



**ACUSHNET WATER DEPARTMENT**  
**2023 WATER QUALITY REPORT**  
**PWSID #4003000**  
**130 Main Street**  
**Acushnet, MA 02743**

***Water costs money...  
don't waste it!***

A dripping faucet or fixture can waste 3 gallons a day...  
a total of 1095 gallons a year.

	U.S. Equivalent	Metric Equivalent
Fluid oz.	8 fl. drams (1.804 cu. inches)	29.573 milliliters
Pint	16 fl. oz. (28.875 cu. inches)	0.473 liter
Quart	2 pints (57.75 cu. inches)	0.946 liter
Gallon	4 quarts (231 cu. inches)	3.785 liters

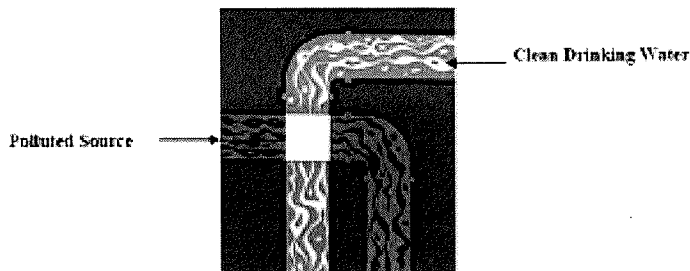
**Waste per quarter at 60 psi water pressure**

Diameter of stream	Gallons	Cubic Feet	Cubic Meters
1/4"	1,181,500	158,000	4,475
3/16"	666,000	89,000	2,521
1/8"	296,000	39,400	1,115
1/16"	74,000	9,850	280



***A continuous leak from a hole this size would, over a three month period, waste water in the amounts shown above.***

**What is a Cross Connection? What can I do about it?**

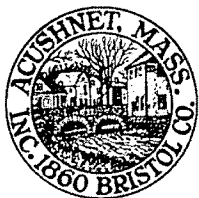


A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home. For instance, you're going to spray fertilizer on your lawn. You hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the water pressure drops (say because of the fire hydrant use in the town) when the hose is connected to the fertilizer, the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. Using an attachment on your hose called a backflow-prevention device can prevent this problem.

The Acushnet Water Department recommends the installation of back flow prevention devices, such as a low cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections. You can purchase this at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in your town. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water system's cross connection program, please call 508-998-0230.

**Where can I get additional information?**

Do you have questions about information in this report? If you do, please call Daniel Menard, Director of the Acushnet Water Department, at (508) 998-0230. We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Acushnet Board of Selectmen Public meetings are held every 2 weeks. Check Acushnet Cable Channel #18 or the Acushnet website for dates.



## ACUSHNET WATER DEPARTMENT 2023 WATER QUALITY REPORT PWSID #4003000

### Introduction

The Acushnet Water Department is committed to providing you with the safest and most reliable water supply. We are pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the past year.

Regular monitoring and testing ensures that the 2023 test results indicate the water supplied by the Acushnet Water Department met or exceeded all state and federal requirements. This report summarizes the laboratory results for substances detected in your water. Although Acushnet receives all of its water from the City of New Bedford, each year Acushnet conducts approximately 185 of its own water quality tests for approximately 5 contaminants. These tests confirm whether or not your tap water meets all state and federal drinking water quality standards. We will be providing you with a report each year with information about the quality of your drinking water. Along with water quality test results, this report will also provide you with such information as:

### Source of Water

Your water comes from the Assawompset Pond Complex comprised of Long Pond, Assawompset, Pocksha, Great Quittacas, and Little Quittacas Ponds located in the towns of Freetown, Lakeville, Rochester and Middleboro. The Quittacas Water Treatment Plant draws from the Little Quittacas Pond to treat water for the City of New Bedford. Treatment consists of conventional filtration, disinfection, corrosion control, and fluoridation (as of January 2007). In addition to the 101,079 (2020 Census) residents, the City of New Bedford also supplies water to parts of Freetown and Acushnet along with Dartmouth on a seasonal basis and Fairhaven on an emergency basis.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), through its Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program, assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies. The SWAP report notes some issues situated in New Bedford's public water supply protection area. They are active cranberry bogs and small farms, roadways, a utility right of way, and residential land uses. As a result, the report designates a high susceptibility ranking to the water supply protection area. New Bedford DPI has been proactive in protecting the water supply protection area. The City owns over 3,100 acres of land in this area; including all shoreline property around the Little and Great Quittacas Ponds. This land is kept in pristine condition, providing a protective barrier from potential pollutants. Forest management, overseen by a State certified forester, is ongoing. The land is routinely patrolled by watershed staff and reports are submitted to a watershed advisory committee. Regular testing of the water supply is performed, and treatment is provided by the State certified operations staff at the Quittacas Water Treatment Plant, producing safe, clean drinking water for the residents of the City of New Bedford. The complete SWAP report is available at the New Bedford DPI office at 1105 Shawmut Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02746.

For more information, contact the New Bedford DPI, at (508) 979-1550.

### Lead Awareness

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 material and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Acushnet Water Department 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 cold 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 (800-426-4791) or at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### Additional Health Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, MassDEP and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Regulations that 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 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 sources of drinking water (both tap & bottled) 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**, such as viruses & bacteria, this may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- **Inorganic**, such as salts & metals, this can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
- **Organic chemicals**, which include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- **Radioactivity**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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

**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE  
2023 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT DATA**

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS							
CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION	RANGE DETECTED	AVERAGE	MCLG	MCL	SAMPLE DATE	TYPICAL SOURCE
PFAS <sup>1</sup> (ppt) - Sum of: perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS); perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA); perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS); perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA); perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA); and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA).	No	N/A	2.86	N/A	20	2023	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.
Total Trihalomethanes <sup>2,3</sup> (ppb)	No	32.2–62.0	43.7	N/A	80	2023	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids <sup>2,3</sup> (ppb)	No	27.4–61.0	42.8	N/A	60	2023	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Chlorine Residual <sup>3,4</sup> (ppm)	No	0.40 - 2.20	1.76	MRDLG 4	MRDLG 4	2023	Product of chloramination. Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	No	2.65- 3.50	2.85	N/A	TT	2023	Naturally present in the environment.
Turbidity (NTU)	No	0.02 - 0.11	0.05	N/A	TT <sup>5</sup>	2023	Soil runoff
Total Coliform <sup>6</sup> (% of monthly positive samples)	No	0	0	0	5	2023	Naturally present in the environment.
Barium (ppm)	No	0.0058	N/A	2	2	2023	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	No	0.6 - 0.8	0.7	4	4	2023	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Gross Alpha (pCi/L) (minus uranium)	No	-0.5	N/A	0	15	2021	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L) (combined values)	No	0.5	N/A	0	5	2021	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (ppm)	No	0	N/A	0	10	2023	Erosion of natural deposits
DI (2-ETHYLHEXYL)PHTHALATE	No	0.98	N/A	N/A	6	2023	One analyte of Synthetic Organic Compounds

**Addition of Fluoride:** As directed by the New Bedford Health Department, Fluoride has been added to the New Bedford Drinking Water Supply since 2007 with an optimum dosage of 0.7 parts per million (ppm). Fluoride also has a secondary maximum contaminant level (SMCL) of 2 ppm.

SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS						
CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION	RANGE DETECTED	SMCL (PPB)	HEALTH ADVISORY	SAMPLE YEAR	TYPICAL SOURCE
Manganese <sup>7</sup> (ppb)	No	0.0148	50	300	2023	Erosion of natural mineral deposits.
Chloride (ppm)	No	23.7	250	N/A	2023	Erosion of natural mineral deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	No	14.2	250	N/A	2023	Erosion of natural mineral deposits
Calcium	No	3.94	N/A	N/A	2023	Residue from water treatment process; erosion of natural deposits.
Potassium (ppm)	No	0.721	NA	N/A	2023	Erosion of natural mineral deposits
Aluminum (ppb)	No	0.16	200	N/A	2023	Residue from water treatment process; erosion of natural deposits.
Magnesium (ppm)	No	1.27	N/A	N/A	2023	Erosion of natural mineral deposits

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS				
Contaminant	Average	Range Detected	Sample Year	Typical Sources of Substance
Chloroform (ppb)	36.3	27.2-52.9	2023	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	5.75	4.43-8.02	2023	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Sodium <sup>9</sup>	N/A	30.1	2023	Discharge from the use and improper storage of sodium-containing de-icing compounds or in water-softening agents

**Terms and Abbreviations used in Data Tables:** MCLG (Maximum Contamination Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety. MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment. MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant, 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. MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants. PFAS: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. 90th Percentile: Ninety percent of the samples is below this level (nine of ten sites sampled were at or below this level). This number is compared to the Action Level to determine lead and copper compliance. ND: Not detected. N/A: Not applicable. NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water or milligrams per liter (mg/l). ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water or micrograms per liter (ug/l). ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water or nonograms per liter (ng/l). pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity. RAA (Running Annual Average): The average of the last four consecutive quarters of data. SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): SMCL's are established to regulate the aesthetics of drinking water like appearance, taste and odor. TT (Treatment Technique): A process aimed to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Footnotes:** <sup>1</sup>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. Samples were taken quarterly with a resample for the final quarter taken 1/3/22. <sup>2</sup>Some people who drink water-containing trihalomethanes or haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. <sup>3</sup>The MCL and average results are based on the highest Running Annual Average, the range detected represents individual sample results. <sup>4</sup>The DPI commenced treatment of its filtered water with combined chlorine (chlorine and ammonia) as of November 4, 2002. This is measured in terms of total chlorine. <sup>5</sup>Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Compliance is based on a TT, with no individual samples exceeding 1.0 NTU and 95% of samples/month less than 0.3 NTU. The lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the limit was 100%. <sup>6</sup>Of the 109 samples collected per month; all samples indicated the absence of total coliform. <sup>7</sup>US EPA and MassDEP have established public health advisory levels for manganese to protect against concerns of potential neurological effects and a one-day and 10-day HA of 1,000 ppb for acute exposure. <sup>8</sup>Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established Drinking Water Standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. <sup>9</sup>The MassDEP maintains a guideline level of 20 ppm for Sodium.

## TEST RESULTS FOR THE TOWN OF ACUSHNET - 2023

**COPPER:** 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.

**LEAD:** 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 this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION	SAMPLE YEAR	90 <sup>TH</sup> PERCENTILE	ACTION LEVEL	RESULTS	TYPICAL SOURCES
Lead	NO	2023	.002	15 ppb	ND – 0.002	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Copper	NO	2023	.02	1.3 ppm	ND – 0.030	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

**MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS:** Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

BACTERIA	# OF SITES SAMPLED	MCLG	VALUE	DATE	VIOLATION	POSSIBLE SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
E. Coli	14	0	Negative	Monthly 2023	NO	Human and Animal Fecal Waste
Total Coliform Bacteria	14	0	Negative	Monthly 2023	NO	Naturally present in environment well as in human and animal waste.

**ORGANIC CHEMICAL:** Some people who drink water containing Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with Liver, Kidneys, Nervous System, and may have increased risk of Cancer.

**ASBESTOS:** Some people who drink water containing asbestos in excess of the MCL (Maximum Contaminant Levels) over many years have an increased risk of developing benign intestinal polyps.

CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION	TEST DATE	ACTION LEVEL	RESULTS	TYPICAL SOURCES
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (PPB)	NO	2/6/2023	5.0	ND*	Vinyl lined asbestos cement pipe
Asbestos	NO	5/2/2022	7 MCL	ND	Decay of asbestos cement water mains, erosion of natural deposits

\*Non-Detected

### Drinking Water Disinfection By-Products

CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION	TEST DATE	MCL	RUNNING ANNUAL AVERAGE	RANGE OF LEVELS DETECTED	TYPICAL SOURCES
Total Trihalomethanes	NO	Quarterly Testing	80 ppb	44.63	34.1 -59.4	By-Products of Drinking Water Disinfection
Haloacetic Acids	NO	Quarterly Testing	60 ppb	36.61	0-53.5	By-Products of Drinking Water Disinfection

*If you have any questions about your water, please call one of the numbers listed below:*

Acushnet Water Department ..... 508-998-0230  
 New Bedford Water Department ..... 508-979-1550  
 Massachusetts (DEP Info Line).....1-800-462-0444