Braintree Water & Sewer

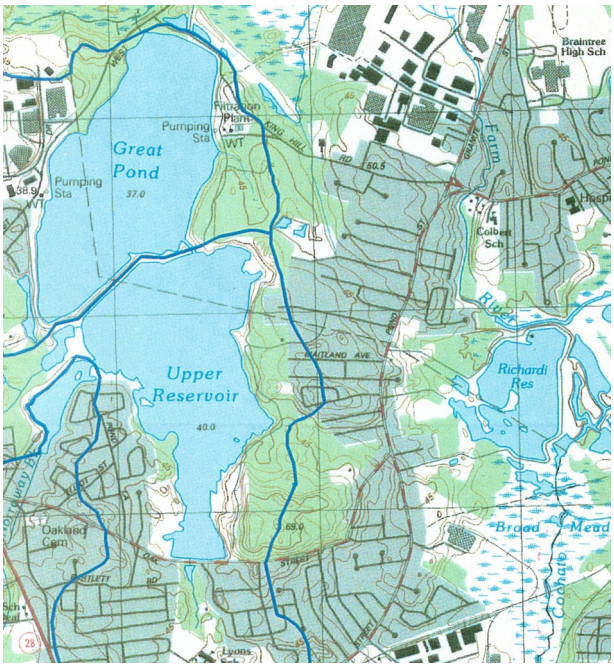
2020 Water Quality Report

Released July 1, 2021

Overview

This report explains how drinking water provide by the Braintree Water and Sewer Department is of the highest quality. Included is a listing of results from water quality tests that were performed as well as an explanation of where our water comes from and information on how to interpret the data. We have also included a page dedicated to our Sewer Division to give you some information regarding the hazards of grease and the importance of redirecting sump pumps. This " Consumer Confidence Report" is required by law. We're proud to share our results with you. Please read them carefully.

Water Source



Braintree Water and Sewer drinking water is supplied by the Great Pond Reservoir System which is a surface water source. Water enters the Upper Reservoir via the Narroway Brook and feeds the Lower reservoir by gravity where it then enters the Treatment Plant. Richardi Reservoir is a supplemental Reservoir which is fed by the Farm River. When levels at the main reservoir start to drop, water is transferred from the Richardi by pumping it through a 24" dedicated pipeline that runs to back end of the Upper Reservoir.

Emergency Connections

In the event of an emergency the Town of Braintree has the capability of receive water from Quincy, Weymouth, Randolph, Holbrook, and the MWRA. We are a registered Public Water System and our ID# is 4040000.

Want to Save $$$$$?

Braintree water bills paid before the due date get a $5.00 Discount!

("before is before")

Braintree water quality is better than supermarket bottled water!

Periodically check your toilet for leaks using a dye test. We have these at our Main Office and are free to our customers. Don't let a small leak in your toilet turn into a huge water bill!

Braintree Water and Sewer's Drinking Water meets or surpasses all Federal and State Drinking Water Standards

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. The Town of Braintree 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 the 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***

How Do I Read This Chart?

This report is based upon tests conducted in the year 2020 by Braintree Water & Sewer. Terms used in the Water-Quality Table and in other parts of this report are defined here.

Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 or 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.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level: The level of a contaminant in drinking water that is recommended however is not enforceable.

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

Unit: Unit of measurement used to analyze a given sample.

Detected Level: The highest result recorded for the year.

Range: The range of results recorded from lowest to highest for the year.

Major Sources: Sources form which listed contaminants originate from.

Violation: Lets the consumer know if the Water system is in compliance of State and Federal Drinking Water Regulations.

2020 Water Quality Results

Contaminants	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	SMCL	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources	Violation
Inorganic Contaminants									
Sodium	**2020**	mg/l	N/A	N/A	**N/A**	**82.8**	N/A	Chemicals used for highway snow and ice removal	NO
Barium	**2020**	mg/l	2	<2.0	**2**	**0.021**	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Nitrate	**2020**	mg/l	10	<5	**N/A**	**0.04**	N/A	Naturally present in water	NO
Volatile Organic Contaminants									
Chloroform	**2020**	ug/l	N/A	N/A	**N/A**	**25**	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Bromodichloromethane	**2020**	ug/l	80	N/A	**N/A**	**17**	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Chlorodibromomethane	**2020**	ug/l	80	N/A	**N/A**	**5.7**	N/A	Decay of natural and man-made deposits	NO
Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts									
Trihalomethanes	**2020**	ug/l	80	<60	**N/A**	**53.88**	41.7-72.4	Disinfection byproduct	NO
Haloacetic Acids	**2020**	ug/l	60	<20	**N/A**	**14.5**	1.6-33.0	Disinfection byproduct	NO
Secondary Contaminants									
Total Dissolved Solids	**2019**	mg/l	N/A	<500	**500**	**300**	N/A	Naturally present in water	NO
PH	**2020**	N/A	N/A	>7.0	**6.5-8.5**	**7.5**	7.0-7.8	Naturally present in water	NO
Alkalinity	**2020**	mg/l	N/A	N/A	**N/A**	**30.0**	N/A	Naturally present in water	NO
Manganese	**2020**	mg/l	N/A	<0.05	**0.05**	**0.084**	ND -0.10	Decay of natural and man-made deposits	NO
Chloride	**2020**	mg/l	N/A	<200	**250**	**146.0**	N/A	Decay of natural and man-made deposits	NO
Sulfate	**2020**	mg/l	N/A	<20	**250**	**6.9**	N/A	Naturally present in water	NO
Aluminum	**2020**	mg/l	N/A	<0.1	**0.2**	**0.04**	N/A	Treatment Residual	NO
Calcium	**2019**	mg/l	N/A	<20	**N/A**	**15.0**	N/A	Naturally present in water	NO
Hardness	**2020**	mg/l	N/A	<100	**N/A**	**38**	N/A	Decay of natural and man-made deposits	NO
Potassium	**2019**	mg/l	N/A	<10	**N/A**	**2.10**	N/A	Naturally present in water	NO
Magnesium	**2019**	mg/L	N/A	<7	**N/A**	**3.40**	N/A	Naturally present in water	NO
Iron	**2020**	mg/L	N/A	<0.3	**N/A**	**0.01**	N/A	Naturally present in water	NO
UCMR 3									
Chromium	**2013-2014**	ug/l	N/A	N/A	**N/A**	**0.265**	<0.2 – 0.265	****	NO
Strontium	**2013-2014**	ug/l	N/A	N/A	**N/A**	**97.8**	84.9-97.8	****	NO
PFAS									
PFAS6	**2020**	ppt	20	N/A	**N/A**	**20**	ND – 20	Erosion of man-made deposits	NO
Lead & Copper Rule									
Lead	**2020**	ppb	15	<0.015	**N/A**	**0.0052**	ND – 0.0215	Corrosion in household plumbing	NO
Copper	**2020**	mg/l	1.3	<1.30	**N/A**	**0.06**	ND-0.118	Corrosion in household plumbing	NO
Turbidity Data									
Turbidity	**2020**	NTU	0.3	<0.30	**N/A**	**0.09**	0.05-0.12	Soil Runoff	NO
Misc.									
Total Organic Carbon	**2020**	mg/l	1	>1.00	**N/A**	**2.60***	1.00-2.60	Decay of natural and man-made deposits	NO
Chlorine Residual	**2020**	mg/l	4	<4.00	**N/A**	**1.15**	0.86-1.35	Disinfection Chemical	NO
Bacteria									
Total Coliform	**2020**		0	0	**0**	**0**	0	Naturally present in water	NO

Explanation of Violations

The Town of Braintree is not in violation of any drinking water regulations at this time

Required Additional Health Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

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 **Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791)**. The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds & reservoirs. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and 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:

(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

(B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas storage or farming.

(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.

(D) 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 storm water runoff and septic systems.

(E) 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 prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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 are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800)-426-4791**.

For more information about this report please call:

Braintree Water and Sewer Dept: 781-843-8097

James Arsenault, Department of Public Works Director, 781-794-8254

Louis R. Dutton, Water Works Asst. Superintendent, 781-794-8943

Also, please visit our new website located at **www.braintreema.gov**

Don't let this happen to your Sewer Line!

SEWER NOTICES

Please…..DO NOT flush dental floss down the toilet. It clogs our wastewater pumps!

SUMP PUMPS

Never pump surface water into the public sewer!

Always pump outside or into the storm drain.

Here is the Solution:

Sump pump hoses must be directed away from the public sewer. If you think that you might have a sump pump that discharges into the sewer, call the Braintree Water and Sewer Department at 781-843-8097 for a free inspection. For now, there is an amnesty period where sump pump drains will be rerouted at no charge and no legal penalty to the business or homeowner.

Here are Some Ways That You Can Help Prevent Sewer Backups:

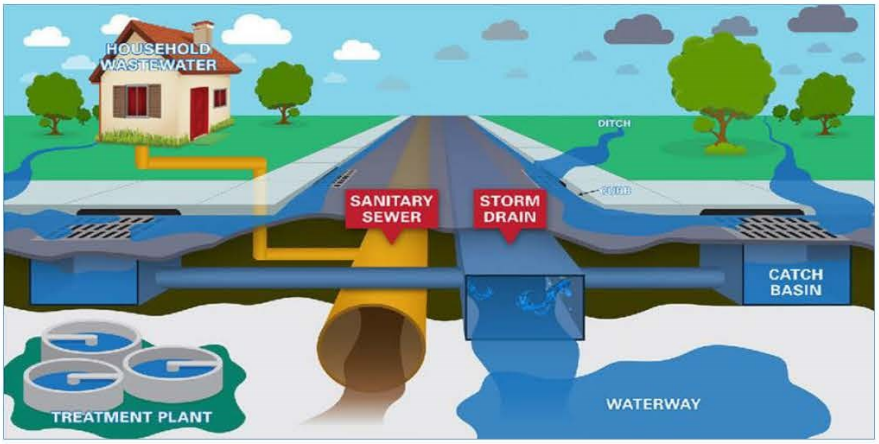
1. **Never Pour grease down sink drains, toilets or garbage disposals.**

2. **Pour grease and oil into a covered disposable container and put it in the trash.**

3. **Soak up any remaining fats with paper towels and dispose with your trash.**
4. **Before you wash your dishes scrape any meats and greasy / fatty foods into the trash.**
5. **Put strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids and empty into the trash.**
6. **Use the garbage disposal for fruits, vegetables, and organic wastes.**

There is a good time and there is a better time to do your laundry. When there is a heavy rain the wastewater system gets near capacity. If you avoid this during times of heavy rain and a few hours afterwards, you are helping Braintree's wastewater system to deal with excess flow. Thank you for NOT adding to the problem and for being selective as to when you do your laundry

Stormwater & Water Quality



Did you know?

Water quality goes beyond what flows through the water and sewer pipes…stormwater plays an important part in Braintree's water quality, too!

During rainfall events, stormwater runs off of impervious surfaces like roads, parking lots, and rooftops. For every inch of rainfall, **one acre of impervious surface** can generate **27,150 gallons of runoff!**

This runoff is collected by storm drains and discharged directly to Braintree's waterways ***without treatment.*** All of that runoff carries some pretty nasty pollution, including the following:

- Bacteria from pet waste
- Lawn chemicals and fertilizers
- Automotive chemicals
- Sand and sediment
- Road salt
- Leaves and grass clippings
- Litter

Do your part in improving the water quality of Braintree's waterways by doing the following:

- ***Don't dump anything down storm drains.*** Be sure to clear away leaves and debris. Only rain down the drain.
- ***Wash your cars on the lawn/gravel or at a carwash.*** This prevents car soap from being washed away into our rivers or creeks.
- ***Clean after your pet.*** This prevents harmful bacteria from reaching our waterways.
- ***Give your sprinklers a break.*** Minimize runoff by preventing pooling of water.
- ***Make sure your car is well maintained.*** Make sure to clean up any oil and chemicals leaking from your cars.

For more information, visit the Braintree Stormwater website at www.braintreema.gov/stormwater.