PGH2O

IS MY WATER SAFE?

PWSA'S COMMITMENT TO DRINKING WATER SAFETY

At the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA), we take immense pride in delivering clean and safe drinking water to our communities served. We understand the importance of providing transparent information regarding the quality and safety of the water you receive and want to assure you that the water supplied by PWSA meets or surpasses all federal and state regulations for drinking water quality.

Our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of water safety is unwavering, and we employ rigorous monitoring and testing procedures to ensure the continued delivery of clean and safe water.

For more information about the quality and safety of your drinking water, visit www.pgh2o.com/2022WaterQuality.

Who Makes Sure my Drinking Water is Safe?

The Lab: Stringent Water Quality Monitoring

We regularly sample and analyze the water at various stages of treatment, distribution, and storage. Our certified laboratory professionals meticulously examine the water and perform over 100,000 tests per year. Our lab professionals also gather information from 90 online devices which continually monitor the water.

Compliance and Regulatory Oversight

PWSA is dedicated to meeting and exceeding all applicable regulations set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). These regulations cover a comprehensive range of guidelines for biological, chemical, and physical aspects of water quality.

Routine Maintenance and Operations

We continually maintain and upgrade our water infrastructure, including pipes, valves, hydrants, and mains. Actions taken by our crews such as flushing hydrants are proactive measures intended to enhance the reliability and safety of our water supply system, ensuring the delivery of clean and safe drinking water to your taps.

Where does my water come from?

PWSA continuously monitors the upstream conditions of our source water, the Allegheny River. We collaborate with other nearby utilities, environmental agencies, and communities to implement protective measures, prevent contamination, and maintain the integrity of this vital resource. We also work to protect our watershed with the implementation of our **Stormwater Master Plan** and green infrastructure projects designed to address stormwater and wastewater issues affecting our region's waterways. To learn more about our **Stormwater and Wet Weather Plans**, visit **www.pgh2o.com/stormwater-plans**.

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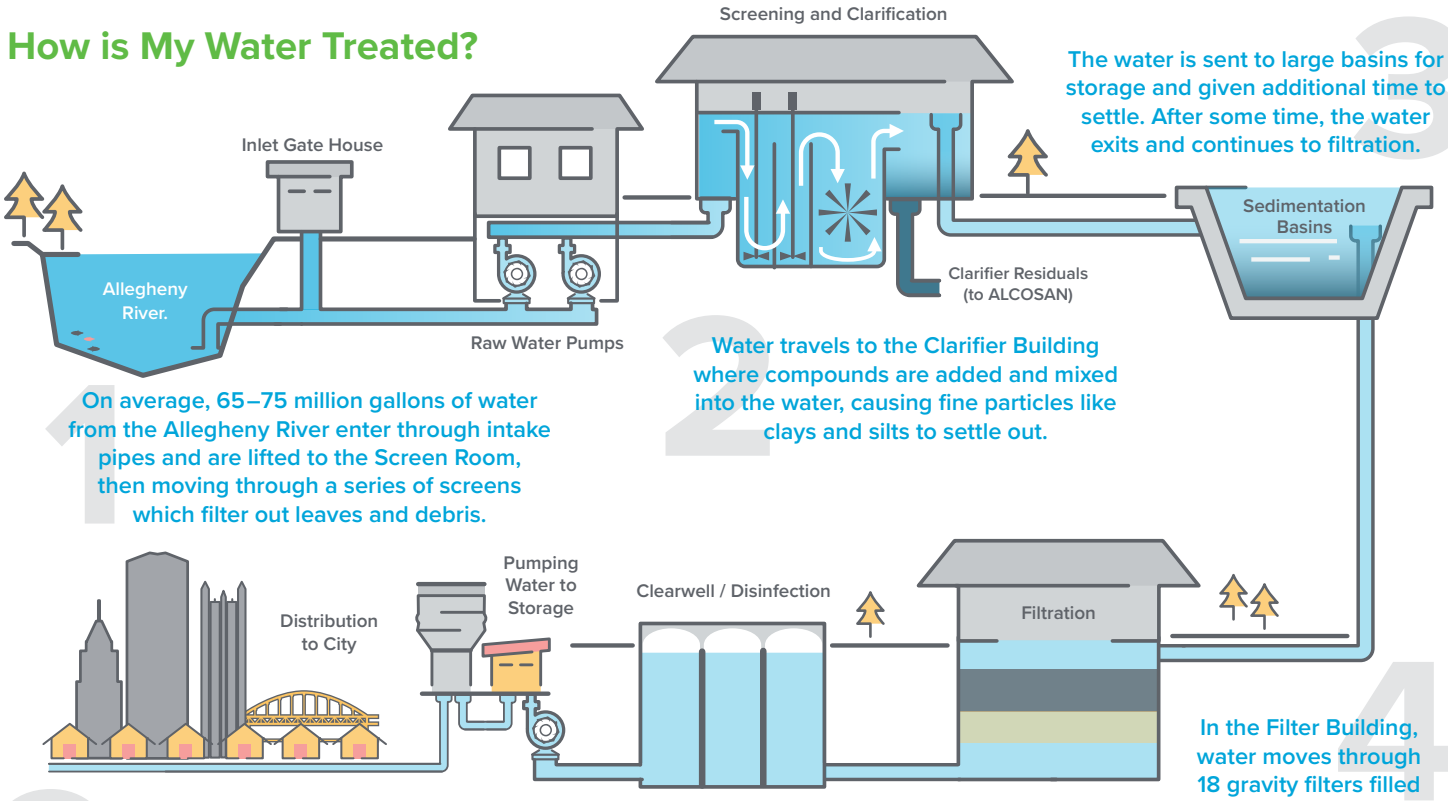
For more information, visit www.pgh2o.com/2022WaterQuality.

How is My Water Treated?



1 On average, 65–75 million gallons of water from the Allegheny River enter through intake pipes and are lifted to the Screen Room, then moving through a series of screens which filter out leaves and debris.

2 Water travels to the Clarifier Building where compounds are added and mixed into the water, causing fine particles like clays and silts to settle out.

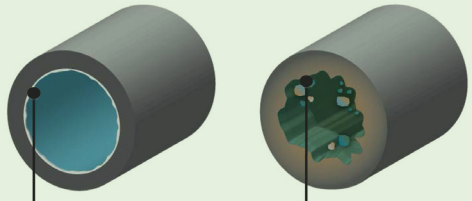
3 The water is sent to large basins for storage and given additional time to settle. After some time, the water exits and continues to filtration.

4 In the Filter Building, water moves through 18 gravity filters filled with carbon and sand to further remove impurities. Chlorine is added to begin disinfection.

5 Water enters the 40 million gallon Clearwell to finish disinfection. Additional compounds are added to treat the water and protect pipes from corrosion.

6 The water exits the Clearwell and will now enter the distribution system which is comprised of a series of pipes and holding tanks distributing the water to our customers.

In April 2019, we began incorporating a food-grade additive known as **orthophosphate** into our treatment process to reduce lead levels in drinking water. Orthophosphate forms a protective barrier to the interior of a pipe and prevents it from corroding. Preventing corrosion reduces lead levels for all customers as PWSA continues to remove old lead service lines form our drinking water system. PWSA's lead levels are at historic lows and are in compliance with state and federal standards. To read more about orthophosphate, visit **www.lead.pgh2o.com/orthophosphate**.



A protective layer of *Orthophosphate* forms to prevent pipe corrosion.

Lack of corrosion control allows lead to leach from pipes into water.

Pittsburgh's first filtration plant construction in 1906.

The History of Water Treatment in Pittsburgh

More than a century ago, Pittsburgh was highly affected by poor water conditions, moreso than other comparable cities and this is directly linked to lack of treatment services. Construction of Pittsburgh's first filtration plant began in 1905 and by 1912, rates of Pittsburghers succumbing to typhoid fever had dropped by over 900 percent*.

It may surprise you that much of the original water infrastructure placed into service around this time continues to be relied upon by our modern city today. While our aging infrastructure has served us well over the decades, PWSA remains committed to the future by continually investing in the infrastructure and facilities which will be needed to deliver safe and clean water to current and future generations of customers.

To learn more about PWSA's **Water Reliability Plan**, visit **www.pgh2o.com/water-reliability-plan**.

* The Search for Pure Water in Pittsburgh: The Urban Response to Water Pollution, 1893-1914: Western Pennsylvania History: 1893-1914 | *Western Pennsylvania History: 1918 - 2020*, **journals.psu.edu/wph/article/view/3450/3281.** Accessed June 2023.