

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024
System Name: Newton Water Works
System Address: 26 Hudson Street
(Public Water Supply NYID# 1101757)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, [Newton Water Works](#) 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. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We detected none of those contaminants and found zero of those contaminants at a level higher than the State allows. Again, we are proud to report that our water system has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality statement.](#)) 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 [Keith White, Superintendent, \(607\) 749-2511](#). 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 at the Village of Homer offices \(The second Thursday of each month at 6pm\)](#). The meetings are held at 31 North Main Street Homer 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 source is [groundwater drawn from two 70-foot wells. Groundwater is drawn from two drilled wells. They pump water from the Scott aquifer. The water is pumped into two storage tanks and the water is gravity fed from the tanks. One tank is located on wolf road in homer and the other tank is located on Carroway hill road. The two well pumps are located at 26 Hudson Street Homer NY. During 2024, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. During 2024 our water system did not experience any restrictions on our water source.](#) The water is [Disinfected with chlorine gas](#). prior to distribution.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The NYS DOH has completed a federally required source water assessment for our drinking water source. This assessment has rated our 2 wells as having a medium-high to high susceptibility to various contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the highly permeable aquifer from which the water source is derived. These ratings are also due to the close proximity of land uses and activities to the wells, including low intensity residential development and significant fertilizer use/storage. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION NEEDS

The Village's wells are in the Cortland-Homer-Preble Aquifer System. This aquifer is classified as a sole source aquifer. This implies that Homer relies completely on this aquifer and has no other source for its water supply. The Town of Homer has an aquifer protection district which includes protection zones for the Village's wells. This district provides land use restrictions and permitting of many new non-residential developments within the Town. The specifics of the district may be reviewed at the Town of Homer office or the Cortland County Health Department. The Village is currently updating its comprehensive plan, and it is hoped that from this plan the Village would implement similar protection zoning as the Town for the public water supply.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves people through 1251 service connections. The total water produced in 2024 was 158,038,000 gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 432,000 gallons per day. Our highest single pump day was 548,000 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 88,808,950 gallons. This leaves a total of 69,229,050 which there was no charge for. This water was used to flush hydrants, water mains and sewer lines. Also, fight fires, clean streets, ice skating rink for recreation department, and leakage. (The average water main break can accede 100,000 gallons a day easily). This also includes water usage by all village departments. (Water and sewer, Fire department, Street and parks department and all the village parks, police department, and Village office. In 2024, water customers were charged a flat rate of \$31.50 for up to 5,000 gallons, then 2.85 per 1,000 gallons from 5001 to 160,000 and \$2.85 per 1000 gallons from 160,001 and over for water metered.

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, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. (modify this section appropriately you may wish to list the contaminant groups, you may even want to include the number of contaminants in each group, or you may wish to refer to another portion of the report where you list the name of each contaminant analyzed for but not detected). 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 (Cortland County) Health Department at (607-753-5035).

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds. None of the compounds we analyzed for were detected in your drinking water.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Chloride Well#2 Well#3	NO NO	3/7/2023 3/7/2023	17.3 2.00	Mg/l Mg/l	N/A N/A	2.00	Naturally Occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Sodium Well#2 Well#3	NO NO	3/1/2023 3/1/2023	9.88 12.8	Mg/l Mg/l	N/A N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring or road salt, water softeners, and animal waste.
Sulfate Well#2 Well#3	NO NO	1/16/2020 1/16/2020	8.18 9.95	Mg/l	N/A	250	Naturally occurring
Iron Well#2 Well#3	NO NO	1/16/2020 1/16/2020	97.2 ND	Mg/l	N/A	300	Naturally Occurring
Manganese Well#2 Well#3	NO NO	1/16/2020 1/16/2020	2.2 ND	Mg/l	N/A	300	Naturally occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination.
Sulfate Well#2 Well#3	NO NO	1/16/2020 1/16/2020	8.81 9.95	Mg/l	N/A	250	Naturally Occurring
Zinc Well#2 Well#3	NO NO	1/16/2020	12.2 ND	Mg/l	N/A	5000	Naturally occurring; mining waste
Nitrate Well#2 Well#3	NO NO	5/13/2024 5/13/2024	2.49 2.44	Mg/l	10 10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (see # 1 Below)	NO	7/2022	106 Range:3.2-155	Ug/l	1,300	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits: leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (See # 2 below)	NO	7/2022	2.3 Range: N/D-7.5	Ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs-Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, and bromoform)	NO	'24 Ann average	8.89 Range: (2.8-10.33)	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.
Barium Well #2 Well#3	NO NO	1/16/2020 1/16/2020	27.0 40.4	Ug/l	N/A	2,000	Discharge of drilling waste; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Gross alpha activity (including radium – 226 but excluding radon and uranium) Well#2 Well#3	NO NO	4/22/2019 4/22/2019	0.762 -0.267	pCi/l ³	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined radium Well#2 Well#3	NO NO	4/22/2019 4/22/2019	0.484 0.708	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

Beta particle and photon activity from manmade radionuclides							
Well#2	NO	4/22/2019	0.268				Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
Well#3	NO	4/22/2019	0.383	pCi/L	N/A	503	

1 – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest single turbidity measurement (0.9 NTU) for the year occurred on (give date). State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU. Although (give date) was the month when we had the fewest measurements meeting the treatment technique for turbidity, the levels recorded were within the acceptable range allowed and did not constitute a treatment technique violation.

2 – The level presented is the 90th percentile of the (include number, e.g., 10) sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent measurements that is equal to or below it. This means in our system copper levels in (insert number, e.g., 8) sites are below the 90th percentile value and (insert number, e.g., 2) sites are above the 90th percentile. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 – The level presented is the 90th percentile of the (include number, e.g., 10) sites tested. The action level for lead was exceeded at two of the 10 sites tested.

4 – This level represents the highest locational running annual average calculated from data collected.

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.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is an evaluation of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is an evaluation of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

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 that are 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.

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. [\[Newton Water Works\]](#) 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 wish to have your water tested, contact [\[Newton Water Works \(607-749-2511\)\]](#). 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>.

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations, but we have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements. Although nitrate was detected below the MCL, it was detected at ([well#2 - 2.49mg/l](#) and [well#3 - 2.44 mg/l](#)) which is greater than one-half of the MCL. Therefore, we are required to present the following information on nitrate in drinking water:

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

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

INFORMATION ON CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water and groundwater under the influence of surface water. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. During 2024, as part of our routine sampling, [\(include number of samples collected and sample location, e.g. 25 samples of Placid Reservoir source water\)](#) were collected and analyzed for Cryptosporidium oocysts. Of these samples, [\(explain results e.g. three were presumed positive for Cryptosporidium, and one was confirmed positive. Therefore, our testing indicates the presence of Cryptosporidium in our source water\)](#). Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. [Five additional filtered water samples were tested for Cryptosporidium oocysts and none were detected.](#) Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, a gastrointestinal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their health care provider regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

INFORMATION ON LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

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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 [\(Getting a copy of it at the Town Hall. Located at 31 North Main Street\)](#).

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 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.
- ◆ 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.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

In 2024, [the new water meters were finished being installed. We installed a new 6-inch water main 112 feet from Warren Street to Clinton Street. We eliminated an old 4-inch water main on Warren Street that looped into Clinton Street. We are continuing to replace leaking service lines and curb stops.](#)

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family 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 at (607-749-2511) for any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith White
Water and Sewer Superintendent