Acton Water District

SUMMER 2026

Water Words Notice

The Annual District Meeting, held the third week in March each year, was an opportunity to take stock of what our core mission is. Every hour of every day, the community relies on the services provided by the Acton Water District. Although we have business hours, we never stop. From an on-call operator being available in the middle of the night to our technical staff making decisions that ensure a reliable water supply system today and into the future, we are here to serve the public health, economic development, quality of life, and public safety needs that a robust municipal water system is designed to support. On that night, the community narrowly defeated our annual operating budget. Without that funding, which was subsequently approved a month later, we would be unable to continue delivering the essential service we provide every day. It brings new meaning to the national "imagine a day without water" campaign, held each fall to build awareness of the critical service water systems contribute to a functioning society. That vote represents the most basic needs of the community and it unfortunately fell victim to an ongoing disagreement with how the Board raises revenue to support the operation of the water utility.

District Manager Matthew Mostoller and then-Finance Committee member John Petersen at the podium during our 2026 Annual District Meeting.

The District understands the cost pressures continually felt by families and businesses that we serve; our own operation feels the pinch when utilities, fuel, insurance, and regulatory requirements demand more of us. A great deal of thought and effort goes into carefully crafting the budget each year, including evaluating past expenses, anticipating upcoming needs, and reviewing past and projected water demand. Debt service and capital borrowing are also part of that review. To help balance the need for infrastructure renewal and daily operating costs, we rely on surplus revenue, commonly referred to as free cash, to avoid small borrowings for capital improvements. This is a prudent approach to managing the financial resources entrusted to us by our customers. Utilizing these funds, which are generated by a number of circumstances, helps to minimize broad swings in revenue generation and to ensure we have money available when emergencies arise.

Conversations about our revenue and expenses translate directly to the level of service we are able to provide to the community. What I hear consistently from the customers that I interact with is a desire for high quality water which they trust is safe, delivered with minimal service outages, and supported by an adequate supply and storage such that we can limit non-critical water use restrictions. With highly visible projects such as land acquisition and treatment plant improvements, it is easy to forget about the investments we make that are buried or hidden around Acton, such as water mains, some dating to 1909, and storage tanks, often set off the beaten path. These critical components form the backbone of our water system and are in need of major investments. Without renewal and replacement of aging water mains, we will address a rising number of emergency repairs, leading to unpredictable costs, interruption to service, and water quality issues. It does not matter how great the water is leaving our treatment facilities if we cannot deliver a similar quality to your home!

Finally, I wanted to share that a major milestone related to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in our water supply has been achieved. The treatment system upgrades in Center and South Acton have been completed and now treated water is being distributed to customers in all areas of our system! The support, patience, and dialogue throughout the discovery and implementation of solutions to address PFAS is greatly ppreciated. The need to address PFAS surprised us and required a rapid pivot in our operations, investments, and planning. Although much progress has been made, we still have PFAS related issues to address. This includes evaluating system performance, exchanging media, ensuring redundant supply to support longer maintenance outages, managing operating and disposal costs of media, and determining the long-term source of supply for Acton and the surrounding area. More discussion on all of these topics will be prominent in the years ahead as we shift from a crisis management stance to a more intentional planning process. In the meantime, enjoy the improved water quality these recent investments have provided. As always, please utilize our website for the most up to date information on PFAS *www.actonwater.com/pfas*.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Mostoller
District Manager

A Fond Farewell

We are sad to see two longtime employees of the District go, but wish them a well-earned retirement! Andrew Peterson, our departing General Foreman, has been an employee of the Acton Water District since 1999. Andrew was instrumental in navigating the implementation of filtration systems at our South and Center Acton treatment plants. Through active participation in the design and startup of treatment facilities to training fellow operators, his curiosity to learn and attention to detail in coordinating maintenance activities will be missed!

Charlie Rouleau, our departing Water Systems Administrator, has been with the District since 1991. Charlie is currently our longest tenured employee and has served in multiple roles throughout his 35 years of service. His knowledge of the distribution system and willingness to adapt to changing needs of our operation have been greatly appreciated and will be missed.

Steven Stuntz, our departing Water Commissioner, has been with the District since 1984. He started out on the Finance Committee and quickly was elected to the Board of Commissioners where he would serve for 39 years. During his long tenure, he has worked with four District Managers and provided a strong and steady leadership approach to the organization. Notable contributions have related to the W.R. Grace and Nuclear Metals superfund sites, ongoing development pressures, implementing multiple iterations of water treatment, contending with discolored water, protecting watershed land, and securing the managerial talent, space, and tools necessary to support our employees.

Just like the decades of support he received from voters re-electing him, his time and commitment to the community is recognized through the many durable policies and projects he supported over the years. Thanks go to Steve and his family for many years of dedicated service.

What is it?

Please email your answersto *webgeek@ActonWater.com*. Winners (and the correct answer) will be posted in the next *Water Words Notice*. Customers with a correct answer, as determined by AWD staff, may receive a prize—in addition to the fame of having your name published in this space!

Welcome Aboard!

John Petersen

The District would like to announce the arrival of one new employee and one new Commissioner to our team. John Petersen was elected to the Board of Commissioners this past April. John previously served on the District's Finance Committee for three years and has been an Acton resident since 1986.

"I'm excited to serve as a Water Commissioner and I take seriously the promises I made to the voters of Acton," says Petersen. "With our enhanced treatment facilities nearly fully operational, I look forward to working with Matt Mostoller, Erika Lin and Barry Rosen to focus on water district practices (annual budget process and warrant) and strategy (multiyear budgeting and reserve policies). Going forward, I anticipate the commissioners will continue to rely on the AWD FinCom to provide meaningful support and review of our financial processes and policies."

Calvin Dowds

Calvin Dowds started with the District just last month as a Meter Technician. Calvin is a 2024 graduate of Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical High School where his vocational major was plumbing.

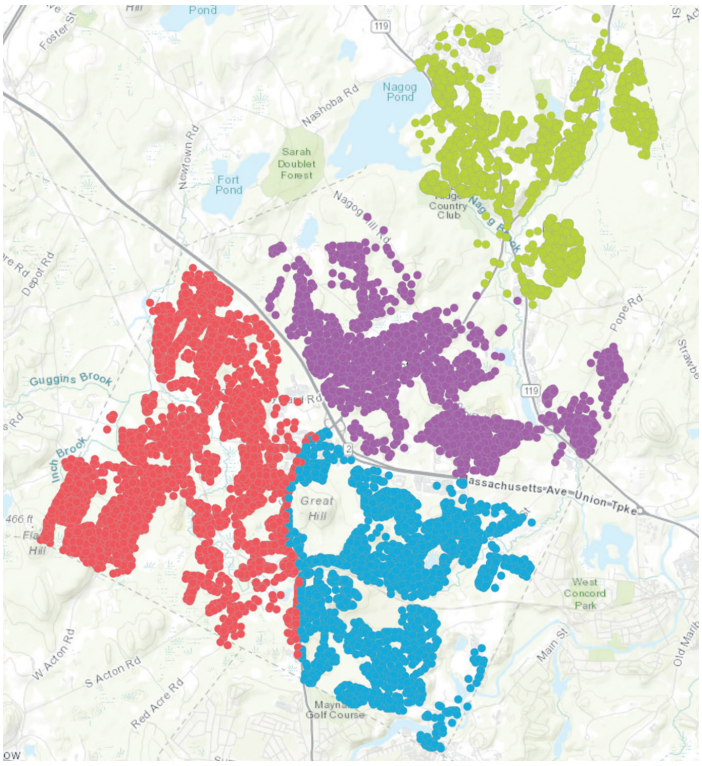
Outdoor Water Use Restriction Program

With the first official day of summer just around the corner, we'd like to remind our customers that our seasonal out-door water use restriction program restricts non-essential outdoor water uses to a maximum of two days per week from May 1st through September 30th. The three day per week odd/even schedule is only permitted between October 1st and April 30th as a result of a condition in the District's final amended Water Management Act (WMA) permit issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

During times of drought, or times of operational constraints such as those we are currently experiencing while our treatment plants are being upgraded with PFAS filtration, the number of days non-essential outdoor water use is permitted may be reduced. We have assigned numbered levels to our water use restrictions to quickly communicate the level of current restrictions and provide a resource on our website to understand the uses, days, and times associated with that level.

Most often, the summer restrictions limit non-essential uses to **one or two days per week. Non-essential outdoor**

continued on page 4



Water Use Restriction Levels

Level	Irrigation Days	Irrigation Hours*	Other Uses/Notes
Level 1	**3 Days**—Even addresses: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. Odd addresses: Wednesday, Friday, Sunday	Before 7AM and After 7PM	All outdoor water uses limited to odd/even schedule.
Level 2	**2 Day Lawn Watering by Quadrant**— North: Tuesday & Saturday; Center/East: Wednesday & Saturday; West: Thursday & Sunday; South: Friday & Sunday	Before 7AM and After 7PM	Non-essential use days by quadrant. All other outdoor water uses limited to odd/even schedule. *Default May 1 through September 30.*
Level 3	**1 Day Lawn Watering by Quadrant**— North: Tuesday; Center/East: Wednesday; West: Thursday; South: Friday	Before 7AM and After 7PM	Non-Essential use day by quadrant. All other outdoor water uses limited to odd/even schedule. *In accordance with low stream flow triggers, state drought declarations, and/or operational constraints.*
Level 4	**0 Days**	None	No outdoor water uses except for production of food and fiber or public health and safety.
Level 5	**0 Days**	None	All water users must curtail indoor and outdoor water uses. *Water supply emergency.*

* Lawn and landscape watering by automated inground irrigation system or above ground sprinklers.

NOTES

- Lawn watering by hand with a handheld auto shut-off nozzle is permitted in Levels 1–3 following the odd/even schedule.
- Non-essential water uses include lawn & landscape irrigation, pool filling, car washing, and washing of exterior surfaces (walls, roofs, driveways, walkways, patios, decks, etc.)

Outdoor Water Use Restrictions

continued from page 3

water uses are restricted to one or two days per week before 7AM and after 7PM and include lawn and landscape watering via aboveground sprinklers and automated irrigation systems, pool filling, vehicle washing, and washing of exterior surfaces (i.e. power washing). Outdoor water use days have been assigned geographically by the quadrant of town you live in. To find your watering days using our interactive map or address search tool, please visit *https://www.actonwater.com/conservation/outdoor-water-restrictions*.

Please note that watering of lawns, gardens, and ornamental plantings using a handheld spring-loaded hose nozzle or watering can is permitted in Levels 1-3 following the odd/even schedule. Even numbered homes may water by hand on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday; and odd numbered homes may water by hand on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday Limiting these activities to before 7AM and after 7PM remains encouraged as a best practice. Watering via harvested rainwater, a private well, or other privately owned water source is exempt from mandatory restrictions. ***No outdoor water use is permitted on Mondays.*** Violations will be subject to a fine of up to $200 per incident. Any changes to the status of our outdoor water use restrictions will be shared on our website, through our WaterSmart program, and via *Facebook* and *Twitter*. Read on for answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about our outdoor water use restriction program.

How can we help you?

The Acton Water District has several programs designed to help our customers. These include rebates on water efficient toilets, shower heads, faucets, and washing machines. Our annual discounted rain barrel sale provides an opportunity to harvest rainfall and use that collected water for your garden and landscape watering needs. This not only reduces the amount of water you pay for, it also helps to manage stormwater, and plants generally like rainwater better than treated drinking water! Finally, we offer a Senior Citizens Water Bill Discount for those qualifying for the Town of Acton Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption.

Water Use Restriction FAQ's

Q: Are there any exceptions for watering new lawns?
A: No.The water use restriction applies equally to both new and established lawns. The District does not have a waiver program for new lawns.

Q: How do I determine my outdoor water use days?
A: To find your watering days, please visit our website at *https://www.actonwater.com/conservation/outdoor-water-restrictions.*

Q: Can I water my garden/plantings/lawn by hand?
A: Watering of gardens, ornamental plantings, and lawns using a handheld spring-loaded hose nozzle or watering can is permitted in Levels 1–3 following the odd/even schedule. We recommend doing so before 7 AM and after 7 PM as a best management practice to reduce water lost to evaporation and evapotranspiration.

Q: I have a private well or other source for outdoor water use. Do these restrictions apply to me?
A: No, these outdoor water use restrictions do not apply to properties served by private wells or other alternative water sources like harvested rainwater. However, all property owners are encouraged to abide by these restrictions to conserve and protect our collective water resources.

Q: I've seen others not abiding by the outdoor water use restrictions. How can I report them?
A: You may report suspected water use restriction violations by calling our office at 978-263-9107, emailing *shawn@actonwater.com*, or using our non-emergency online reporting form at *https://actonwater.com/customer-service/reporting-form*. District staff will further investigate violations.

Water Words Notice is published twice a year for all customers of the Acton Water District

District Manager
Matthew Mostoller

Editor
Corey Godfrey

Commissioners
Erika Lin, *Chair*
Barry Rosen
John Petersen

Rate & Fee Increase

Customers will notice that their quarterly water bill will likely be higher in July. This increase is due to two things: 1) our PFAS mitigation loans entering repayment, resulting in an increase in the debt fee and 2) a 13% increase in the water rate needed to address pressing infrastructure issues and to cover increasing operating costs. You can estimate your bill using our online bill calculator at *http://www.actonwater.com/waterbill*.

The District established a fixed debt fee in 2013 to ensure a sustainable and transparent source of revenue to pay for debt-financed infrastructure improvements. The debt fee is calculated each fiscal year by dividing the debt service owed that year by the number of units served. For fiscal year (FY) 2027, that calculation is $3,031,261 / 9,100 Units = $83 per Unit.

The District's water rates (how much each customer is charged per gallon used) are determined by the Board of Commissioners as part of the budget-setting process each year. Periodic reviews of expenses and revenues occur throughout the year and may result in a rate or fee increase to ensure adequate revenue is available to support the operating budget approved by District voters. For FY 2027, for the first 11,221 gallons used per quarter, those rates are 1.1 cents per gallon. For usage beyond 11,221 gallons per quarter, the rates increase for each additional 11,221 gallons used. The revenue generated through water rates funds the operations and maintenance of Acton's water system, including smaller capital improvements that don't require borrowing. It also allows the District to maintain a reserve fund for unanticipated expenses and emergencies, such as a major water main break under Route 2 (which happened in FY26) or an urgent replacement of a failing wellfield (to take place in FY27).

The District's goal is to provide the 23,000 people it serves with safe, reliable water through responsible stewardship of this natural resource, continuous investment in critical infrastructure and renewal, and daily operation and maintenance of a sophisticated system by highly qualified and committed personnel. There is no shortage of work in any given budget cycle to be done to continue this tradition and the District thanks its customers for their support as we move forward in to the future.

Service Line Inventory Update

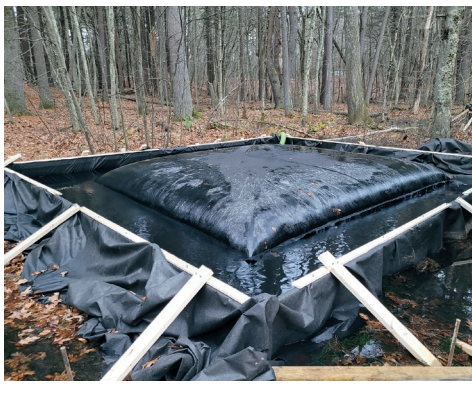
District staff have been hard at work for the past four years identifying water service line materials to meet the requirements of the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). A service line is the pipe that brings water from the water main in the street into a building (or from one building to another), and generally consists of two parts; the "public" side, which runs from the main to the curb stop and the "private" side, which runs from the curb stop into the building. District staff began proactively developing our initial service line inventory in early 2022 by reviewing available records, consulting with current and former staff, and conducting field identifications during meter appointments. Shortly thereafter, the District began implementing strategies to determine unknown service line materials, including requesting customers to self-identify the material used on the "private" side and conducting hydro vacuum excavations to enable physical inspections of the "public" side. Based on our review, copper and plastic are the most common service line materials in our system. Galvanized iron was used historically but represents a small percentage of the more than 6,700 service lines in our community. There are no known lead service lines in our distribution system. Based on the thousands of service lines that we have verified as non-lead and not a single service line having been identified as lead, the District has submitted a Certification of Non-Lead Service Lines & Request for Approval to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), who is responsible for implementing the LCRR and LCRI in Massachusetts.

Thinking about an ADU?

With the recent changes to Massachusetts General Laws related to accessory dwelling units (ADU), it is important to consider the utility connections for these improvements. Water service needs to be evaluated to ensure it is adequate and meets drinking water related rules, regulations, and laws. In Acton, we may require separate or upgraded service lines and meters to accommodate an ADU. Additionally, under federal definitions of a service line, we require plans and specifications to document any water line extending from a primary structure to an accessory structure, including ADU's, on the same property. If you are planning any expansion of service at your home or business, please reach out to us to discuss appropriate application and review processes. This will assist you in avoiding surprises late in your project that could delay or alter your plans.

What was it?

This is a dewatering bag (often called a sediment filter bag or dirt bag). It is a heavy-duty, permeable geotextile bag used on construction and excavation sites to filter silt, mud, and debris from pumped water. It traps solids inside while allowing clean water to safely disperse into the environment.



Report on Water Quality

SUMMER 2026 PWS 2002000

Acton Water District

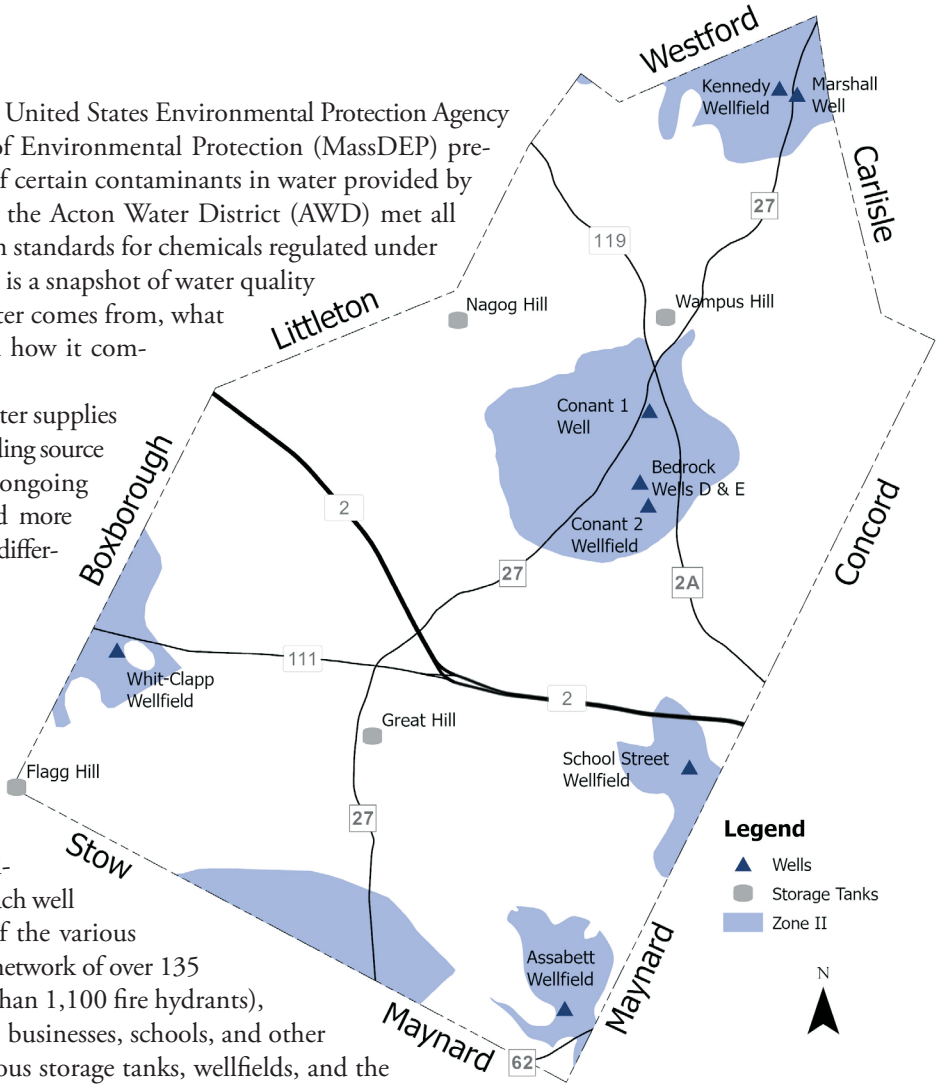
Testing for Your Drinking Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) prescribe regulations that limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. In 2025, water supplied by the Acton Water District (AWD) met all EPA, state, and our own local drinking water health standards for chemicals regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is a snapshot of water quality in 2025. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, how it is treated and distributed, and how it compares to standards set by the EPA.

The AWD works diligently to safeguard your water supplies by employing multiple barriers for protection, including source water protection, distribution system protection, ongoing monitoring, and treatment. Last year, we collected more than 650 samples and tested them for more than 100 different potential drinking water contaminants.

The Source of Your Drinking Water

Your water comes from wells that tap the water held in the ground beneath the town of Acton and neighboring communities. The Acton Water District has 26 different wells that withdraw water from eight wellfields located in various parts of town. Water from each well is pumped to treatment facilities located in each of the various wellfields, and then into the distribution system (a network of over 135 miles of water mains, four storage tanks, and more than 1,100 fire hydrants), where it blends together and is delivered to homes, businesses, schools, and other public users. The map on this page shows the various storage tanks, wellfields, and the critical protective radius (called the Zone II) around each wellfield. In addition, from November 12th through December 31st, the Concord Water Department (PWSID 3067000) intermittently supplied 1,467,366 gallons (0.3% of Acton's total water usage) to Acton through its interconnection on Lawsbrook Road. Concord's *Annual Water Quality Report*, and contact information for Concord Water, can be found at *https://concordma.gov/361/Water-Quality*.



Protection for Your Drinking Water

The Acton Water District employs three important "barriers" to maintain the highest possible quality of drinking water:

- A protective area called the Zone II surrounds each of Acton's wells. Land use activities that could adversely affect water quality are restricted within the Zone II area.
- Each of Acton's wells is treated in order to remove impurities and improve the taste of the water. Water treatment specifics are listed on page 8.
- The system of pipes that delivers water to your home is protected by a program that works to minimize "cross connections" between potable (intended for human consumption) and non-potable water. An example of a cross connection is a point where a drinking water pipe might connect to a fire suppression system or to an outside irrigation system.

Water Quality Data Table

The data presented in the table below are from calendar year 2025 unless otherwise noted. Only compounds that were detected in the water delivered to customers are reported in this table. Because water from all wellfields is blended within the distribution system, these data represent the range of water quality across all wellfields.

Substance (units)	Range of Detects	Level Allowed (MCL)	Goal (MCLG)	Typical Source	Exceeds MCL?
Regulated Substances (MCL has been established)					
Barium (ppm)	0.013–0.022	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Chlorine (ppm)	0.02–0.88 Highest RAA: 0.24	4 (MRDL)	4 (MRDLG)	Water additive used to control microbes	No
Fluoride (ppm) *	0.5–0.8	4	4	Water additive which promotes strong teeth	No
Haloacetic Acid (ppb)	2.9–19 Highest LRAA: 12	60	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant	No
Nitrate (ppm)	0.27–1.62	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	No
Perchlorate (ppb)	0.08–0.48	2	No MCLG	Rocket Propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents	No
PFAS6 (ppt)	10.0–19.0 Highest quarterly average: 17.2	20	No MCLG	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. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foams.	No
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	22.4–40.6 Highest LRAA: 35	80	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant	No
Turbidity (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit)	0.02– 0.15 Lowest Monthly % Samples: 100	Maximum Day 1 NTU (TT)	95% of samples <0.3 NTU Monthly (TT)	A measure of the cloudiness of water. It is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our treatment processes.	No
Unregulated Substances (MCL has not been established)					
1,4-dioxane (ppt)	155–200	No MCL	No MCLG	Chemical solvent, lab reagent, stabilizer, adhesive, may be found in cosmetics, detergents, and shampoo.	Unregulated contaminants have no established MCL
Aluminum (ppb)	52	No MCL	No MCLG	Residue from water treatment process: erosion of natural deposits.	
Chloride (ppm)	105–144	No MCL	No MCLG	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits	
Chloroform (ppb)	6.7–20.6	No MCL	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant.	
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	3.7–11.4	No MCL	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant.	
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	7.7–14.8	No MCL	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant.	
Bromoform (ppb)	0.7–2.0	No MCL	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant.	
Iron (ppm)	0.01	No MCL	No MCLG	Erosion of natural deposits.	
Perfluorobutancesulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppt)	1.9–4.0 Average: 2.9	No MCL	No MCLG	Manmade chemical; used as a replacement for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS); used in the manufacture of paints, cleaning agents, and water- and stain-repellent products and coatings, including carpeting, carpet cleaners, floor wax and food packaging.	
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppt)	2.0–5.9 Average: 4.1	No MCL	No MCLG	Manmade chemical; breakdown product of stain- and grease-proof coatings on food packaging and household products	
Sodium (ppm)	42.6–58.8	No MCL	No MCLG	Erosion of natural deposits, road salting.	
Sulfate (ppm)	14.4–29.2	No MCL	No MCLG	Natural Sources.	
Substance (units)	**90th percentile**	**Action Level**	**# sites (# sites above Action Level)**	**Typical Source**	**Exceeds AL?**
Lead and Copper (60+ sites sampled semi-annually: May–June and October–December 2025)					
Lead (ppb)	3.6	15	123 (0)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	No
Copper (ppm)	0.392	1.3	123 (1)	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching; Corrosion of household plumbing systems; from wood preservatives	No

For terms and abbreviations, see page 8.

* Fluoride has a secondary contaminant level (SMCL) of 2 ppm to better protect human health.

Why Are Impurities in Your Drinking Water?

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **microbial** contaminants (such as viruses and bacteria) that may come from septic systems, agriculture, and wildlife
- **inorganic** contaminants (such as salts and metals) that may be naturally occurring or result from stormwater runoff, wastewater discharge, mining, or farming
- **pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses
- **organic chemical** contaminants, which are byproducts of industrial processes, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems
- **radioactive** contaminants, which can occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some impurities. The presence of an impurity does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Acton Water District has compiled information on drinking water and potential health effects in its drinking water resource center. Please feel free to visit or call us for information, or call the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Treatment for Your Water

To meet local, state, and federal requirements, and to improve taste and appearance, the Acton Water District treats all of its water before it is supplied to customers. The table below shows the treatment provided at each wellfield.

Treatment	Conant I Well	Conant II Wellfield	Bedrock Wells D & E	Marshall Wellfield	School Street Wellfield	Assabet Wellfield	Kennedy Wellfield	Clapp/Whitcomb Wellfield
Aeration *VOC removal*	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Chlorination *disinfection*	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Fluoridation *tooth decay prevention*	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
pH Adjustment *corrosion control*	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Carbon Filtration *taste/color control*								●
Carbon Filtration *PFAS removal*	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Membrane Filtration *mineral/color removal*				●	●	●	●	
GreensandPlus™ Pressure Filtration *iron/manganese removal*	●	●	●					

TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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

LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average): The highest level of contaminant as determined by a running annual average of all the samples taken from a sampling point.

Level 1 assessment: A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

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.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

RAA (Running Annual Average): The average of four consecutive quarters of data.

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

90th Percentile: Out of every 10 homes sampled, nine were at or below this level. This number is compared to the action level to determine lead and copper compliance.

Discussion of Data Table Detections

1,4-DIOXANE: During 2025 we collected samples for this compound in the raw and treated waters of the Assabet and School Street wells. This sampling was conducted due to the presence of 1,4-dioxane at the WR Grace and Nuclear Metals, Inc. Superfund sites near our South Acton wells. 1,4-dioxane is not a federally regulated contaminant, and the MassDEP has not established a state MCL. The AWD is following the potential regulation of this contaminant and the effect it may have on our water system. Some people who drink water containing 1,4-dioxane at high concentrations for many years could experience chronic kidney and liver effects and liver cancer. More information is available at *www.actonwater.com/water-quality/14-dioxane*

COLIFORM: Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify any problems that were found during these assessments. During the past year, we were required to conduct one Level 1 assessment. A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system. One Level 1 assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action, which we completed.

FLUORIDE: The Acton Board of Health voted in 1970 to adjust the fluoride level in drinking water to prevent tooth decay/cavities. On June 8, 2015, the Acton BOH voted to adopt the Centers for Disease Control's recommended adjusted optimal fluoride dose of 0.7 mg/L. We implemented this adjusted dose at all our treatment plants in 2015.

LEAD AND COPPER: 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 AWD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the AWD at 978-263-9107. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

PFAS6: Some people who drink water containing these PFAS in excess of the MCL may experience certain adverse effects. These could include effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and fetal development. These PFAS may also elevate the risk of certain cancers. The AWD began monitoring for PFAS in January 2020, before MassDEP required it. Results presented in the regulated table above are accepted samples from our treated water during the 2025 calendar year. Additional PFAS detects were reported in the unregulated table above. More information is available at *www.actonwater.com/pfas*

SODIUM: Although sodium does not have an MCL, MassDEP has a guideline of 20 parts per million (ppm) for sensitive individuals, such as those on very salt-restricted diets. The AWD notifies the Acton Board of Health of sodium results, and results of the most recent sodium tests are posted at various locations in town. Sodium levels in drinking water vary considerably from well to well and month to month. For the most accurate data on sodium levels at your home, an individual tap sample would be necessary.

VOLUNTARY MONITORING: In addition to the monitoring required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, the AWD voluntarily conducts hundreds of additional tests each year to ensure high-quality water is provided to our customers. For more information on our voluntary monitoring, please contact us.

VULNERABILITY: Some people may be more vulnerable to impurities in drinking water than 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 persons, and infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Source Water Assessment and Protection Report Available

The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) program requires states to assess the susceptibility of public water supplies to potential contamination. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has completed its assessment on each of the Zone II areas for the Acton Water District's wells. A susceptibility ranking of "high" was assigned to each Zone II using the information compiled by MassDEP. Copies of the SWAP report are available at the Acton Water District office or on our website: *www.ActonWater.com*.

The AWD has long recognized the susceptibility of its sources and has worked closely with both the Town of Acton and the state to maximize the protection of all its Zone IIs. For more information, please contact Corey Godfrey, AWD Deputy District Manager, by phone at 978-263-9107 or by email at *corey@actonwater.com*.

The Clapp/Whitcomb Treatment Plant underwent its last significant modification in 1999. Although it could supply up to 700,000 gallons per day, declining water quality, aging technology, and regulatory changes minimize our ability to rely on this facility.

Required Non-Compliance Information

In September 2022, the District was issued an Administrative Consent Order with Penalty (ACOP) by MassDEP. This ACOP is for the Clapp Whitcomb Water Treatment Plant backwash water. This is not a drinking water violation, but a violation of wastewater regulations, therefore public health was not immediately at risk. Although the treatment plant is operated in accordance with its original design, MassDEP's expectations for managing waste from facilities such as this have changed over the past 35 years. Our immediate response was to relegate this facility to emergency use only and provide a bag filter to remove some of the solids contained in the backwash water. Due to the age of the treatment equipment and declining water quality from the wells in West Acton, this facility should be replaced in the coming years; however, those plans have been deferred so we can focus on PFAS treatment upgrades at our newer facilities. By entering into the ACOP with MassDEP, the District is able to work with the regulators and our engineers to implement more permanent solutions that fit into our capital planning and improvement plans.

Do You Know About Cross Connections?

A cross connection is any actual or potential connection between a potable drinking water pipe and any potential source of pollution or contamination, such as a waste, soil, or sewer pipe; a drain; or any other unapproved source. If not properly protected or eliminated, a cross connection can cause health problems and spread disease if a backflow event were to occur.

There are two types of backflow conditions by which contamination can enter the drinking water: backpressure and backsiphonage. Backpressure occurs when the pressure in the property exceeds that of the drinking water distribution system. This can be caused by air conditioning units, boiler systems, and other pressure-building devices connected to the distribution system. Backsiphonage occurs when the drinking water pressure drops off and the resulting vacuum sucks the water from the building, causing it to flow backward into the distribution system. This can be caused by routine occurrences such as a fire department's use of water for fire suppression, water main breaks, and other heavy water demand.

Most cross connections are addressed by installing a backflow prevention device. A hose bibb vacuum breaker, sold at any hardware store, prevents the typical garden hose cross connection. Backflow devices come in all different types to protect even the most dangerous liquids from being able to contaminate the drinking water supply. To our knowledge, there has never been a cross connection incident in Acton, but there have been several in the state of Massachusetts and even more nationally.

Everyone should be aware of and do their part to prevent drinking water from becoming contaminated by cross connections. By surveying all industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities for cross connections, the Acton Water District ensures that the water supplied down to the last free-flowing tap in every building is of the highest quality. All residential homes with irrigation systems are required to have backflow protection. You can learn more about cross connections by contacting Bob Murch, our Cross Connection Coordinator, at *bobm@actonwater.com*.

Hose bibbs or outdoor faucets should have a vacuum breaker integral to the fixture or added to prevent back siphonage.

Good to the Last Drop!

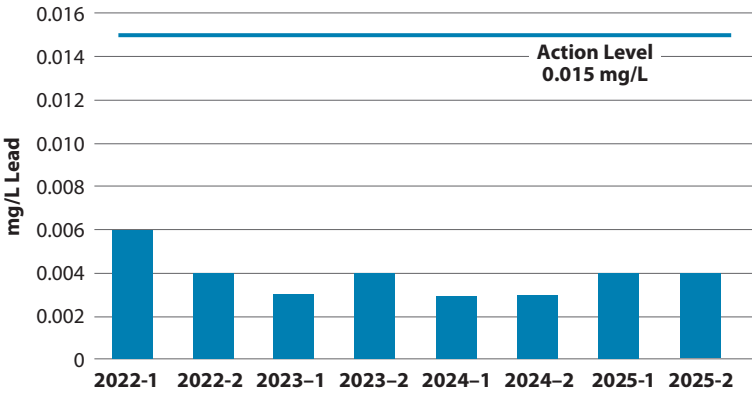
Since the early 2000's, the District has qualified for reduced lead and copper monitoring. Samples have historically been collected from 30 homes and two schools/childcare facilities in town once every three years to confirm the effectiveness of our corrosion control efforts. Aeration, primarily used for VOC removal, is often sufficient in raising the pH of our naturally corrosive water supplies from slightly acidic to neutral. As needed, further upward pH adjustment is achieved by adding potassium hydroxide. Upwardly adjusting the pH reduces the potential for metals like lead and copper to leach from building pipes and plumbing fixtures into the water carried through them.

Due to system improvements initiated in 2020, the District returned to semi-annual lead and copper monitoring at 60 homes and two schools/childcare facilities beginning in 2021. We anticipate semi-annual monitoring will continue through 2028, with this sampling being a requirement of the District's new PFAS treatment facilities at South and Central Acton WTPs. We thank our many customers who volunteer to participate in this program and allow us to meet our regulatory requirements.

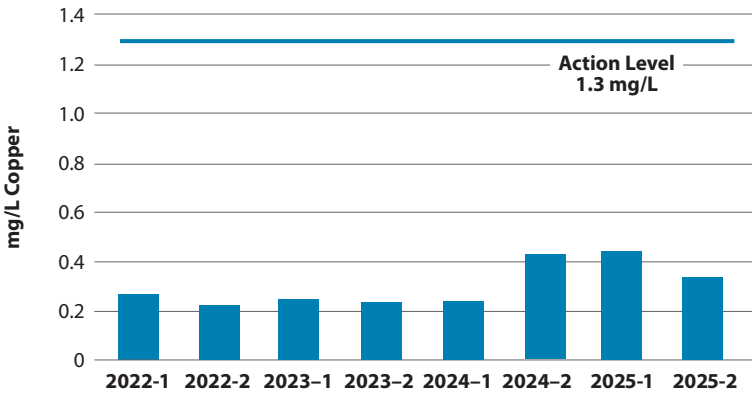
Lead levels in all of the residential samples collected in 2025 were below the Action Level (AL). All AL exceedances were reported to homeowners immediately and follow-up sampling was offered; when conducted, repeat sampling indicated low lead and copper levels. Often, replacing old household plumbing fixtures that contained lead results in improved water quality. There were also no lead AL exceedances for any of the samples collected in schools/ childcare facilities as part of the 2025 program.

When your water has been sitting for several hours, like first thing in the morning or upon returning home from work, you can minimize your lead exposure by flushing your tap for up to two minutes or until the water becomes noticeably colder before using it for drinking, cooking, or preparing baby formula. Always use cold water for these activities, as lead dissolves faster in hot water than it does in cold. It's also important to note that boiling water does not decrease the level of lead; rather, it increases it. Additionally, the aerators on the end of your faucets should be removed at least every six months to rinse out any debris that may include particulate lead.

Lead Levels



Copper Levels



Lead and copper compliance data demonstrate effective corrosion control practices at our treatment plants, which reduce leaching of metals from building pipes and plumbing fixtures.

Do You Want to Get Involved?

The Board of Water Commissioners meetings are typically scheduled on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 pm; meetings are open to the public. The beginning of each meeting is set aside for public comments that may not be on the agenda for discussion. If you wish to attend, please visit our website (*https://actonwater.com/meeting-schedules*) to confirm the next meeting date. The Acton Water District Annual Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of March. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

For more information, additional copies, or to comment on this report, please contact:

Acton Water District
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