

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Bloomingtondale Water has Levels of Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Above the Drinking Water Standard

Our water system recently violated the drinking water standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) for TTHM from 7/1/2022 to 9/30/2022. We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

The standard for TTHM is 80 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$). It is determined by averaging all the samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months (a locational running annual average (LRAA)). The LRAA level(s) of TTHM at 1 of 2 sampling locations exceeded the standard:

Site	LRAA ($\mu\text{g/L}$)
BLM8	81

For more details see NJ Drinking Water Watch at:

https://www9.state.nj.us/DEP_WaterWatch_public/index.jsp and enter the New Jersey public water system identification number (PWSID) at the bottom of this notice.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours. TTHM are four volatile organic chemicals all of which form when disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water. This is commonly known as a disinfection by-product (DBP).

**People who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the standard or MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. **

What is being done?

- We are working to minimize the formation of TTHM while ensuring we maintain an adequate level of disinfectant.
 - {Increased/will increase} flushing of water mains to reduce water age and improve freshness,
 - {Increased/will increase} investigative sampling to determine effectiveness of our efforts,
- We anticipate resolving the problem within 6 months.

For more information, please contact Bloomingtondale Water Department at (973) 838-1542 or wmorris@bloomingtondale.nj.net

**Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. **

This notice is being sent to you by Bloomingtondale water PWSID# NJ 1601001

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NJDEP, TTHM PN – MCL Exceedance, 9/11/2020

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) Fact Sheet

What are Total Trihalomethanes?

Trihalomethanes are a group of chemicals that can form when organic matter in water is treated with halogen disinfectants such as chlorine. The most common of these chemicals is trichloromethane (also called chloroform), but others, such as dibromochloromethane, bromodichloromethane, or bromoform can also be found. The sum of these four chemicals is referred to as total trihalomethanes (TTHMs).

How might exposure to TTHMs in water occur?

Chlorine is used to disinfect drinking water. Disinfection of water supplies is necessary to prevent illness from waterborne disease-causing bacteria; it is a federal and state requirement. The practice of disinfection has nearly eliminated most acute waterborne diseases in the United States. Disinfection of the water first kills any microorganisms that it may contain. Then, a small amount of disinfectant is needed in the water as it travels through the pipes in the distribution system. This prevents regrowth of microorganisms, or contamination from an outside source, such as during a water main break.

What is the standard for TTHMs in drinking water?

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's drinking water standard for TTHMs is 80 micrograms per liter (80 µg/L). Utility companies are required to test for TTHMs every quarter and this standard is compared to a one-year running average of samples.

If you are concerned and would like to reduce your exposure to TTHM, what can you do?

- Use water filters (e.g., a pitcher style or a point of use treatment filter that can be mounted to the faucet, under the sink or on the countertop) or install a point-of-entry whole-house filtration system. Any filter that is purchased should be certified by National Sanitation Foundation (NSF), Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or the Water Quality Association (WQA) to remove TTHM (look for the seals on the box. For information on selecting a water treatment system that's right for you, visit NSF international at www.nsf.org or call their hotline at 1-800-673-8010.
- To reduce overall TTHM exposure risk:
 - Ventilate the bathroom when bathing or showering.
 - Operate room exhaust fans or ventilate room (open window) when boiling water, washing with hot water, or running the dishwasher.
 - Reduce the length of showers and baths.
 - Reduce the temperature on hot water heaters; and
 - Limit time spent in or around chlorinated pools or hot tubs.