

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025



***Presented By***  
**Lynn Water & Sewer Commission**

PWS ID#: MA3163000

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.  
Этот отчет содержит важную информацию о вашей питьевой воде. Переведите его или поговорите с тем, кто это понимает.

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## The Quality of Your Drinking Water

The Lynn Water and Sewer Commission is pleased to send you this annual report on the quality of Lynn's drinking water. This report contains results of your drinking water from testing during 2025 and other important information about your drinking water. The commission has an extensive water testing and monitoring program that is explained in this report. Test results show that Lynn's drinking water is in full compliance with all standards established by the federal and state agencies that regulate public water supplies. The commission is pleased to report that it has received a drinking water award from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for outstanding performance in 2025. The commission has great confidence in the water that is delivered to the residents of Lynn. Please take the time to read this important report and contact us if you have any questions or comments about the report or your water quality.

### How Are These Sources Protected?

The DEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) report for the water sources serving Lynn's water system. The SWAP report notes key issues of activities in Zone A and the Emergency Planning Zone; chemical and hazardous materials manufacture, storage, and use; residential land uses; transportation corridors; roads and maintenance depots; a golf course; oil or hazardous material contamination sites; and comprehensive surface water protection planning.



### What Can Be Done to Improve Protection?

The SWAP report recommends protecting Zone A by removing all activities to comply with DEP's Zone A Requirements: use best management practices for storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials; storage of pesticides, fertilizers, or road salt within Zone A should be covered and contained; keep new prohibited activities out of Zone A; and identify stormwater drains and the drainage system along transportation corridors. Lynn plans to address the protection recommendations by implementing strategies in the surface water supply protection plan and coordinating its efforts through Lynn's watershed protection team. Residents can help protect Lynn's sources by reporting any dumping within Lynn's watershed, properly disposing of pet wastes, practicing good septic system maintenance, supporting local water supply protection initiatives, properly disposing of hazardous household chemicals, and limiting pesticides and fertilizer use.

### Where Can I See the SWAP Report?

The complete SWAP report is available at the Lynn Water and Sewer Commission offices and online at [mass.gov/lists/source-water-assessment-and-protection-swap-program-documents](https://mass.gov/lists/source-water-assessment-and-protection-swap-program-documents). For more information, call Matt Comeau at (781) 595-5200.

### Where Does Lynn's Water Come From?

Lynn operates six public surface water supply sources. The reservoirs are located in four separate water supply protection areas, with Breeds Pond being entirely in Lynn; Hawkes Pond in Lynnfield and Saugus; Birch Pond in Lynn and Saugus; and Walden Pond in Lynn, Lynnfield, and Saugus. The intake and pump station for the Ipswich River and the intake and canal for the Saugus River are both in Lynnfield. The water is treated at the Raymond F. Reardon Treatment Plant and then pumped to the low-service reservoir, the distribution system, and distribution storage tanks. Lynn also uses Massachusetts Water Resources Authority surface water to serve General Electric Company and as an emergency source for customers.



### Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available by emailing the U.S. EPA at [safewater@epa.gov](mailto:safewater@epa.gov).

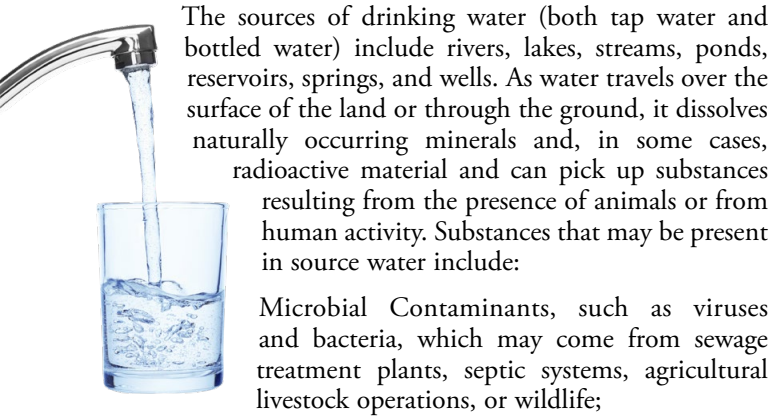


### QUESTIONS?

Information about Lynn Water and Sewer Commission is available on the internet at [lynnwatersewer.org](https://lynnwatersewer.org). Commission Water Superintendent Matt Comeau may be reached by phone at (781) 595-5200, by fax at (781) 596-0850, or by email at [mcomeau@lynnwatersewer.org](mailto:mcomeau@lynnwatersewer.org).

## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and DEP prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.



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 and, in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up 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; and

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

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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by emailing the U.S. EPA at [safewater@epa.gov](mailto:safewater@epa.gov).

## Why Save Water?

Although 80% of the Earth's surface is water, only 1% is suitable for drinking. The rest is either salt water or is permanently frozen, and we can't drink it, wash with it, or use it to water plants.

## Information about Cross Connection Control

**What is a cross connection?** A cross connection occurs whenever a potable (safe to drink) water line is directly or indirectly connected to a non-potable piece of equipment in your home or business. Examples of non-potable equipment in your home or business may include lawn irrigation systems, fire sprinklers, or boilers.

**Why should I be concerned about cross connections?** An unprotected cross connection on your premise could contaminate the drinking water not only in your home, but in neighboring businesses and homes. Severe illnesses – even death – have been caused by cross contamination events that could have been prevented.

**Where can I go for more information?** Please contact the DEP, Division of Water Supply at (617) 292-5770; or the Lynn Water & Sewer Commission, Engineering Department at (781) 596-2400.



## How is Your Water Treated?

The Lynn Water and Sewer Commission operates a direct filtration water treatment plant to purify your water. Raw water from the reservoir system is treated using chemicals and filtration to remove small particles and organisms that may cause water to take on unpleasant odors and tastes and sometimes make it unhealthy to drink. This process consists of several steps as outlined below:

- **Chemical Additives:** The process begins with alum being added to the water at specific dosages. This prompts small particles to stick together and settle for removal.
- **Filtration:** The chemically treated water then flows through a filter bed. The filters comprise several layers of materials including activated carbon, sand, and coarse gravel that trap the particles, thus removing them from the water. To ensure effective treatment, each filter is cleaned using a high-flow backwash process at least once per day.
- **Disinfection:** Chlorine dioxide and chlorine are added to the water at several stages of the treatment process to inactivate or kill disease-causing pathogens that may be present in the water.
- **Final Steps:** Several chemicals are added to the water to protect your health. Fluoride is added to prevent the formation of cavities and tooth decay. Zinc orthophosphate and caustic soda are added for corrosion control.

## Public Meetings

Notices of commission board meetings are posted at the main office on 400 Parkland Avenue (781-596-2400) and at the city clerk's office in Lynn City Hall. The Lynn Water and Sewer Commission is a member of the New England Water Works Association.

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not 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 than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Alpha Emitters</b> (pCi/L)	2020	15	0	-0.736 +/- 1.18	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Barium</b> (ppm)	2025	2	2	0.01	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Chlorine</b> (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	0.61	0.03–1.02	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Chlorine Dioxide</b> (ppb)	2025	[800]	[800]	240	ND–240	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Chlorite</b> (ppm)	2025	1	0.8	0.18	0.05–0.18	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Combined Radium</b> (pCi/L)	2020	5	0	0.12	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Fluoride</b> (ppm)	2025	4 <sup>1</sup>	4	0.79	0.51–0.79	No	Water additive that promotes strong teeth
<b>Haloacetic Acids [HAA5]</b> (ppb)	2025	60	NA	22.00	5.00–30.00	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Nitrate</b> (ppm)	2025	10	10	0.15	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS]</b> (ppt)	2025	20	NA	3.40	1.90–3.40	No	Surfactant or emulsifier used in firefighting foam, circuit board etching acids, alkaline cleaners, floor polish, and as a pesticide active ingredient for insect bait traps
<b>Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA]</b> (ppt)	2025	20	NA	3.30	2.70–3.30	No	Used for its emulsifier and surfactant properties in or as fluoropolymers (such as Teflon), firefighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, greases and lubricants, paints, polishes, adhesives, and photographic films
<b>PFAS6</b> (ppt)	2025	20	NA	7.70	1.90–7.70	No	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; Use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as firefighting foams
<b>Radium 226</b> (pCi/L)	2020	5	0	0.56 +/- 0.34	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Radium 228</b> (pCi/L)	2020	5	0	-0.44 +/- 0.56	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs]</b> (ppb)	2025	80	NA	48.00	27.00–65.00	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Turbidity<sup>2</sup></b> (NTU)	2025	TT	NA	0.21	NA	No	Soil runoff
<b>Turbidity</b> (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2025	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

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 %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	1.3	0.10	0.01–0.20	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0	2.40	ND–4.20	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES<sup>3</sup>

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Nickel (ppb)	2025	2.00	NA	Naturally occurring
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS] (ppt)	2025	2.10	2.00–2.10	NA
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppt)	2025	3.10	2.50–3.10	NA
Sodium (ppm)	2025	75.20	NA	NA

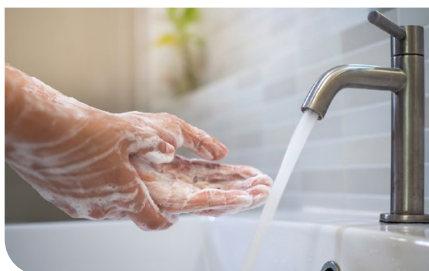
<sup>1</sup> Fluoride has a secondary maximum contaminant level of 2.0 ppm.

<sup>2</sup> Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

<sup>3</sup> Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the U.S. EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and home plumbing. The Lynn Water and Sewer Commission is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family’s risk. Using a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure it is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling does not remove lead from water.



Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have it tested, contact the Lynn Water and Sewer Commission at (781) 595-5200. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you

can take to minimize exposure is available at [epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://epa.gov/safewater/lead).

The Lynn Water and Sewer Commission service line inventory is now available. Please visit [lynnwatersewer.org/247/Lead-Service-Line-Inventory-Project](http://lynnwatersewer.org/247/Lead-Service-Line-Inventory-Project) or call CDM Smith at (617) 452-7995 if you would like information on your property’s water service line materials.

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. This number is compared to the Action Level to determine lead and copper compliance.

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

**Herbicide:** Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

**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.

**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.

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

**Pesticide:** Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

**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).

**ppt (parts per trillion):** One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

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

