



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Haloacetic Acid 5 (HAA5) & Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) MCL Violation in Agawam

The Agawam Water Department (AWD) (PWS ID# 1005000) recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident is 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 June 6, 2022 show that our system exceeded the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for haloacetic acids (HAA5) at three locations: 36 Main Street, 1057 North Westfield Street, and 1200 Springfield Street and for total trihalomethanes (TTHM) at: 1615 Suffield St. The MCL for HAA5 is 60 micrograms per liter (µg/L) and for TTHM is 80 µg/L. The MCLs are 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 table below shows the LRAA for each location above the MCL either HAA5 or TTHM for the July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 monitoring period:

| Sample Location | MCL | LRAA Q2/22 | Readings in LRAA (Q3/21, Q4/21, Q1/22, Q2/22) | Most Recent Sample Result |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|---|---------------------------|
| 36 Main St. | 60 µg/L (HAA5) | 80 µg/L | 84, 67, 100,& 69 µg/L | 69 µg/L |
| 1057 N. Westfield St. | 60 µg/L (HAA5) | 74 µg/L | 89, 69, 101,& 36 µg/L | 36 µg/L |
| 1200 Springfield St. | 60 µg/L (HAA5) | 82 µg/L | 86, 76, 99,& 67 µg/L | 67 µg/L |
| 1615 Suffield St. | 80 µg/L (TTHM) | 90 µg/L | 120, 72, 91,& 77 µg/L | 77 µg/L |

Note: Agawam has also exceeded the HAA5 MCL in 2018, 2019, 2021, & 2022; and TTHM MCL in 2022.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

HAA5 are five haloacetic acid compounds and TTHM are four volatile organic chemicals that form when a disinfectant (chlorine) reacts with dissolved natural organic matter (NOM) in the water. Because these compounds (HAA5 and TTHM) are formed during the disinfection process they are known collectively as disinfection by-products (DBP).

Each MCL is based on the potential cancer risks associated with drinking water with elevated levels of DBPs over a lifetime. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years (i.e. decades or a lifetime) may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethane in excess of the 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 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.
- However, 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.

For more information about DBPs, please visit the following links: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/haa5-in-drinking-water-information-for-consumers> & <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/tthm-in-drinking-water-information-for-consumers> .

Why did this happen?

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC) supplies treated drinking water to the Agawam Water Department. DBPs form when dissolved natural organic matter (NOM) interacts with chlorine. The amount of chlorine necessary to maintain safe disinfection is determined by the amount and types of dissolved NOM in Cobble Mountain Reservoir, the main source of the drinking water supply.

Extreme weather patterns (caused by current climate conditions) can impact raw water quality and the amount and types of NOM in Cobble Mountain Reservoir. The higher-than-average rainfall in summer 2021, including rainfall from two hurricanes, has resulted in an increase in the amount of dissolved NOM in Cobble Mountain Reservoir that continues to impact raw water quality. In addition, the SWSC's existing West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant was last modernized in 1974 and is not capable of removing the current levels of NOM to the extent necessary to meet DBP regulations. Therefore, the increased NOM and necessary chlorine dosages resulted in elevated HAA5 and TTHM levels in the distribution system. We continue to evaluate options to respond to reduce the formation of HAA5 and TTHM in our water and continue to work with MassDEP and SWSC on this response.

What is being done?

We are working with the SWSC, which treats the drinking water, to continue to advance our efforts on a long-term solution. To reduce the formation of DBPs in the distribution system, SWSC continues to adjust the existing treatment process to maximize NOM removal. As a permanent solution, the SWSC has begun rapidly advancing the design of a new drinking water treatment plant. SWSC is also working on repairs needed for its aged water treatment system.

Design and construction of a new treatment plant will ensure that the plant will meet 21st century standards for regulatory compliance, water quality, and reliability. Until the new treatment plant is fully online, the AWD expects there will continue to be exceedances of the MCL for DBPs. Customers will receive notification any time there is an exceedance.

Progress of West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant Upgrades:

- Design of the new water treatment plant is underway and on schedule. Construction of the new treatment plant is scheduled to start in 2024 and expected to be complete by December 2027.
- Phase 1 construction of other important plant upgrades began in December 2021.
- SWSC is advancing all plant upgrades on an accelerated schedule.

For more information, please contact Deputy Superintendent John Decker at (413) 821-0600 or at water@agawam.ma.us or visit www.agawam.ma.us/dbps

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.

Agawam Department of Public Works
 Agawam Water Department
 1000 Suffield Street
 Agawam, MA 01001

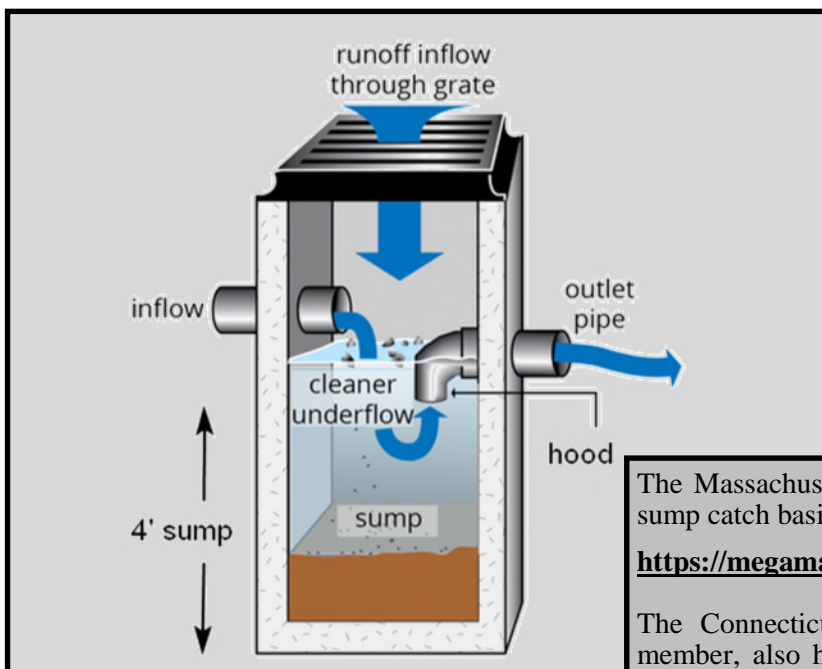


Improving the Quality of Storm Flows from Parking Lots.

The Town of Agawam is now subject to more stringent federal stormwater permit requirements. Along with 23 other communities here in the Pioneer Valley, we must find ways to reduce sending contaminated storm flows to local rivers, streams, and lakes.

Business owners with large parking lots can help us in this effort through proper maintenance and upkeep of their properties. Parking lots in particular can be a source of pollutants when rainfall washes away oil and grease from cars, trash, and deicing materials such as salt and sand.

In most parking lots, a curb and gutter system directs the rainfall that flows over a parking lot to either an opening in the gutter covered by a grate, or an opening in the curb covered by a top slab. The rainfall and any pollutants picked up along the way then flow into a catch basin, which is essentially a box below ground that connects to the storm sewer system.



In addition to routine catch basin cleaning and parking lot sweeping, another important option to improve the quality of storm flows from a parking lot would be to retrofit or replace existing catch basins with hooded deep sump catch basins (Figure 1).

Deep sump catch basins are designed to capture sand and other sediment, litter, and floatables, including oil and grease. The four-to-six-foot deep sump provides an area for sediments to settle. By capturing sediment and other pollutants, deep sump catch basins can improve stormwater quality compared to older catch basins without sumps or hoods.

The Massachusetts Clean Water Toolkit has additional information on deep sump catch basins at:

<https://megamanual.geosyntec.com/npsmanual/deepsumpcatchbasin.aspx>

The Connecticut River Stormwater Committee, of which Agawam is a member, also has some helpful information regarding stormwater pollution prevention at:

<https://thinkblueconnecticutriver.org/>

Figure 1: Schematic of a Deep Sump Hooded Catch Basin