

Township of South Brunswick

Phone
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Frequently Asked Questions About pH

Basics of pH-

pH of water can range from 0-14.

pH less than 7 makes the water more acidic

pH greater than 7 make the water more alkaline (basic)

More acidic water (less than 6.5) can leach metals from your pipes.

pH is known as a **secondary contaminate** in the water, contaminants whose effects are aesthetic, cosmetic, and/or technical (potentially affecting water equipment and/or treatment), as opposed to other contaminants that carry health or environmental risks. EPA does recommend that pH levels fall between 6.5 and 8.5.

pH and Lead and Copper-

While the exceedance was for pH, that does play a part in the lead and copper found in water if you have lead and copper pipes in your home. The water utility monitors for Lead and Copper with a certified laboratory on a continuous basis and had no exceedances to the limits established by the EPA and NJDEP.

Why can I only use cold water?

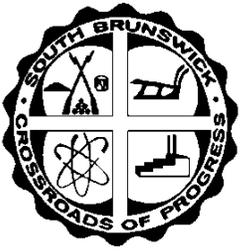
Water dissociates into ions more at higher temperatures, leading to a higher concentration of hydrogen ions (or H_3O^+). A higher concentration of H_3O^+ ($[H_3O^+]$) results in lower pH, but it does not mean the sample has changed acidity

Can I shower with it?

It is safe, however you may notice drying of the skin due to the acidity of the water.

Do I need to test my own water?

There is no need to test your water at this time, the township water supply is actively working on the issue. However, pH at home kits are available for purchase at your local home improvement or pool store.



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When will it be corrected?

The problem is already corrected and more detailed measures are being implemented to ensure this does not happen again.

How long will we need to adhere to these advisories?

The exceedance was corrected immediately by the South Brunswick Water Utility and continue to monitor, as required, and submit the results to the NJDEP.

Is the water safe to drink now or should we be solely drinking bottled water?

The issues were corrected and you may resume normal water usage.

6 Month Monitoring

What is the 6-month monitoring period?

A water system must complete lead and copper source monitoring within 6 months of the end of the monitoring period in which the water system exceeded the lead or copper

When was the 6-month monitoring period?

The six-month period was between July and December of 2022

Do we need to wait another 6-month period to know if the water has improved?

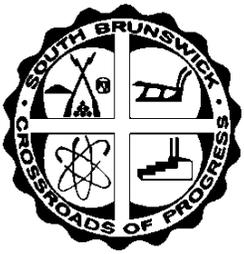
The initial problems were corrected and the routine monitoring is taking place. There have been no issues since.

Will we be notified of the new monitoring results?

Results are available on NJDEP WaterWatch online

What does 42 control values mean?

There were 42 excursions during the 6-month monitoring period. The required weekly sample results are sent to the NJDEP, as required.



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The NJDEP considers each day as an individual violation. Due to a change in monitoring requirements by the NJDEP, resulting in the Violation to the water utility.

What is the reason for high levels in these sampling groups?

There was a change in the MCL (maximum contaminate level) and was an oversight on our part, but the corrections have been made since the initial exceedance

Why did it take so long for us to be notified if the tests were conducted over the last 6 months?

After becoming aware of the violation, the town has 30 days to send out a public notification to the residents.

Why is this not considered an emergency?

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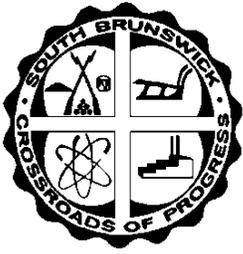
pH

What Is pH?

It is used to indicate the basicity of acidity of a solution on a scale from 0-14 with 7 being neutral. As the solution contains more hydrogen then the acidity increases and the pH goes lower.

Why is pH important and how does it affect drinking water?

It affects most chemical and biological processes in water. Which means it can alter the chemical state of many pollutants which can make it easier to be exposed to toxins.



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Why is Lead and Copper important to pH and is that being monitored?

The water utility also monitors for Lead and Copper continuously throughout the year and submits the results, as required, to the NJDEP. However, pH can affect the lead and copper in the water, if you have lead and copper pipes.

How does pH affect drinking water?

pH is known as a **secondary contaminate** in the water, contaminants whose effects are aesthetic, cosmetic, and/or technical (potentially affecting water equipment and/or treatment), as opposed to other contaminants that carry health or environmental risks.

What is the standard and acceptable level for pH?

Optimal pH for drinking water is 6.5-8.5

What are the health risks of having pH exceedance?

Infants and children drinking water containing excess lead, which may have leached out from your pipes due to a pH exceedance, could have delays in physical or mental development. Adults who drink the water over many years can develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

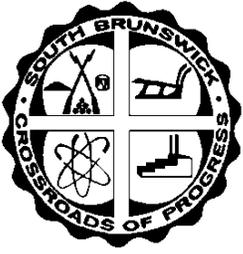
What are the effects of copper and lead in the water?

Exposure can cause problems ranging from stomach distress to drain damage

WQP (Water Quality Parameters)

What are WQP results?

Water quality parameters (WQPs) are used to identify appropriate Corrosion Control Treatment (CCT) and whether CCT is being properly maintained. WQPs include: pH, alkalinity, calcium, conductivity, temperature, orthophosphate, silica, iron, manganese, chloride, sulfate, hardness, aluminum, and ammonia.



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What were the WQP results that made it a violation?

The results were outside the values set by the State for more than nine days

Are they currently sampling the water to determine if it is safe or unsafe?

Sampling has not stopped, the township is required to sample consistently and submit results to the NJDEP regularly

Are we lowering or raising our optimal limits?

NJDEP has implemented more stringent monitoring requirements for systems using corrosion control for Lead and Copper treatment.

Why do we need to establish new optimal limits?

In August 2022 the EPA revised the lead and copper rule sampling to better protect children and communities from the risks of lead exposure by better protecting children at schools and child care facilities, getting the lead out of our nation's drinking water, and empowering communities through information.

Treatment

How long will this take to be treated?

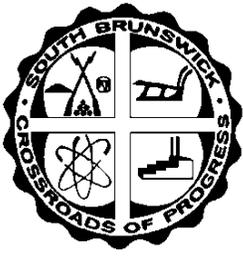
The problem has already been corrected

Will we be notified when it has been resolved or treated?

The issues were fixed immediately and the township is looking into more efficient monitoring devices to avoid these issues in the future

When will we know that the corrosion control equipment is working properly?

The equipment is working properly now.



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Testing

Is there any testing that we should be doing on our own to stay safe?

If you are concerned about lead exposure you can reach out to the local health department who can provide more information about testing facilities and procedures

Are they currently sampling the water to determine if it is safe or unsafe?

The issues have been fixed and all of our testing has come back within the MCLs. The daily and monthly samples have continued and results are being submitted to the NJDEP