Ambler Borough Water Department
131 Rosemary Avenue
Ambler, PA 19002

2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Ambler Borough Water Department, PWSID 1460020

Este informe contiene información muy importante acerca de su agua potable.
Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda

This report contains important information about your drinking water.
Have someone translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

Water System Information

We are pleased to present to you our 2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that utilities issue an annual water quality report to customers in addition to other notices that may be required by law. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of the water we deliver to you every day. The Ambler Borough Water Department is committed to providing you with a safe and reliable water supply. This report details where our water comes from, what constituents it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Water Superintendent Steve Smallberger at the Ambler Borough Water Department at (215) 646-1000. Normal business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. If you are interested in learning more about the Ambler Borough water system, you are welcome to attend Ambler Borough's regularly scheduled public meetings held the first and third Tuesday of each month at Borough Hall starting at 7:00 pm., or visit our website at http://www.boroughofambler.com. We take great pride in supplying good quality drinking water to our customers at a reasonable price.

Water Quality Monitoring

The Ambler Borough Water Department routinely monitors for constituents in drinking water in accordance with federal and state laws. The Detected Contaminants table lists only the drinking water contaminants we detected that are applicable for the 2024 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. All drinking water may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. Unless otherwise noted, the table shows monitoring results for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024. The state requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Water Quality Definitions

The following definitions will help you understand the key terms and abbreviations contained in the Detected Contaminants table.

Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
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.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - 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.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – 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 contamination.
Minimum Residual Disinfectant Goal (MinRDL) – The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.
Not Applicable (N/A) – Does not apply.
Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) – Measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
Non-Detects (ND) – Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.
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 (1 ppm = 1,000 ppb).
Parts Per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms Per Liter (µg/L) – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000 (1,000 ppb = 1 ppm).
Parts per Trillion (ppt) or Nanograms Per Liter (ng/L) – One part per trillion corresponds to one second in approximately 31,700 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000,000 (1,000 ppt – 1 ppb)
Pico Curies Per Liter (pCi/L) – A measure of radioactivity.
Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) – Water quality standards that are established as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color, and odor. These contaminants are NOT considered to present a risk to human health at the SMCL.
Treatment Technique (TT) – A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)

To ensure the highest level of water quality for our customers, we perform monitoring of unregulated contaminants as required by EPA. Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in the drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. For more information concerning UCMR visit these websites: http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/ucmr or https://drinktap.org/Water-Info/Whats-in-My-Water/Unregulated-Contaminant-Monitoring-Rule-UCMR.

Vulnerability

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 (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 at (800) 426-4791 or on-line at www.epa.gov/safewater.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Reports

The 2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report and reports from the years 2005 through 2023 are available for viewing on the Borough's website http://www.boroughofambler.com at "Borough Departments/Public Utilities".

Public Notification Rule

The Public Notification Rule requires us to notify you within 24 hours in the event of a Tier 1 violation. A violation may result in the communication of a "boil water alert". In the event of a water quality emergency, we need to get in touch with our water customers. We do this through RAVEWATER ALERT our automatic phone dial notification system. It is, therefore, important for us to maintain current customer contact information. You may help us by accessing the RAVEWATER ALERT located on the Borough's website home page http://www.boroughofambler.com. Should you prefer, you may call in your information at 215-646-1000, extension 111 or 110, or send an E-mail to water@borough.ambler.pa.us

Water Conservation Tips

The Ambler Borough Water Department reminds all our customers to use water wisely, and follow the water conservation tips noted below:

- Fix leaking faucets, toilets, and plumbing joints
- Take shorter showers
- Water your lawn in the early morning (7:00 am to 9:30 am) or evening (7:00 pm to 9:30 pm), and only if necessary

Detected Contaminants

Inorganic Chemicals	MCL	MCLG	Highest Result	Range of Detections	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	6	6	2	0-2	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.41	0.04 – 0.41	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	2.2	ND – 2.2	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	2.58	1.08 – 2.58	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Iron and Manganese	**SMCL**	**MCLG**	**Highest Result**	**Range of Detections**	**Violation**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Iron (ppb)	300	NA	50	0 – 50	No	Naturally present in the environment
Manganese (ppb)	50	NA	37 (1)	0 – 37	No	Naturally present in the environment
Entry Point Disinfectant Residual	**Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level**		**Minimum Disinfectant Residual**	**Range of Detections**	**Violation**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Chlorine Residual-Wells (ppm)	0.4		0.4	0.4 – 2.12	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Residual-Spring (ppm)	0.2		0.55	0.55 – 2.5	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Lead and Copper	**Action Limit**	**MCLG**	**90th Percentile Value**	**Number of Sites above the AL**	**Violation**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Copper (ppm) (2022)	1.3	1.3	0.56	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb) (2022)	15	0	ND	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfectants / Disinfection Byproducts	**MCL or MRDL**	**MCLG or MRDLG**	**Highest Result**	**Range of Detections**	**Violation**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	17.45(2)	ND – 24.9 (3)	No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	7.95(2)	ND – 11.5 (3)	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Radionuclides	**MCL or MRDL**	**MCLG or MRDLG**	**Highest Result**	**Range of Detections**	**Violation**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	15	0	9.39	9.39	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Uranium (ppb)	20	0	7.32	1.41 – 7.32	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-226 (pCi/L)	5	0	1.17	1.17	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium – 228 (pCi/L)	5	0	1	1	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Clarity Characteristics	Level Found	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Turbidity (NTU)	0.061	TT=1 (single measurement)	N/A	No	Soil runoff
	100% (samples ≤ 0.30)	TT=95% (samples ≤ 0.30)		No	

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)	MCL (5)	MCLG	Average Result	Range of Detections	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) (ppt)	14	8	7.92	ND – 12.4	No	See Note (5)
Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS) (ppt)	18	14	6.91	ND – 11.32	No	See Note (5)

(1) Ambler Borough provides treatment (sequestering) for iron and manganese at two of its wells and at Whitemarsh Spring Well.
(2) Running Annual Average, highest value.
(3) Range represents sampling at individual sample points.
(4) Monthly average results.
(5) PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been produced and used for decades in connection with non-stick cookware, stain-resistant carpeting and fabrics, food packaging, industrial processes, and in fire-fighting foam. In January 2023, PA DEP published its PFAS MCL Rule, setting MCLs for PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.

As you can see from the Detected Contaminants table, our system had no water quality violations in 2024

SDWA Monitoring/Reporting Violations

The Ambler Borough Water Department had zero primary water quality violations in 2024; however, we did have monitoring/reporting violations. In January 2024 a report of chlorine residual results in the distribution system was received late by the PADEP. In December 2024, a violation was issued

related to disinfection efficiency calculations and failure to report values. This was caused by incorrectly dated sample results, and was corrected. All reporting/monitoring violations were addressed and corrected. There were no potential health or safety concerns due to these violations.

Sources of Water

We supply water to you from several sources, including nine deep wells (six in Upper Dublin, one in Lower Gwynedd and two in Ambler) and one quarry or Spring Well (located in Whitemarsh). These sources supplied an average of 1.383 million gallons of water per day in 2024. All sources are considered groundwater sources, except the Spring Well which is classified as a surface water source. All sources are located within the service area of the Ambler Borough Water Department, which includes Ambler Borough and portions of the Townships of Lower Gwynedd, Upper Dublin, Whitemarsh and Whitpain. The system is currently divided into three service areas, and is served by the supply sources noted above, storage facilities and booster pumping stations. We also have interconnections with the North Wales Water Authority and Aqua Pennsylvania as reserve, in case of an emergency.

Source Water Assessment Statement

A *Source Water Assessment* of our sources was completed by the DEP in April 2002. The sources of water for the Ambler Borough water system include nine groundwater supply wells located in the Ambler area, and a surface water source (the Spring Well). The Spring Well is at moderate risk for some upstream contaminants. All source water is treated and meets state and federal requirements for quality and safety, before being distributed to the public. For information about the assessment, please contact the Ambler Borough Water Department at (215) 646-1000.

Potential Contaminants

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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, or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff and residential users.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organics, 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, EPA and DEP prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and DEP regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least a small amount of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or by visiting the EPA's drinking water website www.epa.gov/safewater.

Additional Information

Water samples from the Spring Well were tested for total organic carbon periodically throughout 2024. The maximum result was 1.5 mg/L.

The Ambler Borough Water Department met all requirements under the Lead and Copper Rule. We sampled water at thirty (30) homes in September 2022. Regulations state that ninety (90) percent of samples taken must be below the Action Levels of 15 ppb for lead and 1.3 ppm for copper. The 90^{th} percentile level, in our water, for lead was 0 ppb and the 90^{th} percentile level for copper was 0.56 ppm. We will be sampling again for lead and copper in 2025.

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. Ambler Borough 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 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.

Nitrate as nitrogen in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Our highest nitrate sample in 2024 was 2.58 ppm. 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. As a precaution we always notify physicians and health care providers in the area if there is ever a higher than normal nitrate level in the water supply. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

As part of general water chemistry testing, we test the hardness, sodium and total dissolved solids in our wells and spring source on an annual basis. Total Hardness ranged from 192 to 376 mg/L as $CaCO_3$ in 2024. Sodium at Whitemarsh Spring was 95.9 mg/L, which is three times the recommended level. Total dissolved solids (TDS) was 652 mg/L, which is above the secondary maximum contaminant level of 500 mg/L. We are providing this information as this could be a concern for people on sodium restricted diets. We are beginning design for a treatment system at Whitemarsh that, when constructed, will reduce levels of TDS.

We do not add fluoride to our water supply.

In the event that you experience discolored water due to a fire hydrant being opened or a water main break, the following is recommended. Do not open the hot water side of your faucet, as you will bring the discolored water into the hot water tank. Run the cold water side of your faucet only for several minutes. Continue to repeat this process until the water is clear. If you have a water softener you should by-pass the water softener until the issue is resolved. If the problem persists, contact the Borough office at 215-646-1000.