter of data.

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 expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Assessment Language:

Level 2 Assessment -A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year, one Level 2 assessment was required to be completed for our water system. One Level 2 assessment were completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action, and we completed this action.

Updated Lead Statement:

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. Grafton Water District 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, contact Grafton Water District at 508-839-2302. 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>

PFAS6 Compliance Update: Addressing Elevated Levels at Worcester St. Well

Please refer to our Water Quality information at graftonwaterdistrict.org regarding PFAS6 compliance levels, and our plans to address PFAS. Quarterly public notice updates regarding PFAS levels in our system can be found on our website.

Note, that once the MCL has been violated, quarterly PN must be distributed until levels have been determined reliably and consistently below the MCL (i.e. until treatment activation).

This notice is intended for customers of the Grafton Water District. Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Please translate it or speak with someone who understands it or ask the contact listed below for a translation.

The Grafton Water District located in Grafton, Massachusetts reported levels of PFAS6 above the Drinking Water Standard

What Happened?

Our water system received notification of PFAS6 results showing that our system violated the 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) PFAS6 MassDEP Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) drinking water standard during the July- September 2024 compliance period with an average of 22 ng/L from our Worcester St. Well Water Treatment Plant. Due to this exceedance, our system will continue to notify consumers every 3 months with updated information as required.

PFAS6 Results for Worcester St. Well WTP

Quarterly Compliance Period	Monitoring Period	Sample Collection Date	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Quarterly Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Jul-Sep Quarter 3, 2024	Month 1	Not tested	---	22	20
	Month 2	8/9/2024	24.3		
	Month 3	9/12/2024	18.9		
Oct-Dec Quarter 4, 2024	Month 1	10/10/2024	17.8	17	
	Month 2	11/4/2024	16.9		
	Month 3	Offline	---		
Jan-Mar Quarter 1, 2025	Month 1	1/14/2025	3.47	7	
	Month 2	2/25/2025	9.34		
	Month 3	3/12/2025	7.61		
Apr-Jun Quarter 2, 2025	Month 1	4/23/2025	8.63	10	
	Month 2	5/27/2025	10		
	Month 3	6/20/2025	10.4		
Jul-Sep Quarter 3, 2025	Month 1	7/15/2025	11.6	10	
	Month 2	8/29/2025	10.4		
	Month 3	9/9/2025	9.4		
Oct-Dec Quarter 4, 2025	Month 1	10/9/2025	12.1	11	
	Month 2	11/20/2025	11.5		
	Month 3	12/18/2025	10.1		

Compliance with the PFAS6 MCL is calculated as a quarterly average based upon the total number of samples collected during the compliance period. The location where elevated levels PFAS6 was reported is one of four sources that supplies drinking water to our system. PFAS6 levels were below the MassDEP MCL at the other locations.

The elevated PFAS6 levels in addition to discolored water, occurred after pumping the Worcester St. Well at an increased rate during a treatment study conducted over the summer of 2024. The use of this well will be limited until the treatment plant is built.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Although this is not an emergency, as a consumer of the water, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did and are doing to correct this situation.

On October 2, 2020, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) issued a new drinking water regulation setting a maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). PFAS6 includes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA) and perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA).

PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used in the manufacturing of certain fire-fighting foams, moisture and stain resistant products, and other industrial processes. An MCL is the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user of a public water system. **Some people who drink water containing PFAS6 in excess of the MCL may experience certain adverse effects. These could include effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and fetal development. These PFAS6 may also elevate the risk of certain cancers.** For more information on PFAS, see the links below.

What should I do?

For consumers in a sensitive subgroup (pregnant or nursing women, infants, and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system):

- **Consumers in a sensitive subgroup are advised not to consume, drink, or cook with water when the level of PFAS6 is above 20 ng/L.**
- **Consumers in a sensitive subgroup** are advised to use bottled water for drinking and cooking of foods that absorb water (like pasta).
- **For infant formula**, use bottled water or use formula that does not require adding water.

For older children and adults (not in a sensitive subgroup):

- The 20 ng/L value is applicable to a lifetime of consuming the water. For these groups, shorter duration exposures present less risk. However, if you are concerned about your exposure while steps are being taken to assess and lower the PFAS6 concentration in the drinking water, use of bottled water will reduce your exposure.

Steps you can take to reduce your intake - Consider taking the following steps while actions are being implemented to address this issue:

- **Bottled water should only be used if it has been tested.** The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires companies licensed to sell or distribute bottled water or carbonated non-alcoholic beverages to test for PFAS. See <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-quality-standards-for-bottled-water-in-massachusetts>
- **Home water treatment systems** that are certified to remove PFAS by an independent testing group such as NSF, UL, or Water Quality Association may be used to treat the water. These may include point of entry systems, which treat all the water entering a home, or point of use devices, which treat water where it is used, such as at a faucet. For information on selecting home treatment devices that are effective in treating the water for PFAS6, review the MassDEP factsheet for consumers referenced below.
- **In most situations, the water can be safely used for washing foods, brushing teeth, bathing, and showering.**
- **Please note, boiling the water will not destroy PFAS6** and will somewhat increase its level due to evaporation of some of the water.

If you have specific health concerns regarding your past exposure, you should see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) link below and consult a health professional, such as your doctor.

What is being done?

Our water system has taken the following pro-active measures:

At our April 2024 Annual Meeting \$23 million was appropriated for design and construction of filtration systems to remove PFAS from the Worcester St. and East St. sources. As a result of the treatment study conducted over the summer at the Worcester St. well, the design will also include treatment for iron and manganese removal.

- Future use of the Worcester St. well will be limited until the treatment plant is built (1 ½ year estimate). A mandatory ban on non-essential water use is in effect for the next 12 months and will be re-evaluated at that time. Please see our website at: www.graftonwaterdistrict.org
- We will continue to sample our water sources for PFAS. Results can be found on the MassDEP website at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/drinking-water>
- A bottled water rebate is available for those in a sensitive subgroup in the form of up to a \$20 credit off your monthly water bill. Please see our website for details at: www.graftonwaterdistrict.org
- When additional information becomes available, this public notice will be updated.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact the Grafton Water District at **580-839-2302** | customerservice@graftonwaterdistrict.org. Additional information can be found in the weblinks listed below.

- MassDEP Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers: <https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351>
- CDC ATSDR Information on PFAS for consumers and health professionals: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health information about PFAS in Drinking Water: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water>
-

Grafton Water District

System ID#: 2110000

Date distributed: Dec. 2025

The Grafton Water District tests for VOC's as required by the Department of Environmental Protection. Specifically our Follette Street well is tested quarterly due to the presence of VOC's in the ground water. A raw (pre-treatment) and treated (after-treatment) sample of the water is tested to determine the effectiveness of the new water treatment facility.

The Department of Environmental Protection completed an assessment of Grafton's water sources, under the **Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAP)** and determined that Grafton's threat level was high, based on the presence of at least one high-threat land use in our Zone II area of one of our water supply wells. You can obtain a copy of the SWAP report at the Water District office or on the web at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/source-water-assessment-and-protection-swap-program-documents>.

The East Street Wells #2 and #3 are treated to remove iron and manganese that is naturally occurring in the ground water. Although iron and manganese are not necessarily a health issue they do cause significant staining and color problems in plumbing fixtures and the water.

CROSS CONNECTION EDUCATION:

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. When the water system has a pressure drop, usually due to a leak in the system, water can sometimes siphon back into the system. An example is when a homeowner fertilizes their lawns with garden hose type attachments. These devices provide an avenue for the pollutant to siphon backwards into the home or the water system. The District recommends that you install a backflow prevention device such as a hose bib vacuum breaker on all outside faucets. They can be obtained at your local plumbing or hardware store and are easy to attach. This is a great way for you to protect your home as well as the water system. For additional information please feel free to call the Water District at 508-839-2302.

PFAS AND PFOA IN THE NEWS:

Recently in the news there has been a lot of talk about PFAS in water systems across the country. Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyls substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals. These chemicals are used in a variety of products such as: carpets, clothing, non-stick pans, firefighting foam, dental floss and industrial processes to name a few. Some scientific studies have suggested that certain PFAS compounds may affect different systems in the body. They may affect growth, learning, affect the immune system and may increase the risk of cancer. Preliminary studies show that these issues may increase with long term exposure in sensitive populations such as infants, pregnant and nursing mothers.

The District tests for PFAS and PFOA in coordination with the Department of Environment Protection Agency Rules and Regulations.

EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Update: Ensuring Safe Water Through Service Line Inventories

On December 22, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized the first major update to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) in nearly 30 years. One key component of this update is the requirement for public water systems to develop an initial service line inventory by October 16, 2024. Establishing an inventory of service line materials and identifying the location of any lead components is a necessary foundation for removing lead and protecting public health. A service line is the pipe that brings water from the water main in the street into a building and generally consists of two parts: the "public" side, which runs from the main to the curb stop and the "private" side, which runs from the curb stop into the building. District staff began proactively developing our initial service line inventory in early 2024 by reviewing available records, consulting with current and former staff, and conducting field identifications during meter appointments. Shortly thereafter, the District began implementing strategies to determine unknown service line materials, including requesting customers to self-identify the material used on the "private" side. Based on our review, copper and plastic make up our service line materials. Out of the more than 4,500 service lines in our community, there are no known lead service lines in our distribution system.

Ensuring Safe Drinking Water: Corrosion Control & Lead Prevention Efforts

The District collects samples from 30 homes and two schools/childcare facilities in town once every year to confirm the effectiveness of our corrosion control efforts. Aeration, primarily used for VOC removal, is often sufficient in raising the pH of our naturally corrosive water supplies from slightly acidic to neutral. As needed, further upward pH adjustment is achieved by adding potassium hydroxide. Upwardly adjusting the pH reduces the potential for metals like lead and copper to leach from building pipes and plumbing fixtures into the water carried through them. All AL (Action Level) exceedances were reported to homeowners immediately. Often, replacing old household plumbing fixtures that contained lead results in improved water quality. There were no lead AL exceedances for any of the samples collected in schools/childcare facilities as part of the 2024 program. When your water has been sitting for several hours, like first thing in the morning or upon returning home from work, you can minimize your lead exposure by flushing your tap for up to two minutes or until the water becomes noticeably colder before using it for drinking, cooking, or preparing baby formula. Always use cold water for these activities, as lead dissolves faster in hot water than it does in cold. It's also important to note that boiling water does not decrease the level of lead; rather, it increases it. Additionally, the aerators on the end of your faucets should be removed at least every six months to rinse out any debris that may include particulate lead.

GRAFTON WATER DISTRICT PWS ID # 2110000

Our Public Water System has no Lead, Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR) or Unknown Service Lines

On 9/3/2025 MassDEP approved THE Grafton Water District's request for approval to release a statement that our system has no service lines of Lead, Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR) or unknown materials. This statement is based on the results:

- Field Inspection by PWS
- Records Review
- Statistical Analysis
- Customer Self-Identification
- Sequential Monitoring
- Other(s) MassDEP-Approved Method(s):

For information on all service lines in the Grafton water district contact our office at:
customerservice@graftonwaterdistrict.org.



MassDEP Fact Sheet

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Drinking Water: Questions and Answers for Consumers

1. What are PFAS and how are people exposed to them?

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances are a group of chemical compounds called PFAS. Two PFAS chemicals, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), were extensively produced and are the most studied and regulated of these chemicals. Several other PFAS that are similar to PFOS and PFOA exist. These PFAS are contained in some firefighting foams used to extinguish oil and gas fires. They have also been used in a number of industrial processes and to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials (e.g., cookware) that are resistant to water, grease and stains. Because these chemicals have been used in many consumer products, most people have been exposed to them.

While consumer products and food are the largest source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water can be an additional source of exposure in communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example, an airfield at which they were used for firefighting or a facility where these chemicals were produced or used.

2. What is the Massachusetts drinking water standard?

On October 2, 2020, MassDEP published its PFAS public drinking water standard or Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Level (MMCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L), or parts per trillion (ppt) applicable to community (COM) and non-transient non-community (NTNC) systems for the sum of the concentrations of six specific PFAS. The six PFAS are: perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS); perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA); perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS); perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA); perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA); and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA). MassDEP abbreviates this set of six PFAS as “PFAS6.” This drinking water standard is set to be protective against adverse health effects for all people consuming the water. For information on the PFAS6 drinking water standard see: [310 CMR 22.00: The Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations](#). For more information about the technical details behind the MMCL, see MassDEP’s technical support document at: [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\): An Updated Subgroup Approach to Groundwater and Drinking Water Values](#).

3. What are the EPA drinking water standards?

On April 10, 2024, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) for six Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).

MassDEP will adopt regulations for public water suppliers (PWS) that are no less stringent than the EPA regulations.

EPA's Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) are:

- PFOA – 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt)
 - PFOS – 4.0 ppt
 - PFNA – 10 ppt
 - PFHxS – 10 ppt
 - HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX Chemicals) – 10 ppt
- PFHxS, HFPO-DA, PFNA, and PFBS – Hazard Index (HI) = 1 (unitless)

A Hazard Index accounts for the increased risk from mixtures of PFAS. For more information regarding the Hazard Index for PFAS and how to calculate it see: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/pfas-ncpdwr-fact-sheet-hazard-index-4.8.24.pdf>

For more information about EPA's Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) and MCLs for PFAS see <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

Note that the four PFAS chemicals PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, and PFHxS are regulated under both the EPA and current MassDEP drinking water standards. The MassDEP PFAS6 standard also includes the two PFAS chemicals PFHpA and PFDA. The EPA standards also includes the two PFAS chemicals HFPO-DA and PFBS.

4. What health effects are associated with exposure to the regulated PFAS chemicals?

The MassDEP drinking water standard is based on studies of the PFAS6 chemicals in laboratory animals and studies of exposed people. Overall, these studies indicate that exposure to sufficiently elevated levels of the PFAS6 compounds may cause developmental effects in fetuses during pregnancy and in breastfed infants. Effects on the thyroid, the liver, kidneys, hormone levels and the immune system have also been reported. Some studies suggest a cancer risk may exist following long-term exposures to elevated levels of some of these compounds.

It is important to note that consuming water with PFAS6 above the drinking water standard does not mean that adverse effects will occur. The degree of risk depends on the level of the chemicals and the duration of exposure. The drinking water standard assumes that individuals drink only contaminated water, which typically overestimates exposure, and that they are also exposed to PFAS6 from sources beyond drinking water, such as food. To enhance safety, several uncertainty factors are additionally applied to account for differences between test animals and humans, and to account for differences between people. Scientists are still working to study and better understand the health risks posed by exposures to PFAS. If your water has been found to have PFAS6, HFPO-DA or PFBS and you have specific health concerns, you may wish to consult with your doctor.

5. How can I find out about contaminants in my drinking water?

If you get your water from a public water system, you should contact them for this information. For a contact list for all public water systems in the Commonwealth you may visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/media/831461/download>

For private well owners see the [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) in Private Well Drinking Water Supplies FAQ](#) for more information.

6. What options should be considered when PFAS6 in drinking water is above MassDEP's PFAS6 drinking water standard and/or when PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS are above EPA drinking water standards?

- ✓ Sensitive subgroups, including pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system, should consider using bottled water that has been tested for PFAS, for their drinking water, cooking of foods that absorb water (like pasta) and to make infant formula. Bottled water that has been tested for PFAS, or formula that does not require adding water, are alternatives.
- ✓ For older children and adults, the MMCL is applicable to a lifetime of consuming the water. For these groups, shorter duration exposures present less risk. However, if you are concerned about your exposure while steps are taken to assess and lower the PFAS concentration in your drinking water, use of bottled water that has been tested for PFAS will reduce your exposure.
- ✓ Water contaminated with PFAS can be treated by some home water treatment systems that are “NSF/ANSI 53” or “NSF/ANSI 58” certified to remove PFAS. These may include point of entry (POE) systems, which treat all the water entering a home, or point of use (POU) devices, which treat water where it is used, such as at a faucet.
- ✓ In most situations the water can be safely used for washing and rinsing foods and washing dishes.
- ✓ For washing items that might go directly into your mouth, like dentures and pacifiers, only a small amount of water might be swallowed and the risk of experiencing adverse health effects is very low. You can minimize any risk by not using water with PFAS greater than the EPA and MassDEP drinking water standards to wash such items.
- ✓ The water can be safely used by adults and older children for brushing teeth. However, use of bottled water should be considered for young children as they may swallow more water than adults when they brush their teeth. If you are concerned about your exposure, even though the risk is very low, you could use bottled water for these activities.
- ✓ Because PFAS are not well absorbed through the skin, routine showering or bathing are not a significant concern unless PFAS levels are very high. Shorter showers or baths, especially for children who may swallow water while playing in the bath, or for people with severe skin conditions (e.g., significant rashes) would limit any exposure from the water.
- ✓ For pets or companion animals, the health effects and levels of concern to mammalian species, like dogs, cats and farm animals, are likely to be similar to those for people. However, because these animals are different sizes, have different lifespans, and drink different amounts of water than people it's not possible to predict what health effects an animal may experience from drinking water long-term with PFAS concentrations greater than the MCL. There is some evidence that birds may be more sensitive to PFAS. There is little data on PFAS effects on other species like turtles, lizards, snakes and fish. As a precaution, if you have elevated levels of PFAS in your water, you may wish to consider using alternative water for your pets. If you have concerns, you may also want to consult with your veterinarian.
- ✓ For gardening or farming, certain plants may take up some PFAS from irrigation water and soil. Unfortunately, there is not enough scientific data to predict how much will end up in a specific crop. Since people eat a variety of foods, the risk from the occasional consumption of produce grown in soil or irrigated with water contaminated with PFAS is likely to be low. Families who grow a large fraction of their produce would experience higher potential exposures and should consider the following steps, which should help reduce PFAS exposures from gardening:
 - Maximize use of rainwater or water from another safe source for your garden.
 - Wash your produce in clean water after you harvest it.
 - Enhance your soil with clean compost rich in organic matter, which has been reported to reduce PFAS uptake into plants.
 - Use raised beds with clean soil.

- **NOTE ON BOILING WATER:** Boiling water will not destroy these chemicals and will increase their levels somewhat due to water evaporation.
- **NOTE ON BOTTLED WATER:** Bottled water should only be used if it has been tested. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) requires companies licensed to sell or distribute bottled water or carbonated non-alcoholic beverages to test for PFAS. See <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-quality-standards-for-bottled-water-in-massachusetts>. In 2022, the MDPH conducted a pilot surveillance program on PFAS in bottled water sold in Massachusetts. All bottled water test results met the MassDEP PFAS6 and the US EPA’s drinking water standards .
- **NOTE ON POU and POE TREATMENT DEVICES:** Point of Use (POU) and Point of Entry (POE) treatment devices are not specifically designed to meet Massachusetts’ or EPA’s drinking water standard for PFAS. Any treatment device you use should be certified to meet “NSF/ANSI 53” or “NSF/ANSI 58” standards. Although such certification documents that a treatment device can remove PFAS, it's important to note that the current certification standards for PFAS filters (as of April 2024) do not yet indicate that a filter will remove PFAS down to the levels EPA has now set for a drinking water standard. EPA is working with standard-setting bodies to update their filter certifications to match EPA’s new requirements. If you chose to install a treatment device, you should check to see if the manufacturer has independently verifiable PFAS monitoring results demonstrating that the device can reduce PFAS below the MassDEP and EPA drinking water standards. See more detailed information on POU/POE treatment systems in the Private Well Factsheet at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/pfas-in-private-well-drinking-water-supplies-faq?>

7. Where can I get more information on PFAS?

MassDEP PFAS Information. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Private Well Drinking Water Supplies FAQ:
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/pfas-in-private-well-drinking-water-supplies-faq>

Massachusetts Department of Public Health PFAS webpage: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water>

USEPA National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for PFAS see: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

Association of State Drinking Water Administrators PFAS webpage <https://www.asdwa.org/pfas/>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) Public Health Statement for PFAS can be found at:
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>

CDC’s fact sheet on PFAS and Breastfeeding is located at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/pfas-breastfeeding.html>

8. Where can I find more information about Treatment Devices for PFAS?

MassDEP information on home drinking water treatment devices: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/home-water-treatment-devices-point-of-entry-and-point-of-use-drinking-water>

USEPA information on PFAS and treatment devices:

<https://www.epa.gov/research-states/pfas-treatment-drinking-water-and-wastewater-state-science>

and <https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters/epa-researchers-investigate-effectiveness-point-usepoint-entry-systems-remove-and>

and <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/water-filter-fact-sheet.pdf> (includes links to third parties that certify treatment devices)

For further information on PFAS in drinking water, including possible health effects, you may contact the Massachusetts Department Environmental Protection, Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov or 617-292-5770.

COMMISSIONERS
Robert Frederico
Michael Corda
Kenneth Grew



44 Millbury Street
Grafton, MA 01519
(508)839-2302 - Fax: (508)839-2367

SUPERINTENDENT
David Erickson

Treasurer
Wendy Graves

e-mail: customerservice@graftonwaterdistrict.org

website: graftonwaterdistrict.org

PUBLIC NOTICE - OUTDOOR WATER BAN

Effective October 9th, 2025, the Grafton Water District commissioners have banned all non-essential outside watering. The current ban is a 24-hour ban that will be in effect until the time that all treatment plants are built.

Nonessential watering that is subject to the mandatory restrictions includes:

- Irrigation of lawns via sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems.
- **Irrigation of spot seeding, overseeding, or treatments via sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems.**
- Washing of vehicles, except in a commercial car wash or as necessary for operator safety.
- Washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways, or sidewalks.

Exemptions from the restrictions include:

- **Irrigation for new lawns (new lawns are under 1 year of age) and plantings that have been planted during May through September. Irrigation under these exemptions is only permitted during the months of May through September.**
- **Watering of lawns, gardens, flowers, and plants via handheld hose.**
- Businesses that require water use as a core function of the business.

This ban is necessary to ensure a sustainable drinking water supply until we can implement a new iron and manganese treatment plant for our Worcester Street well site and Trinity Site.

All users of water should limit their nonessential water use through the year by implementing practices such as capturing rain in rain barrels, hand watering, using car washes that recycle water, installing low-flow water fixtures, and limiting lawn surfaces.

The district asks you to take steps to ensure you comply with these new regulations. Any questions related to these new restrictions can be addressed by calling the Grafton Water District office at 508-839-2302 or emailing customerservice@graftonwaterdistrict.org.

Non-essential water use fines

- **Residential:** 1st offense, written warning. 2nd offense, \$500.00 fine. 3rd offense, service shut off and \$500.00 turn-on charge.
- **Business:** 1st offense, written warning. 2nd offense, \$1,000.00 fine. 3rd offense, service shut off and \$500.00 turn-on charge.

Fines have a 30-day appeal to the board of water commissioners.

As this is an extension of the water ban, the commissioners have decided that all previous violations will **remain active and will continue to be enforced under this extended ban.**

Please note that significant fluctuations in water usage during quarterly billing will be presumed to indicate non-essential use and may result in violations being issued.

WATER CONSERVATION



DON'T LEAVE THE TAP RUNNING NEEDLESSLY

Turn off your sink faucet while washing hands, brushing teeth and scrubbing dishes and pots



USE DUAL FLUSH TOILET

Don't flush it more than necessary

STOP LEAKY TOILET AND DRIPPING FAUCETS

A faucet that drips at the rate of one drop per second will waste 2,700 gallons per year



EATING LOCAL ORGANIC FOOD AND LESS MEAT

Some foods require a lot more water to produce especially foods with carbon footprint

CHOOSE AND USE YOUR APPLIANCES WISELY

Use energy efficient appliances



REDUCING FLOWS OF WATER

Use high efficiency faucet aerator and low flow shower head

SET UP A RAIN BARREL

Rain barrel collects rain water from eaves to water your garden

