



2021 FREEPORT WATER QUALITY REPORT



Freeport Water: How Sweet It Is!

That's not just a line. Unlike nearly every other community on Long Island, Freeport has its own water supply. Our water is drawn from an aquifer – a layer of permeable rock – that runs deep under the Village. By drilling its own wells, Freeport taps into this aquifer, providing residents with clean water that's been purified through a natural filtration process.

Most other municipalities rely on ground water from lakes, rivers or surface reservoirs. Seems reasonable – the water's right there where you can see it. But that also means it's susceptible to evaporation, periods of drought, exposure to various pollutants and contamination from run-off and erosion. Water from surface reservoirs can require as many as a dozen different stages of treatment before it's safely potable.

In contrast, water stored in underground aquifers has undergone a slow filtration process by passing through layers of porous sediment over many years. This natural filtration removes the contaminants and bacteria that can affect surface water. It's like a Brita® filter, but bigger. Okay, a whole lot bigger.

Because of this filtration process, Freeport water needs only minimal treatment as required by state regulations. And we constantly monitor water quality through a rigorous testing process to ensure it's delivered to you naturally pristine. Hey, don't just take our word for it – at the most recent New York State Tap Water Taste Contest, Freeport's water was judged "Best Tasting in NY State!"

Better than Bottled

Did you know that more than two thirds of bottled water is actually supplied by municipal water systems? Once it's bottled, the water is considered a food product, and not subject to the stringent testing required by drinking water systems. Although technically recyclable, most plastic bottles end up in landfill, to the tune of 4 billion tons a year. And cost? That dollar you spend on a bottle of water would buy nearly 1,000 gallons of fresh Freeport water.

Dear Freeport Residents and Businesses:

While you are taking some time to read the important information included in this Water Quality Report, let me assure you that the Village of Freeport provides the best possible water for all our customers.

We continue to be vigilant in maintaining our water infrastructure by prioritizing and replacing additional mains as needed across the Village. Additionally, our Water Plant Operators monitor and control water production and treatment for our water supply. You will find more information and further details about these and other things within this report.

Finally, please be informed that we belong to both the LI Water Conference and the Nassau-Suffolk Water Commissioners Association, who reassures every Long Islander that your drinking water is and will remain unaffected by the COVID-19 outbreak. If you have any questions, please contact the Water Department or my office.

Sincerely,
Robert T. Kennedy, Mayor



Water Quality Report Summary

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. See the Table of Detected Parameters for a list of the contaminants that have been detected (if any). The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

Freeport's water is derived from 11 drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated most of the wells as having a very high susceptibility to industrial solvents and nitrates. The very high susceptibility to industrial solvents is due primarily to point sources of contamination related to the proximity of transportation routes to the wells in the assessment area. The high susceptibility to nitrate contamination is attributable to high density residential land use practices in the assessment area, such as fertilizing lawns.

A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting the Village.

Federal Mandatory Health Advisory

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens 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, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are also available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Lawn Sprinkling Regulations

Even numbered addresses

You may water, hose, sprinkle, or otherwise irrigate any outdoor lawn, field, garden, hedge, shrub, or flowers only during the hours of midnight to 10AM and 4PM to midnight on even-numbered days of the month.

Odd numbered addresses

You may water, hose, sprinkle, or otherwise irrigate any outdoor lawn, field, garden, hedge, shrub, or flowers only during the hours of midnight to 10AM and 4PM to midnight on odd-numbered days of the month.

Without a numbered address

You may water, hose, sprinkle, or otherwise irrigate any outdoor lawn, field, garden, hedge, shrub, or flowers only from midnight to 10AM and 4PM to midnight on odd-numbered days of the month.

- No outside irrigation from 10AM to 4PM.
- Watering, sprinkling, or otherwise irrigating any outdoor lawn, field, garden, hedge, shrub, or flowers is prohibited at all times during periods of precipitation.
- The washing or rinsing of automobiles, trucks, boats or similar vehicles is prohibited unless the hose being used is equipped with a nozzle with an automatic shut-off valve.
- The use of a hose, or any watering device whatsoever, for flushing or cleaning driveways, sidewalks or streets is prohibited at all times.

LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN

Want to do your part to help preserve Freeport's water supply? Most importantly, Stop Throwing Out Pollutants (STOP). To dispose of hazardous household waste items, please call the Town of Hempstead STOP Program at (516) 378-4210. To learn more visit [freeportny.gov /33/sanitation](http://freeportny.gov/33/sanitation).

We're On It!

Completed in 2021

Nassau Avenue south of Suffolk Street:

- Installation of approximately 2,010 linear feet of 8" CLDI* water main.
- Transfer of approximately 65 water services from the existing water main
- Installation of 6 fire hydrants
- Restoration of disturbed pavement



Scheduled for 2022

Guy Lombardo Avenue south of Front Street:

- Installation of approximately 850 linear feet of 16" CLDI water main; 2,540 linear feet of 12" CLDI water main; 975 linear feet of 8" CLDI water main
- Transfer of approximately 48 water services from the existing water main
- Installation of 9 fire hydrants
- Restoration of disturbed pavement

* CLDI stands for cement-mortar lined ductile iron. The cement-mortar lining provides a barrier between the water and the pipe, reducing its susceptibility to corrosion.

Important Facts About Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home might be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. The Village of Freeport 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 water for drinking and 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

2021 Monthly Gallons Pumped

Figures in millions



