

MARCH 2025

**ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT**  
**VILLAGE OF MONTOUR FALLS**  
**408 W. MAIN STREET**  
**MONTOUR FALLS NY 14865**  
**PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY # NY4801184**

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Montour Falls 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 water 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 water, please contact our Water Operator, Lance VanAlstine at (607)535-9582 or the NYS Department of Health (607)324-8371. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend meetings of the Village of Montour Falls Board of Trustees, which are held on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:00 pm, in the Village Hall, 408 W. Main Street, Montour Falls.

**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, 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 amounts 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 is drawn from two wells located within the Village. There are 576 water service connections and the system serves a population of approximately 1800. During the calendar year 2024, 80,255,000 gallons of water were pumped, averaging 6,687,917 gallons per month. A total of 36,927,756 gallons were billed, resulting in a loss of approximately 118,705 gallons per day. This can be caused by several factors including emergency & training purposes, unmetered water (public uses), flushing hydrants, bleeders, etc. The average cost to residents for water is \$280.92/year.

Water is pumped from the two wells into the system that supply three water storage tanks. Water pumped at the well site is chlorinated as it is pumped. The chlorine residual is monitored daily at points within the distribution system.

**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, bacteria, fecal coliform, E. Coli on treated water at various locations

within the village on a monthly basis. Contaminants such as inorganic compounds include barium, nitrate, lead and copper. The table enclosed depicts which compounds were analyzed. None of the contaminants shown approach the maximum contaminant level set by the EPA. 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 water, might be reasonably expected to contain very small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or the NYS Health Department (607)324-8371.

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 as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. The Village of Montour Falls is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in 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 water, 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 (800)426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

#### **INFORMATION ON 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-potable SLs within a system. In accordance with the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) our system has prepared a lead service line inventory and is publicly accessible by [health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/service\\_line/NY4801184.htm](http://health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/service_line/NY4801184.htm) and is available upon request by calling the Village Office at (607)535-7367.

#### **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.

#### **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 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 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.

### **WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the table, our system had no 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.

### **IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2024, our system was mostly in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements. During the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024, our system failed to monitor for PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4 Dioxane, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your water during that time. Although, the Village had collected samples earlier in the year and the aforementioned contaminants were not detected at that time.

### **THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY!**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. 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 questions.

## Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes / No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit of Measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, AL or TT)	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead (Include 90% and Range of lowest to Highest levels)	N	8/24/2022	90% = 1.9 Range: ND – 5.7	ug/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (Include 90% and Range of lowest to Highest levels)	N	8/24/2022	90% = 0.101 Range: 0.011 - 0.152	mg/l	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Barium	N	8/2/2022	0.0249	mg/l	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	N	8/29/2024	#4 0.47	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined radium 228	N	6/17/2024	0.44	pCi/L	0	0	Erosion of natural deposits.
<u>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) Max Res time</u> (chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)	N	8/29/2024	40.6	ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter
<u>Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)</u> (mono-di- and tri-chloroacetic acid, and mono- and di-bromoacetic acid)	N	8/29/2024	6.95	ug/l	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water Chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
Chlorine Residual	N	Daily	Average: 1.0	mg/l	N/A	4	Water additive used to control microbes.

## DEFINITIONS

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG's as possible.

**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 drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

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

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

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

**Micrograms per liter (ug/l) (parts per billion ppb)** - corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid

**Picocuries per liter (pCiL)** - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in the water

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Value**- The values reported for lead and copper represent the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. 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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead and copper values detected in the water system.

**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)** – A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.