

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report For 2020
Worcester Water District #2
Worcester, New York
(Public Water Supply ID# 3800160)

Introduction

To comply with State and Federal regulations, Worcester Water District #2 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. This report provides an overview of last years 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 **The Town Clerk at 397-8978. A message can be left with her for Aaron House, the water system operator.** We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meetings are held at 7pm, every second and fourth Monday of the month at the Town Barn.

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 included: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount 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. The water that flows from your tap comes from two wells. These wells are located at the end of Park Street on water District Property. Activity around the wells is restricted to protect the water quality. The adjacent building houses pump controls, water meter, treatment chemicals, chemical feed pumps and water storage tank level indicator chart. Chlorine is added to protect against microbial contaminants. Orthophosphate is added to coat the inside of plumbing to help prevent leaching of lead and copper into the water you drink. The water is pumped from the source through the system to each customer. Additional water is stored in tanks at the other end of town to help ensure a constant supply during periods of increased demand.

Caryl's Lake is available as an emergency backup source only. Customers will be notified if it is used. Our water system serves approximately 660 people through 350 service connections.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As State regulation require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. 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.

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 Oneonta District Health Department at 432-3911.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measure- ment	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate	NO	12/3/20	0.299	mg/L	10	10	runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	NO	9/17- 9/25/19	1* (1-9.2)	ug/L	AL = 15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	NO	9/17- 9/25/19	0.288* (0.018- 0.574)	mg/L	AL = 1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)	NO	9/17/20	10.1	ug/L	80	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids (mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and dibromoacetic acid)	NO	9/19/19	1.58	ug/L	60	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.

* During 2019 we collected and analyzed 10 samples for lead and copper. The level included in the table represents the 90th percentile of the 10 samples collected. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the values detected at your water system. The action level for lead and copper was not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.

Maximum Contamination 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.

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

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

Micrograms per liter (ug/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion – ppb).

NA: Not applicable.

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

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected, however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2020, our system was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water requirements.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

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 healthcare 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?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve:

- Saving water saves energy and reduced 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 fire fighting needs are 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:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how any dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check your faucets for leaks. A slow drip wastes 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fixing it saves almost 6,000 gallons yearly.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. 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.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, then check the meter after 15 minutes, if it moved, you have a leak.
- Listen for unusual "noise" in your plumbing. A "running" toilet can make a rushing sound and a similar noise will carry from a leak in your service line or water main. Let us know if you suspect a problem in the water main.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The cost of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call us if you have questions.