Water Conservation

It's very easy to waste water indoors and out. By using only what you need, you'll be saving on your water bills and helping to preserve our precious water supply. Here are a few tips to help conserve water.

- Install a shower flow controller. Reduces flow without diminishing spray.
- Fix leaky faucets quickly. One drip per second wastes 6,000 gallons a year.
- Water your lawn in the morning or evening when there is less evaporation.
- Refrigerate a bottle of water instead of running water until it is cold enough to drink.
- Run only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher. This also saves energy.
- Water lawn only when it needs it. Step on grass. If grass springs up, it doesn't need watering.
- Put mulch around plants. Mulch slows evaporation.
- Select plants, trees, and grass varieties that need less water.

We hope you find these tips useful in helping to conserve a precious resource: Water. The web site **www. watersmart.org** is a great source for more useful tips on water conservation.

How can I help protect my drinking water supply?

Drinking water protection is a shared responsibility involving water suppliers, local and state governments, business, and individuals. We all have an important role to play, and as private citizens we have many opportunities.

EPA is encouraging states and communities to undertake source water protection programs, which apply the principles of wellhead protection to surface water as well as ground water supplies of drinking water. Now, we understand that if we place greater emphasis on protecting our sources of drinking water, the need for treatment can be reduced.

The general components of a source water protection program include:

Delineation- identifying the area of land that water passes through to reach the drinking water intake

Contaminant Source Inventory- mapping the locations of potential sources of drinking water contamination

Determine the susceptibility- of the public water system to contaminant sources or activities within the source water protection area

Notify and involve the public- about threats identified in the contaminant source inventory and what they mean to their public water systems

Source Water Protection Area Management- using regulatory controls, such as zoning or health ordinances, or non regulatory controls, such as technical assistance to businesses and public education, to keep contaminants out of drinking water supplies

Contingency Planning- plan special actions in case a sudden event (for instance, a flood or spill) occurs that threatens the drinking water supply

Health Effects

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms measured as turbidity. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. 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).

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Infants and children who drink water containing **lead** in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Lead - Major Sources in Drinking Water: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Copper - Major Sources in Drinking Water: Corrosion of household plumbing systemsl erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

WATER DEPARTMENT

TOWN OF WINCHESTER

Annual Water Quality Report

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The Winsted Water Department routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, **2025**. There are 119 constituents that we are required to test for. These constituents fall into two categories: regulated, where enforceable standards or MCLs have been established, and unregulated, where only health advisory levels have been set. The table of "Testing Results" also identifies those constituents that were detected in **Crystal Lake and Rugg Brook Reservoir** water sources. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

We ensure water quality through daily testing at our water treatment plant. Samples are also collected from our distribution system from various locations four times a month and sent to a state certified water quality laboratory.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the **Winsted Water Department at (860) 379-4101, or the State Health Dept. at 860-509-7333**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water. The time and place for meetings of the Water Commission are posted at the Town Hall.

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Great Resources

Our water sources are Crystal Lake Reservoir and Rugg Brook Reservoir, which are surface water supplies. A water assessment of Winsted Water Works was completed by the Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Section. The updated assessment report can be found on the Department of Public Health's website: https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Drinking-Water/DWS/Source-Water-Assessment-Program-SWAP-Reports. The assessment found that this public drinking water source has a **Low** susceptiility to potential sources of contamination.

Additional source water assessment information can be found at the Environmental Protection Agency's website: https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection/source-water-assessments

Since August of 1998, the Crystal Lake Water Treatment Plant has been producing high quality filtered water for distribution. Now going on 27 years old, the W.T.P. has produced over 7.8 billion gallons of water! (based on 791,476 gallon per day average) Still exceeding the parameters set by the safe drinking water act and the CT DPH Drinking Water Division.

Definitions

In this 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:

Detect - Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is present, however it does not trigger an action level or exceed an MCL.

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.

PCi/L - Picocuries per liter (measure of Alpha/Beta particles)

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

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The 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 (MCLG) - The 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.

Turbidity (NTU) - Nephelometeric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection, and provide a medium for microbial growth.

MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

System Info

The Winsted Water Works system consists of Crystal Lake and Rugg Brook reservoirs, Crystal Lake Water Treatment Plant, 3 storage tanks: 1 million, 700,000 and 500,000 gallons and 40 miles of water main that serve 2600 consumers.

Last year Crystal Lake W.T.P. produced 297,899,940 gallons of water for an average daily use of 816,164 gallons. Our water is tested at the plant twice daily by certified operators. Water quality is also monitored 24 hours a day by our distribution instruments. Our water is also sampled weekly from chosen locations in the distribution system for testing by State of CT. certified lab, Microbac Laboratories, Inc. The results received from these tests are used to compile this report.

Testing Results

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants						
Barium	N	.0099	ppm	2ppm	2ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
Chloride	N	12.3	ppm	-	250	Surface runoff
Fluoride *Annual average; Range: .63 – .69	N - -	.65* - -	ppm - -	4ppm - -	4ppm - -	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sulfate	N -	11 -	ppm -	- -	NA -	Chemical additions used for filtration aids; no MCL established
Sodium	N	16.8	ppm	-	100ppm**	Chemical additions used for filtration aids

* On October 1, 2016 the CT Department of Public Health lowered the required levels of flouride in drinking water. Prior to this date the level was 1 part per million (ppm). The new level is .70 (ppm)

****Notification level** – means the level of a contaminant that if exceeded shall require public notification by water system to consumers.

Microbiological Contaminants

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

Turbidity	N	.06*	NTU		<1.0 NTU	
*Annual average; Range: .05 – .09						
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] *Annual average; Range 27 - 94	N	52*	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA [Haloacetic acids] *Annnual average; Range 32 - 69	N	44*	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MRDLG	MRDL	Potential Health Effects From Ingestion of Water	Likely Source of Contamination
Disinfectant Sodium Hypochlorite	N	1.16*	ppm	4	4	Eye/Nose irritation, stomach discomfort	Water additive used to control microbes
*Annual average; Range: .94 – 1.34							
Radionuclides							
Gross Alpha	N	.92	PCi/L	2.27		Erosion of natural deposits of certain minerals that are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation	
Combined Radium	N	.60	PCi/L	1.25		Erosion of natural deposits	

Contaminant	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Year	Range	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
	Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - Action Level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.0167	2023	0.0156-0.366	0	No	Corrosion of house hold plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	0	2023	Non-detext-3.6	0	No	Corrosion of house hold plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits