

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2025

*Washington Center
4573 State Route 40, Argyle, New York 12809
(Public Water Supply ID#NY5710494)*

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, we will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other quality standard. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Donald Goff, Director of Maintenance for Washington Center at 518-638-8274, extension 228.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, 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 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. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the number 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.

Our water system serves a maximum of 157 residents, about 75 staff and from 20 to 75 visitors daily. Our water source is groundwater derived from two drilled wells (designated as Well #2 and Well #3) which are each approximately 500 feet deep. Well #3 serves as the primary well, and well #2 serves as the backup well. The wells are located on the immediate property on the south side of the building. The water enters the building, flows through two water softeners, and then is injected with chlorine prior to flowing through a 1,000-gallon storage tank where the required contact time is met for chlorination prior to distribution.

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 section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" 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.

The source water assessment when it was completed rated our water source as having an elevated susceptibility to microbial and petroleum product contamination. These ratings are primarily due to the close proximity of the wells to a septic system and an underground storage tank in the assessment area. The underground storage tank has since been removed and replaced with two above-ground fuel tanks. Due to the location of the tanks to the wells, the elevated susceptibility to petroleum product contamination still exists. While the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered to our consumers meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination. Public notification is required if regulated contaminants are found in our water, and increased monitoring may result.

The State Health Department will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning, and education programs. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted above.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, principal organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds and radiologicals. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. The table below includes compounds that have been detected in our water system.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably 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 (800-426-4791) or the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Glens Falls District Office at (518) 793-3893.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measure- ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Compounds							
Barium	No	11/13/25 11/13/25	0.196 (WL3) 0.107 (WL2)	mg/l	2	2 = MCL	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Chloride	No	11/09/23	103	mg/l	N/A	250 = MCL	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Sulfate	No	11/9/23	25.0	mg/l	NA	250 = MCL	Naturally occurring.
Iron	No	11/9/23	26	µg/L	N/A	300 = MCL	Naturally occurring.
Manganese	No	11/9/23	40	µg/L	N/A	300 = MCL	Naturally occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination.
Zinc	No	11/9/23	0.278	mg/L	NA	5 = MCL	Naturally occurring; Mining waste.
Nickel	No	11/13/25 11/13/25	0.0039 (WL3) 0.0051 (WL2)	mg/l	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring.
Nitrate	No	7/17/25 7/17/25	1.37 (WL2) 0.81 (WL3)	mg/l	10	10 = MCL	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (Range of values)	No	7/18/24	0.090 ¹ (0.071- 0.091) ²	mg/l	1.3	1.3 = AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from Wood preservatives.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measure- ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Sodium	No	7/17/25	111 ³	mg/l	N/A	(See Health Effects) ³	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Disinfection By-Products							
Halo acetic Acids (mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono-, and di- bromoacetic acid)	No	8/14/25	2.8	µg/l	N/A	60 = MCL	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Trihalomethane s (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloro methane, dibromochloro methane, and bromoform)	No	8/14/25	8.6	µg/l	N/A	80 = MCL	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.

Notes
1 - During 2024, five samples were collected and analyzed for lead and copper for the year. The number represents the 90th percentile level detected, which is calculated as the average of the two highest levels detected when there are 5 samples. Lead was not detected at any of the sites tested. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
2 – These numbers represent the range of copper levels detected from each of the 5 sites tested for the monitoring period.
3 - Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

Definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Non-Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Milligrams per liter (mg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million-ppm)

Micrograms per liter (µg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion-ppb)

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.

N/A: Not applicable.

ND: Non-detect.

(WL2): Sample was collected from well 2.

(WL3): Sample was collected from well 3.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no MCL violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

Lead Service Line Inventory

A Lead Service Line (LSL) is defined as any portion of pipe that is made of lead which connects the water main to the building inlet. An LSL may be owned by the water system, owned by the property owner, or both. The inventory includes both potable and non-portable SLs within the system. In accordance with the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) our system has prepared a lead service line inventory. When this inventory was completed, it was posted at all entrances of the facility, clearly visible, that the inventory was completed and why it was completed and information to anyone how to obtain the inventory if one desire. A copy of this inventory is available and can be obtained by contacting us, as noted above.

INFORMATION ON LEAD

Lead can cause serious health problems in people of all ages, especially for pregnant women, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed, young children, and the elderly. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Washington Center is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing any known lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components used in the facility. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even if tap sampling results do not detect at one point in time. Boiling water does not remove lead in water. Washington Center will make every effort in using the safest components when doing repairs and replacement to facility plumbing. Before using tap water, residents, visitors, and staff need to flush the pipes for several minutes by running the tap before drinking, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you are concerned about lead in the water and want more information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure, it is available at

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2025, our system received no violation and was complying within applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, 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 available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

There are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- ♦ Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- ♦ Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- ♦ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential firefighting needs is met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- ♦ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ♦ Report leaky faucets to the person in charge. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- ♦ Report toilets if water is continually running. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide you with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office if you have any questions.