Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2025
Newton Water Works
Village of Homer
Homer, NY 13077
(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. 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 concern about your drinking water, please contact Keith White, Water Superintendent at 607-597-9134. 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 offices located at 31 North Main Street on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm. We can discuss any drinking water issues you may have.

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. 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 ground water wells: groundwater is drawn from two 75-foot drilled wells from the Cortland-Homer-Preble aquifer system. The wells pump the water to 3 storage tanks, and the water is gravity fed from the tanks to the village. During 2025 our water system did not experience any restrictions on our water source. The water is treated with gas chlorination.

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 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 permits 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 of 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 2025 was 185,563,000 gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 508,000 gallons per day. Our highest single day was 770,000 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 99,139,396 gallons. This leaves a total of 86,426,604 which there was no charge for. This was used to flush hydrants, water mains & sewer lines, fight fires, clean streets, recreation (ice rink), and to leakage (with an average main break, I 00,000 gallons can be lost in no time). This also includes water usage by all the different departments within the Village (water & sewer dept., streets & parks dept., police dept., fire dept., Village office, and all the parks. In 2025 water customers were charged a flat rate of $31.50 for up to 5000 gallons, then $2.85 per 1000 gallons from 5001 to 160,000 and $2.85 per l 000 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, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, 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, 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 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 Corland County Health Department at 607-753-5035.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measure-ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
CHLORIDE							
Well#2	NO	03/07/23	17.3				Naturally occurring or indicative
Well#3	NO	03/07/23	2.00	Mg/l	N/A	2.00	of road salt contamination.
SODIUM							
Well#2	NO	03/01/23	9.88				Naturally occurring or road salt,
Well#3	NO	03/01/23	12.8	Mg/l	N/A	N/A	water softeners, animal waste.

SULFARE Well#2 Well#3	 NO NO	 01/16/20 01/16/20	 8.18 9.95	 Mg/l	 N/A	 250	 Naturally occurring
IRON Well#2 Well#3	 NO NO	 01/16/20 01/16/20	 97.2 ND	 Mg/l	 N/A	 300	 Naturally occurring
MANGANESE Well#2 Well#3	 NO NO	 01/16/20 01/16/20	 2.2 ND	 Mg/l	 N/A	 300	 Naturally Occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination.
SULFATE Well#2 Well#3	 NO NO	 01/16/20 01/16/20	 8.18 9.95	 Mg/l	 N/A	 250	 Naturally occurring.
ZINC Well#2 Well#3	 NO NO	 01/16/20 01/16/20	 12.2 ND	 Ug/l	 N/A	 5000	 Naturally occurring. Mining waste.
NITRATE Well#2 Well#3	 NO NO	 05/07/25 05/07/25	 2.77 2.75	 Mg/L	 10	 10	 Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion of natural deposits.
COPPER (See Number 1 Below in Notes)	 NO	 07/22/25	 0.165 Range: 3.2-155	 Ug/l	 1300	 AL=1300	 Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
LEAD (See Number 2 below in notes)	 NO	 07/22/25	 0.00181 Range: ND-7.5	 Ug/l	 0	 AL=15	 Corrosion of household plumbing systems: erosion of natural deposits.
TOTAL TRIHALOMTHANES (TTHMs CHLORIFORM, BROMODICHLOROMETHANE, AND BROMOFORM)	 NO	 '25 Ann Average	 8.64 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	 01/16/20 01/16/20	 27.0 40.4	 Ug/l	 N/A	 2000	 Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
GROSS APLHAACTIVITY (INCLUDING RADIUM – 226 BUT EXCLUDING RADON AND URANIUM) Well#2 Well#3	 NO NO	 04/22/19 04/22/19	 0.762 -0.267	 pCi/l[3]	 0	 15	 Erosion of natural deposits.
COMBINED RADIUM -226 AND 228 Well#2 Well#3	 NO NO	 04/22/19 04/22/19	 0.484 0.708	 pCi/L	 0	 5	 Erosion of natural deposits.
BETA PARTICLEAND PHOTONACTIVITY FROM MANMADE RADIONUCLIDES Well#2 Well#3	 NO NO	 04/22/19 04/22/19	 0.268 0.383	 pCi/L	 N/A	 503	 Decay of natural deposits and manmade emissions
Haloacetic acid (HAA5) 216 South Main Street 5 Sunset	 NO NO	 07/10/25 07/10/25	 1.07 <1.00	 Ug/l	 N/A	 60	 By- product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.

5 Microbiological samples were taken each month of 2025

Notes: 1- Copper- The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percentage 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 at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the third highest value. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
2 - Lead- The level presented represents the 90111 percentiles of the 20 samples collected. The action level for lead is not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
3 - The State considers 50 pCi/1 to be the level of concern for beta particles**.**

Definitions:
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of 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 the 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 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 from 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 by 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 at 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*.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS:

During 2025, our system was following applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

INFORMATION ON RADON

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas found in soil and outdoor air that may also be found in drinking water and indoor air. Some people exposed to elevated radon levels over many years in drinking water may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The main risk is lung cancer from radon entering indoor air from soil under homes. In 2004 and 2006, we collected four samples (two from Well #2 and two from Well #3) that were analyzed for radon. The average of the four results was 484.1 picocuries/liter (pCi/1). For additional Information call your state radon program -800-458-1158) or call EPA's Radon Hotline (1-800-SOS-Radon).

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 has made it publicly accessible by contacting Newton Water Works at 607-749-2511. and/or visiting the state website: https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/New-York-State-Lead-Service-Line-Inventory-Map/fkii-zkcq

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 several reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both 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 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 would have a leak.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

In 2025 we installed 65 feet of 6-inch water main connecting Rob San Drive and the new development Dee street to have a complete loop system. We also put an insertion valve in the intersection of Clinton Street and Warren Street. We also capped off an old water main on Elm Street that no longer serves a purpose. We changed out many leaking services throughout the village.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing 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 if you have any questions.

Submitted,

Keith White
Water and Sewer Superintendent