

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2017
Ashford West Valley Town Water District
PO Box 306, West Valley, NY 14171
(Public Water Supply ID# NY0430123)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Ashford West Valley Town Water District will be issuing a report annually 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 water resources. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level (MCL) or any other drinking water health standard. 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 please contact the town hall at 942-6016, or attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, 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. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department and the FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health as tap water.

Our water supply is obtained from two drilled wells located in the community. We started using Well #1 (school well) in 2016. The other active well is Well #3 (fire dept.) which we started using in 2017. All water is treated with an ortho/polyphosphate product to sequester natural iron minerals and then disinfected with chlorine before it enters the distribution system. We have a 153,000 gallon storage tank that is located on Felton Hill Road, and the storage tank maintains pressure in the system and provides valuable reserves for fire protection.

Our water system serves approximately 410 residents through 220 service connections.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: coliform bacteria, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, disinfection byproducts, radiological 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, is 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 Cattaraugus County Health Dept. at (716) 701-3386. Much information is also available directly from the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations>.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg./High) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Disinfectants							
Chlorine Residual	No	2017	Avg. = .46 (.21 - .84)	mg/l	N/A	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium - Well #1 - Well #3	No No	9/6/16 9/19/17	617 467	µg/l	2,000	MCL = 2,000	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium - Well #3	No	9/19/17	2.2	µg/l	100	MCL = 100	Discharge from steel and pump mills; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper ¹	No No	5/16/17 11/2/17	.378 (.11 - .396) 336 (9 - 551)	µg/l	1,300	AL = 1,300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead ²	No	5/16/17 11/2/17	1.6 (<1 - 2) 1.3 (1 - 1.6)	µg/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.
Manganese - Well #3	No	9/19/17	48	µg/l	N/A	MCL = 300	Naturally occurring, indicative of landfill contamination.
Nitrate	No	12/13/17	High = 1.03 (<1 - 1.03)	mg/l	10	MCL = 10	Run off from fertilizer; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion from natural deposits.
Sodium - Well #3	No	9/9/17	4.1	mg/l	N/A	See Health Effects ³	Naturally occurring, road salt, water softeners, animal waste.
Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	8/9/17	High = 7.7 (4.4 - 7.7)	µg/l	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha Activity	No	3/22/17	High = 1.41 (0 - 1.41)	pCi/L	0	MCL = 15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium 226 and 228	No	11/7/17	High = 1.73 (.63 - 1.73)	pCi/L	0	MCL = 5	Erosion of natural deposits.

- Notes:**
- 1 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the sites tested. 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 copper values detected at your water system. In this case, twenty samples were collected in May and the 90th percentile value was the third highest value of 378 ug/l. In November, ten samples were collected and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value of 336 mg/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
 - 2 - The levels presented, 1.6 ug/l in May and 1.3 ug/l in November, represent the 90th percentile of the samples collected for lead. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
 - 3 - Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets.

Definitions:

- Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- 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.
- Micrograms per liter (µg/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).
- Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).
- Not Detected (ND):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent was not present.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of radioactivity in water.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations, but we have learned through our testing that some compounds are present in very low concentrations. However, these contaminants were detected below state and federal drinking water limits.

Also, even though we did not exceed the action level for lead, we are required to provide information on lead in drinking water. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community due to the presence of very old paint, or as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. The Town of Ashford is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in old plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your private plumbing, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, 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 expanded facilities;
- ◆ 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 many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- ◆ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ◆ Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- ◆ 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.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to provide your family with quality drinking water this past year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we need to perform routine maintenance and plan for future repairs and improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of required operation and maintenance are reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments are periodically necessary in order to address such improvements and repairs. We ask that all customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of the community, our way of life, and our children's future. Again, please call the town hall or attend an upcoming board meeting if you have questions.