

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024***  
***Walton Village***  
***21 North Street, Walton, NY 13856***  
***(Public Water Supply ID#NY1200274)***

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Village of Walton, 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. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminate level. 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 Ernest Smith, Public Works Superintendent, at (607)865-6110. 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 the first Monday of each month at 6:00p.m at 21 North Street Walton NY 13856. If the meeting night falls on a holiday, the meeting is held Tuesday at the same time.

## **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.

Two well fields supply the Village of Walton.

**AUSTIN LINCOLN WELL FIELD**-Located on Townsend Street in Austin Lincoln Park, this well field contains three wells.

**CURRY WELL FIELD**- Located on Water Street, this well field contains two wells but currently only Curry Well #4 is available to supply water.

Together, the well fields produce an average of 302,299 gallons per day (gpd) with reserve capacity in excess of 400,000 gpd. The water is treated with sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) for disinfection, and Carus 8600 for corrosion control, before distribution. During 2024, our system did not experience restrictions.

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking water sources were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells.

The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. While nitrates (and other inorganic contaminants) were detected in our water, 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 from natural sources. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The nitrate levels in our sources are not considered high for this area. Organic contaminants were detected in the Curry Wells. This is most likely related to the presence of chemical spills in the area. The Village of Walton is working with the appropriate agencies to ensure that impacts to the wells are minimized. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from 2 wellfields containing a total of five wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a high susceptibility to microbials, nitrates, industrial solvents, and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of permitted discharge facilities

(industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government), low intensity residential activities, toxic chemical release facilities, mines, and chemical bulk storage facilities within the assessment area. In addition, the well(s) draws from an unconfined aquifer of unknown hydraulic conductivity. While the source water assessment rates our well(s) as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State’s drinking water standards for microbial contamination. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted below.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves 3088 people through 1,200 service connections. The total produced in 2024 was 110,361,200 gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 302,299 gallon per day. The amount of water delivered to customers was 55,850,000 gallons. A total of 60,598.00 gallons was used at the pool. Some water was used to fight fires, flush mains, and other non-metered activities. The amount of the non-revenue water was approximal 54,511,200. The Village of Walton has an active leak detection program that cut the amount of lost water down significantly. As the water customers are aware, a \$4 million infrastructure improvement project has completed replacing several antiquated and leaking mains. In 2024, water customers were charged \$6.50 per 1,000 gallons of water and the annual charge per user was \$192.

## 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. 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 Oneonta District Office Health Department at (607) 432-3911.

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measurement	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	MCL G	Likely Source of Contamination
Perfluorooctane sulfonic Acid (PFOS)	No	09/19/2024	Curry Well #4- 3.11	ng/l	MCL=10	N/A	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Nitrate	No	12/12/2024	A-L <sup>1</sup> =0.82 Curry <sup>2</sup> - 0.77	mg/l	MCL=10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)	No	09/19/2024	10.9	ug/L	MCL=80	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.
Copper	No	9/21/2023	1.08 <sup>3</sup> Range: 0.045 – 1.61	mg/l	AL=1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Barium	No	02/23/2023 & 12/7/2023	A-L=0.023 Range: 0.016 – 0.023 Curry=0.028 Range: 0.024 – 0.028	mg/l	MCL=2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Arsenic	No	02/23/2023 & 12/07/2023	A.L=1.8 Range: ND – 1.8 Curry=1.4 Range: ND – 1.4	ug/L	MCL=10	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.

Nickel	No	02/23/2023 & 12/07/2023	A.L=0.0007 Range: ND – 0.0007 Curry=0.0011 Range: ND – 0.0011	mg/l	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring
Lead	No	09/17/2023	0.7 <sup>4</sup> Range: ND – 1	ug/l	AL=15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	No	02/23/2023 & 12/7/2023	AL=2 Range: ND - 2	ug/l	MCL=10 0	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.

**Notes:**

1. A-L is the Austin Lincoln well field.
2. Curry is the Curry well field.
3. The level of copper presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of measurements that are 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, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value (1.08 mg/l). The action level for copper was exceeded at one of the sites tested.
4. The level of lead presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of measurements that are equal to or below it. The 90% percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead values detected at your water systems. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the second highest value (0.7 ug/l). The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

**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.

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

**Non-Detects (ND):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**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):** 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).

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

**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. [Village of Walton](#) 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 [Ernest Smith, Public Works Superintendent at \(607\) 865-6110](#). 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 2024, our 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 going to the villages webpage <https://villageofwalton.com/VoW/index.html> and to the department of public works and/or visiting the office at 21 North Street Walton Ny 13856.

## **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).

## **INFORMATION FOR NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING RESIDENTS**

### **Spanish**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### **French**

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le ou parlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.

## **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 after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

## **SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

In 2011, we performed a major upgrade of the water infrastructure. The costs of the improvements are reflected in the water capital rate structure. The significant increase in this capital charge is necessary to assure a safe and reliable water supply to our customers.

## **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 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.