

2023 Consumer Confidence Report

For

Whitney Estates Condominiums

Berlin, Massachusetts
PWS # 2028015

This report is a snapshot of the drinking water quality provided last year and is required of all water systems. It is updated and distributed annually and summarizes all the water quality testing done on your water supply in 2023, as well as the details about your water sources and distribution water system. Please take time to review this report and save it as a reference.

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

Address: Alden Drive, Berlin, MA 01530

Contact Person: Mark Leone, Breton Property Group

Telephone #: (508) 233-8911

Email Address: mleone@bretonpropertygroup.com

Website: <https://www.bretonpropertygroup.com/>

Water System Improvements

Your water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), who inspects this system for its technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water. Your water system is operated by *Small Water Systems Services, LLC (SWSS)*, a contract drinking water and wastewater operations company, who oversees the routine operations of your system. As part of our ongoing commitment to you, last year we made the following improvements to our system:

- Replaced pressure tank.

Opportunities for Public Participation

If you would like to participate in discussions regarding your water quality, you may attend meetings or educational events as held by your HOA or property manager. This property is managed by Breton Property Management Company. For more information on upcoming meetings, please call Mark Leone at (508) 233-8911.

YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?

Whitney Estates Condominiums is a community public water supply located in the Town of Berlin and serves a drinking water population of approximately 40 persons and is a townhouse condominium complex consisting of 5 buildings. Drinking water is supplied by two bedrock water supply wells, each approved to pump 1,100 gpd. The wells are located on the northern half of the site, adjacent to North Brook. The water is pumped to a 2,500-gallon steel storage tank inside the pump station. From the tank, water flows through two variable frequency drive (VFD) booster pumps with an associated 20-gallon hydropneumatic pressure tank that maintain the system pressure and supply the demand for water to the distribution system.

Is My Water Treated?

Our water system makes every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water. To improve the quality of the water delivered to you, we sometimes treat it to remove contaminants. From September through December 2022, we added a disinfectant to the water to protect you against microbial contaminants. The water quality of our system is constantly monitored by us and MassDEP to determine if any additional treatment is required.

How Are These Sources Protected?

In 2001, DEP prepared Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Reports for water supply sources serving consumers at that time. The SWAP Report assesses the environmental susceptibility of public drinking water sources. Since Whitney Estates was built after that date, no SWAP report is yet available. *SWSS* routinely monitors your wellhead for potential sources of contamination.

What Can Be Done to Improve Protection?

Residents can help protect sources by:

- Practicing good septic system maintenance
- Supporting water supply protection initiatives at the next town meeting
- Taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days
- Limiting pesticide and fertilizer use, etc.

SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER

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 stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater 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, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 (1-800-426-4791).

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 some 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 lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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. Whitney Estates is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but 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 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

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.

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.

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.

A **Level 1 Assessment** is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

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

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

ND = Not Detected

mrem/year = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

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

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

N/A = Not Applicable

WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

What Does This Data Represent?

The water quality information presented in the table is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown was collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the table.

Whitney Estates was granted waivers by MassDEP for monitoring requirements for Synthetic Organic Compounds because the source is not at risk of contamination. Additionally, waivers were granted for monitoring requirements for Inorganic Compounds.

Lead & Copper	Date(s) Collected	90 TH percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	July 2022	0	15	0	5	0	Corrosion of household plumbing; natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	July 2022	0.0585	1.3	1.3	5	0	Corrosion of household plumbing; natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

Bacteria	MCL/TT	MCLG	Value	Date	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources
Total Coliform Bacteria	MCL	0	Positive	7/25/23, 7/27/23	Y	Human and animal fecal waste
<p>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 sources or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify any problems that were found during these assessments.</p> <p>During the past year, we were required to conduct one Level 1 Assessment. One Level 1 Assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action and we have completed one of these actions.</p>						

Regulated Contaminant	Date	Highest Result	Range	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	5/18/21	0.019	0.007 - 0.019	2	2	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)*	5/18/21	1	0.2 - 1	4	4	N	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
*Fluoride also has a secondary contaminant level (SMCL) of 2 ppm.							
Nitrate (ppm)	4/4/23	0.64	0.27 - 0.64	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; natural deposits

Regulated Contaminant	Date	Highest Result	Range	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
PFAS6 (ppt)	4/4/23	8.03	5.52 – 8.03	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.
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha * (pCi/l), minus U	5/18/21§	0.7	0.1 - 0.7	15	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
* If the results of this sample had been above 15 pCi/L, our system would have been required to do additional testing for uranium. Because the results were below 15 pCi/L, no testing for uranium was required. § Gross Alpha for well #1 is due to be collected again in 2030; well #2 is due to be collected in 2024.							

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.

Unregulated / Secondary Contaminants	Date Collected	Result or Range	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source
Aluminum (ppb)	4/4/23	21	N/A	200	Residue from water treatment process; erosion of natural deposits.
Chloride (ppm)	4/4/23	67.7 – 76.6	N/A	250	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.
Copper (ppm)	4/4/23	0.01	1	N/A	Naturally occurring organic material.
Iron (ppb)	4/4/23	74 - 113	300	N/A	Naturally occurring, corrosion of cast iron pipes.
Manganese (ppb)	4/4/23	76	50	Health advisory of 300	Natural sources as well as discharges from industrial uses,
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS), (ppt)	4/4/23	2.53 – 3.51	N/A	N/A	Manmade chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA), (ppt)	4/4/23	2.2	N/A	N/A	Manmade chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA), (ppt)	4/4/23	2.99 – 4.52	N/A	N/A	Used for its emulsifier and surfactant properties in or as fluoropolymers (such as Teflon), fire-fighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, greases and lubricants, paints, polishes, adhesives, and photographic films.
pH	4/4/23	6.6 – 6.9	6.5-8.5	NA	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sodium (ppm)	4/4/23	23.6 – 53.2	N/A	20	Use or improper storage of road salting activities or in water-softening agents
Sulfate (ppm)	4/4/23	18.9 – 403	250	N/A	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	4/4/23	608 – 858	500	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.
Zinc (ppm)	4/4/23	0.02 – 0.052	5	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits, leaching from plumbing materials

COMPLIANCE WITH DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS

Does My Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?

We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. However, some contaminants that were tested last year did not meet all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government. We found coliform during the period(s) of July 12 through September 8, 2022 our system took the following corrective actions.

- We collected additional samples.
- We disinfected and flushed the distribution system to eliminate coliform bacteria.
- We replaced the gaskets on both wellheads.
- We continued to disinfect the water throughout the remainder of the year to protect you from coliform bacteria.

Our water system and MassDEP monitors and records the effectiveness of actions taken in response to contaminant violations. The health effect statement for these contaminants are listed below.

HEALTH EFFECT STATEMENTS

Sodium: Sodium sensitive individuals, such as those experiencing hypertension, kidney failure, or congestive heart failure, should be aware of the sodium levels where exposures are being carefully controlled.

Total Coliform: Coliforms 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.

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS): May produce hardness; deposits; colored water; staining; salty taste.

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention

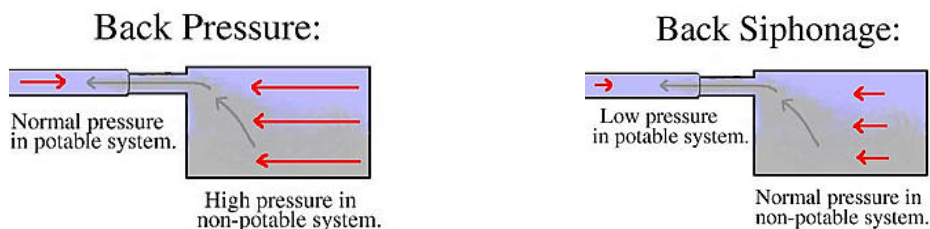
Whitney Estates makes every effort to ensure that the water delivered to your home is clean, safe and free of contamination. Our staff works very hard to protect the quality of the water delivered to our customers from the time the water is extracted via deep wells from underground aquifers, throughout the entire treatment and distribution system. But there still a need to protect the water quality from contamination caused by a cross-connection.

What is a cross-connection?

A cross-connection occurs whenever the drinking water supply is or could be in contact with potential sources of pollution or contamination. Cross-connections exist in piping arrangements or equipment that allows the drinking water to come in contact with non-potable liquids, solids, or gases (hazardous to humans) in event of a backflow.

What is a backflow?

Backflow is the undesired reverse of the water flow in the drinking water distribution lines. This backward flow of water can occur when the pressure created by equipment or a system such as a boiler or air-conditioning is higher than the water pressure inside the water distribution line (back pressure), or when the pressure in the distribution line drops due to routine occurrences such as water main breaks or heavy water demand causing the water to flow backward inside the water distribution system (back siphonage).



What can I do to help prevent a cross-connection?

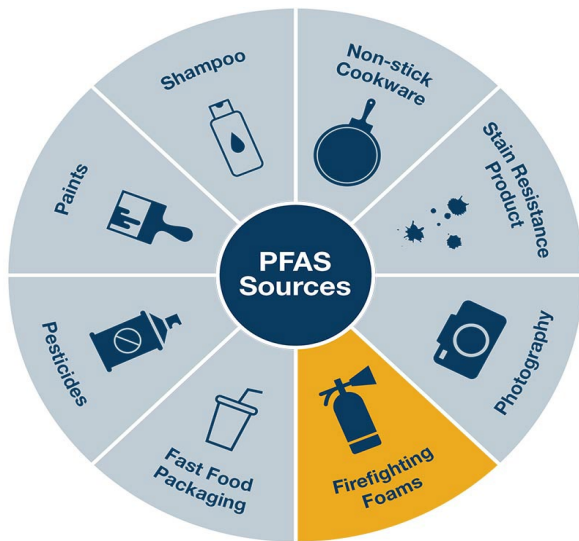
Without the proper protection something as simple as a garden hose has the potential to contaminate or pollute the drinking water lines in your house. In fact, over half of the country's cross-connection incidents involve unprotected garden hoses. There are very simple steps that you as a drinking water user can take to prevent such hazards, they are:

- NEVER submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, pet watering containers, pool, tubs, sinks, drains, or chemicals.
- NEVER attach a hose to a garden sprayer without the proper backflow preventer.

- Buy and install a hose bibb vacuum breaker on any threaded water fixture. The installation can be as easy as attaching a garden hose to a spigot. This inexpensive device is available at most hardware stores.
- Identify and be aware of potential cross-connections to your water line.

WHAT ARE PFAS AND WHY ARE THEY A PROBLEM?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a family of chemicals used since the 1950s to manufacture stain-resistant, water-resistant, and non-stick products. PFAS are widely used in common consumer products as coatings, on food packaging, outdoor clothing, carpets, leather goods, ski and snowboard waxes, and more. Certain types of firefighting foam—historically used by the U.S. military, local fire departments, and airports to fight oil and gasoline fires—may contain PFAS.



PFAS in drinking water is an important emerging issue nationwide. Because PFAS are water soluble, over time PFAS from some firefighting foam, manufacturing sites, landfills, spills, air deposition from factories and other releases can seep into surface soils. From there, PFAS can leach into groundwater or surface water, and can contaminate drinking water. PFAS have also been found in rivers, lakes, fish, and wildlife.

Exposure can occur when someone uses certain products that contain PFAS, eats PFAS-contaminated food, or drinks PFAS-contaminated water. When ingested, some PFAS can build up in the body and, over time, these PFAS may increase to a level where health effects could occur.

On October 2, 2020, MassDEP published its PFAS public drinking water standard, of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) (or ppt) – individually or for the sum of the concentrations of six specific PFAS. These 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 more information, see the MassDEP webpage regarding PFAS at: www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas, or the EPA webpage at: www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SWSS has been contracted on an annual basis to provide licensed water operator coverage for the water system serving Whitney Estates Condominiums. It is our responsibility to maintain the system’s compliance with all drinking water operation requirements. We monitor your drinking water, routinely evaluating the water quality entering your distribution system and inspecting the systems regularly. For more information, call your operators at SWSS at 978-486-1008.