### Why Treat Water?

Treat and test the water ensures that it is clean, safe, and pleasant to drink.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include lakes, ponds, reservoirs, rivers, springs, streams, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring organic and inorganic substances. Water also picks up contaminants from animals and human activity. Furthermore, fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, metals and radionuclides, and salts wash off streets and lawns and enter the water supply. Neighboring communities, farms, and industries all contribute to these impurities. Left untreated, this water could make you sick.

### Pesticides and Herbicides

which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural runoff, stormwater runoff, and residential use.

### Organic Chemicals

including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and can also come from gas stations, stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

### Radioactive Contaminants

which can be naturally occurring or be the result of all oil and gas production and mining activities.

### Is the Water Safe for Everyone to Drink?

Virginia Beach water meets all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water standards.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has established similar regulations for bottled water.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

However, some people may be more vulnerable than the general population to drinking water contaminants. Immunocompromised persons such as persons undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and children seem more susceptible to illnesses. These people, or those caring for them, should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water.

### Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment of our system has been conducted by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission. This was done to determine the susceptibility to contamination of the surface water from which our drinking water originates. In Hampton Roads, all surface waters were determined to be of high susceptibility to contamination using the criteria developed by the state. Areas that rely on surface water community receive this rating. However, Norfolk’s Wards Bridge Water Treatment Plant treats and tests the water to meet federal drinking water standards.

The assessment report consists of maps showing the source water assessment area, a list of known land use activities of concern, and disclaimers of any known contamination. The report is available by contacting your local water company or searching the website.[1](http://www.nrvwater.org/)

---

[1](http://www.nrvwater.org/)

---

**Why Treat Water?**

Treat and test the water ensures that it is clean, safe, and pleasant to drink.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include lakes, ponds, reservoirs, rivers, springs, streams, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring organic and inorganic substances. Water also picks up contaminants from animals and human activity. Furthermore, fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, metals and radionuclides, and salts wash off streets and lawns and enter the water supply. Neighboring communities, farms, and industries all contribute to these impurities. Left untreated, this water could make you sick.

### Pesticides and Herbicides

which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural runoff, stormwater runoff, and residential use.

### Organic Chemicals

including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and can also come from gas stations, stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

### Radioactive Contaminants

which can be naturally occurring or be the result of all oil and gas production and mining activities.

### Is the Water Safe for Everyone to Drink?

Virginia Beach water meets all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water standards.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has established similar regulations for bottled water.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

However, some people may be more vulnerable than the general population to drinking water contaminants. Immunocompromised persons such as persons undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and children seem more susceptible to illnesses. These people, or those caring for them, should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water.

### Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment of our system has been conducted by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission. This was done to determine the susceptibility to contamination of the surface water from which our drinking water originates. In Hampton Roads, all surface waters were determined to be of high susceptibility to contamination using the criteria developed by the state. Areas that rely on surface water community receive this rating. However, Norfolk’s Wards Bridge Water Treatment Plant treats and tests the water to meet federal drinking water standards.

The assessment report consists of maps showing the source water assessment area, a list of known land use activities of concern, and disclaimers of any known contamination. The report is available by contacting your local water company or searching the website.[1](http://www.nrvwater.org/)

---

[1](http://www.nrvwater.org/)