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## **Chromium by the Numbers**

### **Statement:**

The following is released to provide information on chromium, for Ridgewood Water consumers. Included are descriptions of this inorganic contaminant, a brief summary of current regulations and advisories, plus the levels detected in Ridgewood Water.

### **Description of Contaminants:**

**Total Chromium:** An odorless and tasteless metallic element that occurs naturally in rocks, plants, soil and animals. Chromium has been used in the making of steel and other alloys. The most common forms are chromium -3 and chromium -6, which are found in food, water and utilized for industrial processes.

**Chromium -3:** A dietary element found in food and water.

**Chromium -6:** Otherwise known as hexavalent chromium. Occurs naturally from the erosion of chromium deposits in the ground and also released from industrial processes, where it is utilized for chrome plating, dyes, pigments, leather tanning and wood preservation.

### **Regulated and Unregulated Limits:**

**Total Chromium:** Regulated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The maximum contaminant limit is 100 parts per billion (ppb). There is no health advisory limit for this contaminant at the state or federal level, but the World Health Organization recommends a maximum of 50 ppb.

**Chromium -3:** Currently there is no individual test requirement or standard for this form of chromium in drinking water.

**Chromium -6:** An unregulated contaminant being tested to examine levels throughout the nation so EPA can determine if regulation is necessary. There is no health advisory for this contaminant, but the State of California has a regulated limit of 10 ppb and health goal of 0.02 ppb.

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### **Ridgewood Water Test Results:**

**Total Chromium:** 2014 Range - 3.3 ppb to 18.3 ppb, Average 9.4 ppb  
2015 Range - None Detectable to 10.4 ppb, Average 2.56 ppb  
2016 Range – None Detectable to 10.1 ppb, Average 3.9 ppb

**Chromium -6:** 2014 Range – None Detectable to 2.9 ppb, Average 0.30 ppb  
2015 Range – 0.21 ppb to 0.34 ppb, Average 0.22 ppb (Note, only five wells required testing)

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