# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024
# Village of Oxford
# PO Box 866, Village Hall
# Oxford NY, 13830
# (Public Water Supply ID# NY0801746)

## Introduction

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Oxford Water Department annually issues 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 during 2024. 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 **Mr. William Kelsey, Superintendent of Public Works, at (607) 843-8831**. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more please attend any of our regularly scheduled village board meetings. The meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month at 7:30PM at the Oxford Village Hall, 20 Lafayette Park, Oxford, NY.

## 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 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.

Our water system serves approximately 1700 people through 577 service connections. Our water sources are three groundwater drilled wells located within the Village. Water is pumped from the wells into the Water Treatment Plant where it is treated with NSF approved, liquid Sodium Hypochlorite solution (bleach) for disinfection. The water is pumped from the Water Treatment Plant to two storage facilities (250,000-gallon steel tank and 450,000-gallon buried reservoir).

## 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, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological, synthetic organic compounds, PFAS, and 1,4 dioxane. 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.

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 Chenango County Health Department at (607-337-1673).

| Table of Detected Contaminants | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Contaminant | Violation Yes/No | Date of Sample | Level Detected (Range) | Unit Measurement | MCLG | Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL) | Likely Source of Contamination |
| | | | | | | | |
| **Inorganic Contaminants** | | | | | | | |
| Nitrate Well #1 | No | 12/5/24 | 2.55 | mg/L | 10 | MCL = 10 | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Nitrate Well #2 | No | 12/5/24 | 2.55 | mg/L | 10 | MCL = 10 | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Nitrate Well #3 | No | 12/5/24 | 1.29 | mg/L | 10 | MCL = 10 | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Lead[2] | No | 6/16/22 | 0.0028[1] (<0.0010-0.0057) | mg/L | 0 | AL= 0.015 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems and service lines connecting building to water mains, erosion of natural deposits. |
| Copper | No | 6/16/22 | 0.0866[1] (<-0.0010-0.1300) | mg/L | 1.3 | AL= 1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives. |
| Barium Well #1 | No | 4/29/24 | 0.065 | mg/L | 2 | MCL = 2 | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Barium Well #2 | No | 4/29/24 | 0.065 | mg/L | 2 | MCL = 2 | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Barium Well #3 | No | 4/29/24 | 0.0545 | mg/L | 2 | MCL = 2 | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Nickel Well #1 | No | 4/29/24 | 5.28 | µg/L | n/a | n/a | Discharge from steel and pipe mills; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Nickel Well #3 | No | 4/29/24 | 5.45 | µg/L | n/a | n/a | Discharge from steel and pipe mills; Erosion of natural deposits. |

| Contaminant | Violation Yes/No | Date of Sample | Level Detected (Range) | Unit Measurement | MCLG | Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL) | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Disinfection Byproducts** | | | | | | | |
| Total Tri-Halomethanes LRAA1 | No | 8/8/24 | 9.4 | µg/L | n/a | MCL = 80 | By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter. |
| Haloacetic Acids LRAA1 | No | 8/8/24 | <6.00 | µg/L | n/a | MCL = 60 | By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill armful organisms. |
| **Radiological Contaminants** | | | | | | | |
| Gross Alpha Activity Well #1 | No | 6/9/21 | 2.97 | PCi/L | 0 | MCL = 15 | Erosion of Natural Deposits |
| Combined Radium (226 and 228) Well #1 | No | 6/9/21 | 1.167 | PCi/L | 0 | MCL = 5 | Erosion of Natural Deposits |
| Gross Alpha Activity Well #3 | No | 3/6/18 | -0.390 | PCi/L | 0 | MCL = 15 | Erosion of Natural Deposits |
| Combined Radium Well #3 | No | 3/6/18 | 0.090 | PCi/L | 0 | MCL = 5 | Erosion of Natural Deposits |
| Gross Alpha Activity Well #2 | No | 9/6/18 | -0.467 | PCi/L | 0 | MCL = 15 | Erosion of Natural Deposits |
| | | | | | | | |
| Combined Radium Well #2 | No | 9/6/18 | 0.749 | PCi/L | 0 | MCL = 5 | Erosion of Natural Deposits |

1-The level presented represents the 90th percentile of 10 tested sites. 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 lead and copper values detected at your water system. The action level for lead and copper was not exceeded at any of the test sites.

2- Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. .**The Village of Oxford** is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and have questions about how to have your water tested, contact **the Chenango County Department of Health at 607-337-1673.** Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at *https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

## 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.

***Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)***: A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

***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).

***Nanograms per liter (ng/l)***: Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

***Picograms per liter (pg/l)***: Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).

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

***Millirems per year (mrem/yr)***: A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

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

## 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. During 2024, we also had our water tested for PFAS and 1,4 Dioxane contaminants. Results for the 2024 sampling were received and no PFAS or 1,4 Dioxane contaminants were detected in the 2024 samples.

## Is our water system meeting other rules that govern operations?

During 2024, our water system was in compliance with applicable state drinking water operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

## 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 have made it publicly accessible by providing you with the following link: https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/service_line/

## Important Information Regarding Lead:

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. .**The Village of Oxford** is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and have questions about how to have your water tested, contact **the Chenango County Department of Health at 607-337-1673.** Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at *https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.*

## 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 up 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.
- 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).

## System Improvements

During 2024, the Oxford Village Public Water System installed new water system control panels.

## Closing

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 at **(607) 843-8831** if you have questions.