

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024
Queensbury Water Department
823 Corinth Rd
Queensbury, NY 12804
(Public Water Supply ID# 5600114)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Queensbury Water Department will annually issue 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 drinking water, please contact **Christopher Harrington, Water Superintendent; telephone number (518) 793-8866 Ext. 2019**. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town board meetings. The meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of each month (exceptions, because of Holidays will be in January, February, and September of 2025) at 7:00 PM at the Queensbury Activity Center at 742 Bay Rd, Queensbury, NY 12804 (next to the Town Hall).

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 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. The Queensbury Water District source is the Hudson River, a surface water supply that is located at the Sherman Island Dam. During 2024, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source.

FACTS AND FIGURES

The Queensbury Consolidated Water District serves approximately 21,200 people within the Town of Queensbury through 9,000 service connections. The system also provides water to the Kingsbury Water District, Hudson Falls, Moreau, the Warren-Washington Industrial Park, and Fort Edward Water District No. 1, for a total service population of approximately 40,500 people. The total amount of water produced in the previous four billing cycles was 1.72 billion gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system is 5.03 million gallons per day. The highest single day was 10.13 million gallons. The amount of accounted water is 1.68 billion gallons annually. This leaves an unaccounted total of 32.0 million gallons, or 1.9%. This unaccounted water use was due to fighting fires, leakage, recreation, street sweeping and illegal use. Accounting for these factors, our leakage rate is at about 1.6% - an extraordinarily low number and a sign of a well-maintained distribution system along with an aggressive capital plan. In 2024, water customers were billed quarterly at the rate of \$35.00 for the first 8,000 gallons then \$2.40 per 1,000 gallons up to 3,250,000 gallons. The rate then drops to \$0.95 per 1,000 gal for bulk customers above 3,250,000 gallons. An Ad Valorem tax is collected through the Town's property tax bill and is directed toward capital improvements, bond payments and fire protection. The rate for 2024 was \$0.43/\$1,000. On average, the total bill including taxes and water consumption, for a house assessed at \$225,000, using 80,000 gallons per year, was approximately \$347. For comparison, the average cost in 1993 was approximately \$315.

HOW IS OUR WATER TREATED

Water is pumped from the river into a treatment facility consisting of the following: chemical pre-treatment, flocculation, coagulation, sedimentation, pre-chlorination, filtration, post-chlorination, and corrosion control. The treatment plant is manned 24 hours a day, 365 days per year under the supervision of a IA operator.

I. Typical or average raw and treated water information:

	<u>Raw Water</u> Average (Range)	<u>Finished Water</u> Average (Range)
pH	7.0 (6.7 – 7.5)	8.4 (7.9 – 9.1)
Alkalinity	15.3 mg/L (8.7 – 20.0 mg/L)	24.4 mg/L (16.7 – 52.7 mg/L)
Hardness		18.3 mg/L (12.0 – 23.0 mg/L)
Turbidity	0.72 NTU (0.41-2.08 NTU)	0.08 NTU (0.05 – 0.14 NTU)
Turbidity in Distribution System		0.17 NTU (0.07 – 1.62 NTU)*
An anomalous high turbidity of 6.33 NTU was seen as a result of flushing of distribution system on April 23 rd 2024		
Color	30.1 units (21.0 – 72.0 units)	0.79 units (0.00 – 5.00 units)
Chlorine, Free	0 mg/L	0.89 mg/L (0.70 – 1.22 mg/L)
Chlorine, Free in Distribution System		0.47 mg/L (0.00 – 1.03 mg/L)

II. Chemicals used in the treatment process:

<u>Chemical</u>	<u>Typical</u> <u>Feed Rate</u>	<u>Maximum</u> <u>Feed Rate</u>
Aluminum Sulfate	28.7 mg/L	80.5 mg/L
Sodium Hypochlorite	1.6 mg/L	2.8 mg/L
Sodium Carbonate	14.5 mg/L	25.2 mg/L

Definitions of terminology and abbreviations are found on page 4.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The NYS Department of Health has evaluated the Hudson River's susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), and their findings are summarized in the paragraph below. It is important to stress that these assessments were created using available information and only estimate the potential for source water contamination. Elevated susceptibility ratings do not mean that source water contamination has or will occur for this water supply. The Queensbury Water District provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure the water delivered to consumers meets all applicable standards.

Based on documented polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination of sediments upstream of the intake, the Queensbury Water District is tested throughout the year for PCBs. The finished water is tested annually, and the raw water is tested quarterly. During 2024, PCBs were not detected in source or finished drinking water; PCBs have never been detected at any point in the facility's operational history. It should also be noted that rivers in general are highly sensitive to microbial contaminants.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. The list of tested contaminants we test for can be found in NYS DOH Part 5, Subpart 5-1. The Appendix of this document lists the contaminants that were detected and the levels they were measured at. 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, is more than one year old.

The Queensbury Water Department reports that in 2024 there were no sampling violations for the year. Results can be found below.

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 (New York State Department of Health – Glens Falls District Office) at (518) 793-3893.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON CONTAMINANTS

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. Through September 2018, as part of our routine sampling, monthly samples were collected of untreated Hudson River source water and analyzed for Cryptosporidium oocysts. Of these samples, three showed oocysts with the average being 0.3. 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. 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, immunocompromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immunocompromised 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.

Giardia

Giardia is a microbial pathogen present in varying concentrations in many surface waters and groundwater under the influence of surface water. Giardia is removed/inactivated through a combination of filtration and disinfection or by disinfection. Through September 2018, as part of our routine sampling, monthly samples were collected of untreated Hudson River source water and analyzed for Giardia cysts. Of these samples, five showed cysts with the average being 5.6. Therefore, our testing indicates the presence of Giardia 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. Ingestion of Giardia may cause Giardiasis, an intestinal illness. People exposed to Giardia may experience mild or severe diarrhea, or in some instances no symptoms at all. Fever is rarely present. Occasionally, some individuals will have chronic diarrhea over several weeks or a month, with significant weight loss. Giardiasis can be treated with anti-parasitic medication. Individuals with weakened immune systems should consult with their health care providers about what steps would best reduce their risks of becoming infected with Giardiasis. Individuals who think that they may have been exposed to Giardiasis should contact their health care providers immediately. The Giardia parasite is passed in the feces of an infected person or animal and may contaminate water or food. Person-to-person transmission may also occur in day care centers or other settings where hand washing practices are poor.

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 Queensbury Water Department 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 the Queensbury Water Department at 518-793-8866. 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>.

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 the following web address: <https://www.queensbury.net/departments/water/lead-service-lines/>.

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 that a water system must follow.
- Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): Running annual average for a specific sample point.
- Non Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.
- Non-Applicable: (N/A) Does not apply.
- 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): One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- Micrograms per liter (µg/L): One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the tables in the appendix, our system did not have any MCL violations in 2024. Details can be found in Appendix B. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the state.

SUMMARY OF DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM SAMPLING POINTS

Distribution system samples are collected daily for turbidity, chlorine residual, pH, and bacteriological analysis. Typically, twenty sample locations are regularly monitored throughout the distribution system.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2024, our system complied with all applicable State drinking water requirements. All testing was performed and reported in the required time.

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. Immunocompromised 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 TO 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.
- ♦ 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 up to 10 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded.
- ♦ 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:

Finished replacement of Glenwood Ave. water main (Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act).
Restored water main in the Route 254/Route 9 intersection (Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act).
Refurbished High Lift # 2.

In 2025:

Finish water main restoration in the Route 254/Route 9 intersection (Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act).
Continued water tank maintenance.

For additional information about the Queensbury Water Department please visit the Town of Queensbury web site at: www.queensbury.net, from the menu select "Departments" then choose "Water".

Appendix – Detected Contaminants

New York State Sanitary Code Compliance Monitoring Requirements

Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date or Frequency of Sample	Level Detected: Maximum (Range)	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform 20 samples/month	No	2/25/24	One positive	n/a	n/a	TT = 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment
<i>Table 4A - Combined Filter Effluent Turbidity (5 filters)</i>							
Turbidity ¹	No	8/12/2024	0.14	NTU	N/A	TT=<1 NTU	Soil Runoff
Turbidity ¹	No	All 12 months	100% of samples <0.3 NTU	%	100% of samples <0.3 NTU	TT=95% of samples <0.3 NTU	Soil Runoff
<i>Lead and Copper</i>							
Copper	No	8/22/2023	22 ³ (4 – 42)	µg/L	1300 µg/L	AL – 1300 µg/L	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	No	8/22/2023	3.5 ⁴ (ND – 17.3)	µg/L	0	AL – 15 µg/L	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<i>Table 8B – Primary Inorganic Chemicals</i>							
Barium	No	2/7/2024	0.005	mg/L	2.0 mg/L	2.0 mg/L	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
<i>Table 8D – Secondary Inorganic Chemicals</i>							
Sodium ²	No	2/7/2024 5/1/2024 8/7/2024 11/6/2024	16.4 ² (14.7 – 17.7)	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring, road salt, animal waste, sodium carbonate
Chloride	No	4/6/2022	8.1	mg/L	N/A	250 mg/L	Erosion of natural deposits, water disinfection by-product
Manganese	No	4/6/2022	6	µg/L	N/A	300 µg/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate	No	4/6/2022	12.4	mg/L	N/A	250 mg/L	Erosion of natural deposits, Runoff from fertilizer
Zinc	No	4/6/2022	0.004	mg/L	N/A	5.0 mg/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Iron	No	4/6/2022	20	µg/L	N/A	300 µg/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Color	No	4/6/2022	5	Unit	N/A	10	Organic Matter
<i>Table 8C - Nitrates</i>							
Nitrate	No	2/7/2024	0.09	mg/L	10 mg/L	10.0 mg/L as Nitrogen	Erosion of natural deposits, Runoff from fertilizer

Table 9A – Disinfection Byproducts

Total Trihalomethanes	No	Quarterly Samples 2/24, 5/24, 8/24, 11/24	LRAA 1 - 45.6 ⁶ (28.0 – 61.3) ⁷	µg/L	N/A	80 µg/L	By-products of drinking water chlorination. THM's are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
			LRAA 2 – 52.4 ⁶ (27.0 – 82.7) ⁷				
			LRAA 3 – 61.4 ⁶ (38.0 – 71.4) ⁷				
			LRAA 4 – 51.8 ⁶ (30.0 – 74.3) ⁷				
Total Haloacetic Acids	No	Quarterly Samples 2/24, 5/24, 8/24, 11/24	LRAA 1 - 15.7 ⁶ (11.8 – 19.8) ⁷	µg/L	N/A	60 µg/L	By-products of drinking water chlorination. HAA5's are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
			LRAA 2 – 19.9 ⁶ (16.0 – 20.8) ⁷				
			LRAA 3 – 15.4 ⁶ (13.2 – 16.4) ⁷				
			LRAA 4 – 18.8 ⁶ (13.6 – 17.2) ⁷				
Total Organic Carbon	No	Monthly	Average: 1.7 (1.4 – 2.3) Annual Range ⁵	mg/L	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment

1 - Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We measure it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest combined filter effluent turbidity measurement for the year occurred on 11/08/24 (0.30 NTU). State regulations require that combined filter effluent point turbidity must always be below 1.0 NTU. The regulations also require that 95% of the combined filter effluent point turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU. All levels recorded were well below the acceptable range allowed and did not constitute a treatment violation.

2 - Water containing more than 20 mg/L sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted diets. This represents 4.73 mg of sodium in one 8 fluid oz. glass of water.

3 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 33 sites tested. 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 copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 33 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was 22.0 µg/L. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested with the highest level being 42 µg/L.

4 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 33 samples collected. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead values detected at your water system. In this case, 33 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was 3.5 µg/L. Of the 33 samples taken 20 results were **NON-DETECT**. The highest level being 17.3 µg/L. ND (**NON-DETECT**) is any sample less than 1.0 µg/L.

5 - Total Organic Carbon is not regulated, but its calculated removal and compliance ratio must equal or exceed performance requirements established by the US-EPA. All levels recorded were well below the acceptable range allowed and did not constitute a treatment technique violation.

6 – Stage 2 of the Disinfection Byproduct Rule calculates the highest average at a single location-Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA).

7- This data represents the range of result values sampled within the calendar year from each location.