

**Presented By**  
**City of Vineland**



ANNUAL  
**WATER  
QUALITY  
REPORT**

WATER TESTING PERFORMED IN 2017

## Quality First

Once again we are pleased to present our annual water quality report. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you and your family.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

## How Is My Water Treated and Purified?

The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer by vertical turbine well pumps and sent to an aerator, which oxidizes the iron levels that are present in the water and raises the pH. Some wells pass the raw water through filters on the way to the aerator to remove iron and radium, and some pass the raw water through an air stripper to remove volatile organic compounds. The water then goes to a mixing tank where lime, chlorine, and a corrosion inhibitor (to protect distribution system pipes) are added before the water is pumped to sanitized water towers and into your home or business.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Vineland Water Utility's customers are fortunate because we enjoy an abundant water supply from groundwater. Our groundwater supply is not exposed to air and is not subject to direct pollution and contamination like a river or reservoir. In fact, groundwater is the highest-quality water available to meet the public health demand of water intended for human consumption.

All 13 municipal wells draw water from the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer at depths ranging from 160 feet to 200 feet. This aquifer holds an estimated 17 trillion gallons of water beneath the pristine Pinelands, a million-acre protected reserve. Combined, our pumping and treatment facilities can provide roughly 3.3 billion gallons of drinking water every year.

## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

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

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

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

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

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. The Vineland City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, Seventh and Wood Streets, Vineland, New Jersey.



## Protecting Your Water Source: What Is SWAP?

SWAP (Source Water Assessment Plan) is a program of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for the study of existing and potential threats to the quality of public drinking water sources throughout the state. Sources are rated depending upon their contaminant susceptibility.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for this public water system, which is available at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/index.html> or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. You may also contact Michael S. Lawler at (856) 794-4056.

Vineland Water Utility is a public water system consisting of 13 wells with source water coming from the Kirkwood-Cohasey aquifer.

Source	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	
13 Wells		4	9	11	2			9	4	12		1	7	6		13				13			1	12	

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, NJDEP may customize (i.e., change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings.

Source water protection is a long-term dedication to clean and safe drinking water. It is more cost effective to prevent contamination than to address contamination after the fact. Every member of the community has an important role in source water protection. NJDEP recommends controlling activities and development around drinking water sources whether it is through land acquisition, stormwater drain protection, or hazardous waste collection programs.

## Failure in Flint

The national news coverage of water conditions in Flint, Michigan, has created a great deal of confusion and consternation. The water there has been described as being corrosive; images of corroded batteries and warning labels on bottles of acids come to mind. But is corrosive water necessarily bad?

Corrosive water can be defined as a condition of water quality that will dissolve metals (iron, lead, copper, etc.) from metallic plumbing at an excessive rate. There are a few contributing factors but, generally speaking, corrosive water has a pH of less than 7; the lower the pH, the more acidic, or corrosive, the water becomes. (By this definition, many natural waterways throughout the country can be described as corrosive.) While all plumbing will be somewhat affected over time by the water it carries, corrosive water will damage plumbing much more rapidly than water with low corrosivity.

By itself, corrosive water is not a health concern; your morning glass of orange juice is considerably more corrosive than the typical lake or river. What is of concern is that exposure in drinking water to elevated levels of the dissolved metals increases adverse health risks. And there lies the problem.

Public water systems are required to maintain their water at optimal conditions to prevent it from reaching corrosive levels. Rest assured that we routinely monitor our water to make sure that what happened in Flint never happens here. For more information on how corrosivity affects water quality, download this informative pamphlet: <http://goo.gl/KpTmXv>.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Michael S. Lawler, Superintendent, at (856) 794-4056.

## Water Main Flushing

**D**istribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not themselves pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen and disinfectant levels, and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at such times. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use and avoid using hot water, to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.





## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. The information in the data tables shows only those substances that were detected between January 1 and December 31, 2017. Remember that detecting a substance does not necessarily mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels. The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

**Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.**

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES <sup>1</sup>

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2017	15	0	11.6	ND–11.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2017	2	2	0.163	ND–0.163	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	2017	4	4	0.19	ND–0.19	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cadmium (ppb)	2017	5	5	0.16	ND–0.16	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; Runoff from waste batteries and paints
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2017	5	0	4.69	ND–4.69	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	2017	200	200	16	ND–16	No	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2017	60	NA	1.8	ND–1.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Mercury [inorganic] (ppb)	2017	2	2	2.2	ND–2.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland
Nickel (ppb)	2017	100	NA	8.7	ND–8.7	No	Pollution from mining and refining operations; Natural occurrence in soil
Nitrate (ppm)	2017	10	10	8	0.59–8	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2017	50	50	1.8	ND–1.8	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2017	80	NA	17	0.9–17	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Thallium (ppb)	2017	2	0.5	0.24	ND–0.24	No	Leaching from ore-processing sites; Discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	2017	1	0	0.8	ND–0.8	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories

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

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2017	1.3	1.3	0.106	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2017	15	0	2.3	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

## SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	RUL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2017	200	NA	0.416	ND–0.416	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2017	250	NA	26.6	3.4–26.6	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Color (Units)	2017	10	NA	5	ND–5	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Fluoride (ppm)	2017	2	NA	0.25	ND–0.25	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Foaming agents (ppb)	2017	500	NA	100	ND–100	No	Municipal and industrial waste discharges
Hardness [as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ] (ppm)	2017	250	NA	47.2	9.9–47.2	No	Naturally occurring
Iron (ppb)	2017	300	NA	100	ND–100	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2017	50	NA	33	11–33	No	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (Units)	2017	6.5–8.5	NA	8.8	6.96–8.8	No	Naturally occurring
Sodium (ppm)	2017	50	NA	13.6	2.65–13.6	No	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2017	250	NA	13.7	ND–13.7	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

<sup>1</sup> Under a waiver granted on December 30, 1998, by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, our system does not have to monitor for synthetic organic chemicals/pesticides because several years of testing have indicated that these substances do not occur in our source water. Also, the SDWA 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 synthetic organic chemicals and asbestos.

## Definitions

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

**LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average):** The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters. Amount Detected values for TTHMs and HAAs are reported as the highest LRAAs.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**NA:** Not applicable

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

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

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

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

**RUL (Recommended Upper Limit):** RULs are established to regulate the aesthetics of drinking water like appearance, taste and odor.

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