



**AGAWAM WATER DEPARTMENT • PWS ID#: 1005000**  
**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**  
**Haloacetic Acid 5 (HAA5) MCL Violation in Agawam**



The Agawam Water Department (PWS ID#: 1005000) recently violated a drinking water standard. 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.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results from samples taken on December 1, 2021 show that our system exceeded the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for HAA5 at three of our four locations: 36 Main Street, 1057 North Westfield Street, and 1200 Springfield Street. The standard for HAA5 is 60 micrograms per liter (µg/L), also known as parts per billion (ppb). It is determined by averaging all samples collected by our system for the last 12 months, this is also known as a locational running annual average (LRAA). The LRAA of HAA5 for the locations for the January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 monitoring period are shown in the table below:

Sample Location	LRAA Q4/21	Readings in LRAA (Q1/21, Q2/21, Q3/21, Q4/21)	Most Recent Sample Result
36 Main St.	68 µg/L	47, 72, 84, & 67 µg/L	67 µg/L
1057 N. Westfield St.	66 µg/L	39, 67, 89, & 69 µg/L	69 µg/L
1200 Springfield St.	69 µg/L	50, 66, 86, & 76 µg/L	76 µg/L

The remaining sampling location continues to have LRAAs below the MCL.

**What does this mean?**

You are advised that the water can continue to be consumed as usual. **This is NOT an emergency**, and there are no immediate or short-term health risks. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours. HAA5 are five haloacetic acid compounds which form when disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water. *People who drink water containing HAA5s in excess of the MCL over many years (i.e. decades or a lifetime) may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

Please see <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/haa5-in-drinking-water-information-for-consumers> for a fact sheet on HAA5s or visit our website at <http://www.agawam.ma.us/water/haa5> for more information

**What should I do?**

**This is NOT an emergency. 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.

**Why did this happen:**

The watershed area has received above normal rainfall in recent months, which has resulted in an increase in the dissolved natural organic mater (NOM) entering the reservoir. Because of this, our water supplier the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC) staff has had to increase the chlorine output due to increased chlorine demand. We are evaluating options to respond to reduce the formation of HAA5 in our water and continue to work with MassDEP and SWSC on this response.

**What is being done?**

We are working with the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC), which treats the drinking water, continue to advance our efforts on a long-term solution. SWSC has modified its existing treatment process and system operations to reduce the levels of HAA5 in the distribution system as much as possible while maintaining safe chlorine levels and determining long-term solutions.

The Commission has modified its existing treatment process and system operations to reduce the levels of HAA5 in the distribution system as much as possible while maintaining safe chlorine levels. We continue to advance efforts on a permanent solution. A pilot study was completed between fall 2019 and fall 2020 to determine the most effective treatment process to remove more dissolved NOM and reduce HAA5. Results from the pilot study are being used to complete a Facilities Plan and to design permanent treatment plant upgrades necessary to reduce disinfection by-products, including HAA5.

The procurement for the selection of a design firm for the permanent treatment plant upgrades is underway. After the design is approved by MassDEP, construction is anticipated to begin in FY24, or earlier if possible, at an estimated cost of \$168 million. The project is being financed with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program.

The Commission is accelerating this work as quickly as possible while committing significant resources to the process. The pilot study built upon an already ongoing comprehensive evaluation of water quality and the water treatment process that began four years prior. A panel of national experts convened by the Commission is guiding these activities. The Commission also regularly implements land management tools according to its Source Water Protection Plan to optimize raw water quality.

*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.*

For more information, please contact Deputy Superintendent John Decker at (413) 821-0600 or at [water@agawam.ma.us](mailto:water@agawam.ma.us).

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# Prevent Winter Runoff Pollution

## Did You Know?

*During the winter months, stormwater runoff begins in the form of snow and ice. When the temperatures warm up, the snow and ice melt, creating stormwater runoff. Snow melt combined with rain can overwhelm the drainage system, especially if the ground hasn't yet thawed, preventing the water from infiltrating down in to the soil.*

## Winter Best Management Practices

- Snow and Ice Removal: Shovel or snow-blow whenever possible to prevent compaction. The more you remove by shoveling or snow-blowing, the less ice you will have later to deal with.
- Salt Application: Follow manufacturer's instructions. Salt does not melt ice below 15 degrees. Do not over apply, apply on vegetation, or near waterways. Choose a more environmentally-friendly alternative when possible.
- Sand Application: Use only enough to provide traction on slippery areas. Sweep up excess sand as soon as weather conditions allow.
- Snow and Ice Disposal: Do not dispose of snow or ice on top of storm drains or near water bodies and wetland areas. Doing this helps allow water to drain as it melts instead of overwhelming the system.

*Accompanying the winter runoff are months of debris and waste trapped in the snow and ice.*

- ◆ Clear storm drains of yard waste debris.
- ◆ Pick up pet waste.
- ◆ Use a trash receptacle for cigarette butts and litter.
- ◆ Properly dispose of Household Chemicals at a recycling center.

there is no  
**POOP FAIRY!**



per local ordinance

**SCOOP YOUR POOP**

**Grab it • Bag it • Toss it**  
(in the trash)

Keep our local waters clean  
ThinkBlueConnecticutRiver.org