

DUTCHESS COUNTY

WATER AND
ASTEWATER AUTHORITY



VALLEY DALE WATER SYSTEM

WATER QUALITY REPORT

2024

WHO WE ARE

Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority (DCWWA) is an independent, not-for-profit public benefit corporation that was established in 1991 by an act of the State at the request of Dutchess County. Authority actions are governed by an appointed Board of Directors.

As owner and operator of 18 drinking water systems that collectively serve over 22,000 people, DCWWA is committed to the providing reliable drinking water with quality customer service at a reasonable cost, proportionate to the cost of proper operation and environmental stewardship.

OUR MISSION

To protect and enhance the health, environmental sustainability and economic stability of Dutchess County and its residents through the provision of clean drinking water and proper treatment of wastewater.

CONTACT US

Call our office Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at

(845) 486-3601



Email us anytime at

DCWWA@dutchessny.gov



Visit our website to sign up for system-specific Alerts and Advisories

<http://www.dcwwa.org/>



Attend one of our monthly Board Meetings virtually, or in person at our office located at

1 Lagrange Ave, Poughkeepsie, NY



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN WATER MANAGEMENT

We are thrilled to announce that DCWWA Operator Cody Nelson, the Lead Operator of your water system, has been honored with the prestigious Operator of the Year award from the New York section of the American Water Works Association. This recognition highlights his exceptional expertise and commitment to maintaining the highest standards of water service for your community.



DRINKING WATER FACTS

FROM THE U.S. EPA AND THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



How water sources can contain contaminants

Drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) comes from natural sources, including rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells.

As water travels over the surface of the land and through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals. Substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity—even radioactive material—can also be picked up along the way.

Potential contaminants in New York water sources

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amount of contamination. This does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In the Hudson Valley's groundwater supplies, potential sources of contamination include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses, bacteria, and protozoa
- Inorganic contaminants, including metals, salts, and radioactive materials that may occur naturally in rocks and soils or leach from manmade sources
- Organic contaminants, which often result from chlorine combining with naturally occurring organic matter



How safe water standards are set and enforced

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA set regulations that limit the levels of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Water providers are required to perform routine testing for regulated contaminants and report the results to the New York State Department of Health and water users. If a water system fails to meet drinking water standards or violates regulations, penalties can be imposed. These penalties might include fines, mandatory corrective actions, or, in extreme cases, legal action to shut down or restrict a water system. If something is wrong with your water, you will be notified.



More information about contaminants and their potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791 or the Dutchess County Department of Health at (845) 486-3404.



**Department
of Health**

Important Information from the New York State Department of Health

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this water source were evaluated. The State source water assessments include 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. 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 be contaminated. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected, if any. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters in the future. The source water assessment has rated our water source as having an elevated susceptibility to microbes, nitrates, industrial solvents, and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of the wells to permitted discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government) and the residential and agricultural land use and related activities in the assessment area. In addition, the wells draw from fractured bedrock and overlying soils may not provide adequate protection from potential contamination. The County and State Health Departments will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. The source water assessment summary for your system is available by calling the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health at 845-486-3404 and requesting a copy.

WHERE DOES OUR

WATER COME FROM?

The Valley Dale Water System has been a cornerstone of your community since 1973. Owned by DCWWA since 1997 and operated by our dedicated staff since 2022, the system continues to deliver safe, high-quality drinking water to 500 residents every day.

Your water comes from six groundwater wells, which we rotate in and out of service throughout the year to balance demand and maintain steady production. Because of this, you might notice slight, natural changes in water quality from time to time—but rest assured, your water consistently meets all state health and safety standards.

From the wells, water is pumped to the treatment plant, where it goes through a multi-step process to ensure it's clean and safe to drink. First, we add sodium hypochlorite to disinfect the water and eliminate any harmful microbes. Then, the water flows through one-micron cartridge filters that remove fine, naturally occurring sediments—particles up to 100 times smaller than a human hair—to improve clarity, taste, and quality.

Once treated, the water is stored in two 20,000-gallon underground tanks, then pumped to a 5,000-gallon hydropneumatic tank that keeps water pressure consistent as it moves through 2.5 miles of distribution piping.

The Valley Dale Water System serves 164 customer connections. While that's much smaller than the national average of around 8,000 customers per water system, it means we're able to focus on what matters most—**you**. Smaller systems like Valley Dale are all about serving neighbors, not numbers. Every household we serve is part of what makes this community special, and we're committed to delivering the same high-quality water and service you'd expect from a much larger system.



Are There Contaminants in Our Drinking Water?

As State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. In 2024, our staff conducted tests for over 100 different contaminants. Of these, 17 contaminants were present at detectable levels.

The following table presents information on the contaminants found in your drinking water, when they were detected, the concentrations found, and how those levels compare with State standards. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants tend to change slowly over time. Some of our data, though representative, are more than a year old.

Please read on for more information on your drinking water and the contaminants it contains.

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

VALLEY DALE WATER SYSTEM

Public Water System ID NY1302813

Contaminant: **HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)**

Why we test for it: Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Sources in drinking water: By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
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System Wide	7/2/2024	4.50	60	N/A	ug/L	☒
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Contaminant: **TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHM)**

Why we test for it: Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Sources in drinking water: By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
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System Wide	7/2/2024	17.00	80	N/A	ug/L	☒
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Contaminant: **BARIUM**

Why we test for it: Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

Sources in drinking water: Discharge from drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
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Entry Point	12/11/2024	0.05	2	2	mg/L	☒
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Well 5	11/20/2024	0.07	2	2	mg/L	☒
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Contaminant: **BERYLLIUM**

Why we test for it: Some people who drink water containing beryllium well in excess of the MCL over many years could develop intestinal lesions.

Sources in drinking water: Discharge from metal refineries and coil-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
Entry Point	12/11/2024	0.90	4	4	ug/L	☒

Contaminant: **CHLORIDE**

Why we test for it: Chloride is essential for maintaining good health. Research has not conclusively demonstrated that human exposure to chloride itself causes adverse health effects, although exposure to high levels of certain chloride salts has been associated with adverse health effects in humans. For example, high dietary intake of sodium chloride can be a contributing factor to high blood pressure, but this has been attributed mainly to the presence of sodium. The New York State standard for chloride is 250 milligrams per liter, and is based on chloride's effects on the taste and odor of the water.

Sources in drinking water: Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
Entry Point	4/28/2022	88.00	250	N/A	mg/L	☒

Contaminant: **COPPER**

Why we test for it: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Sources in drinking water: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
System Wide	6/6/2024 through 6/10/2024	0.20 0.024 - 0.289	Action Level = 1.3	1.3	mg/L	☒

Heavy Metal, Light Risk: Lead and Copper in Your Water

To monitor for lead and copper in drinking water, samples are collected from homes across the distribution system identified by DCWWA and the Department of Health as most likely to have plumbing that could contribute to metal levels, usually older homes with legacy piping. In this round, five samples were collected from across the system. These results are used to calculate the 90th percentile value (presented above), which isn't an average—it's the value that's higher than 90% of the samples. This helps to highlight areas where concentrations may be closer to the action level, which is important for identifying and addressing potential problems. For the most recent testing, **all lead and copper results, including 90th percentile values, were well below the action levels set by the EPA.**

Contaminant: **LEAD**

Why we test for it: Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Sources in drinking water: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
System Wide	6/6/2024 through 6/10/2024	4.90 ND - 7.17	Action Level = 15	0	ug/L	☒

Contaminant: **MERCURY**

Why we test for it: Some people who drink water containing inorganic mercury well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience kidney damage.

Sources in drinking water: Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
Entry Point	12/11/2024	0.64 0.39 - 0.88	2	2	ug/L	☒

Contaminant: **NICKEL**

Why we test for it: Contact with high concentrations of nickel has the potential cause a variety of side effects on human health, such as allergy, cardiovascular and kidney diseases, lung fibrosis, lung and nasal cancer.

Sources in drinking water: Naturally occurring, byproduct of some manufacturing waste.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
Entry Point	4/28/2022	0.00	N/A	N/A	ug/L	☒

Contaminant: **NITRATE (AS N)**

Why we test for it: Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

Sources in drinking water: Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
Entry Point	4/24/2024	1.29	10	10	mg/L	☒

Well 5

11/20/2024

1.78

10

10

mg/L

**Contaminant: SODIUM**

Why we test for it: Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

Sources in drinking water: Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
Entry Point	4/28/2022	43.00	(See Health Effects)	N/A	mg/L	☒

Contaminant: TURBIDITY - DISTRIBUTION

Why we test for it: Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. Please pay special attention to the additional statement in this document regarding Cryptosporidium.

Sources in drinking water: Soil runoff.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
System Wide	1/1/2024 through 12/31/2024	0.17 0.10 - 0.22	5	N/A	NTU	☒

Contaminant: TURBIDITY - ENTRY POINT

Why we test for it: Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. Please pay special attention to the additional statement in this document regarding Cryptosporidium.

Sources in drinking water: Soil runoff.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
Entry Point	1/1/2024 through 12/31/2024	0.20 0.14 - 0.24	1	N/A	NTU	☒

Contaminant: **BETA PARTICLE AND PHOTO RADIOACTIVITY FROM MANMADE RADIONUCLEOTIDES**

Why we test for it: Certain materials are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water containing beta and photon emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Sources in drinking water: Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
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Entry Point	4/28/2022	1.12	50	0	pCi/L	☒
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Contaminant: **COMBINED RADIUM-226 AND RADIUM-228**

Why we test for it: Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Sources in drinking water: Erosion of natural deposits.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
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Entry Point	4/28/2022	0.93	5	0	pCi/L	☒
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Contaminant: **URANIUM**

Why we test for it: Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Sources in drinking water: Erosion of natural deposits.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
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Entry Point	4/18/2022	0.67	30	0	ug/L	☒
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Contaminant: **PERFLUORO-OCTANESULFONIC ACID (PFOS)**

Why we test for it: PFOS caused a range of health effects when studied in animals at high exposure levels. The most consistent findings were effects on the liver and immune system and impaired fetal growth and development. Studies of high-level exposures to PFOS in people provide evidence that some of the health effects seen in animals may also occur in humans. The United States Environmental Protection Agency considers PFOS as having suggestive evidence for causing cancer based on studies of lifetime exposure to high levels of PFOA in animals.

Sources in drinking water: Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
Well 1	9/25/2024	3.60	10	N/A	ng/L	☑
Well 2	9/25/2024	2.90	10	N/A	ng/L	☑
Well 5	11/20/2024	1.10	10	N/A	ng/L	☑

Contaminant: **PERFLUORO-OCTANOIC ACID (PFOA)**

Why we test for it: PFOA caused a range of health effects when studied in animals at high exposure levels. The most consistent findings were effects on the liver and immune system and impaired fetal growth and development. Studies of high-level exposures to PFOA in people provide evidence that some of the health effects seen in animals may also occur in humans. The United States Environmental Protection Agency considers PFOA as having suggestive evidence for causing cancer based on studies of lifetime exposure to high levels of PFOA in animals.

Sources in drinking water: Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
Well 1	9/25/2024	6.00	10	N/A	ng/L	☑
Well 2	9/25/2024	4.70	10	N/A	ng/L	☑
Well 4	9/25/2024	5.60	10	N/A	ng/L	☑
Well 5	11/20/2024	5.40	10	N/A	ng/L	☑
Well 6	9/25/2024	4.70	10	N/A	ng/L	☑

Contaminant: **PERFLUORO-BUTANESULFONIC ACID (PFBS)**

Why we test for it: Research is ongoing to understand the potential health effects of unregulated perfluoroalkyl compounds.

Sources in drinking water: Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
Well 1	9/25/2024	2.70	N/A	2000	ng/L	☒
Well 4	9/25/2024	2.90	N/A	2000	ng/L	☒
Well 5	11/20/2024	2.60	N/A	2000	ng/L	☒
Well 6	9/25/2024	3.00	N/A	2000	ng/L	☒

Contaminant: **PERFLUOROBUTANOIC ACID (PFBA)**

Why we test for it: Research is ongoing to understand the potential health effects of unregulated perfluoroalkyl compounds.

Sources in drinking water: Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
Well 1	9/25/2024	6.80	N/A	N/A	ng/L	☒
Well 2	9/25/2024	8.60	N/A	N/A	ng/L	☒
Well 4	9/25/2024	2.90	N/A	N/A	ng/L	☒
Well 5	11/20/2024	4.00	N/A	N/A	ng/L	☒
Well 6	9/25/2024	4.00	N/A	N/A	ng/L	☒
Well 7	9/25/2024	2.10	N/A	N/A	ng/L	☒

Contaminant: **PERFLUOROHEPTANOIC ACID (PFHPA)**

Why we test for it: Research is ongoing to understand the potential health effects of unregulated perfluoroalkyl compounds.

Sources in drinking water: Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
Well 1	9/25/2024	1.90	N/A	N/A	ng/L	☒

Well 5	11/20/2024	1.90	N/A	N/A	ng/L	☒
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Contaminant: **PERFLUORO-HEXANOIC ACID (PFHXA)**

Why we test for it: Research is ongoing to understand the potential health effects of unregulated perfluoroalkyl compounds.

Sources in drinking water: Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
Well 1	9/25/2024	5.80	N/A	N/A	ng/L	☒

Well 2	9/25/2024	5.40	N/A	N/A	ng/L	☒
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Well 5	11/20/2024	1.70	N/A	N/A	ng/L	☒
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Contaminant: **PERFLUORO-PENTANOIC ACID (PFPEA)**

Why we test for it: Research is ongoing to understand the potential health effects of unregulated perfluoroalkyl compounds.

Sources in drinking water: Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.

Sample Location	Sample Date(s)	Level Detected (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Unit	Meets State Standards?
Well 1	9/25/2024	9.20	N/A	N/A	ng/L	☒

Well 2	9/25/2024	8.00	N/A	N/A	ng/L	☒
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Well 5	11/20/2024	1.50	N/A	N/A	ng/L	☒
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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.

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.

Milligrams per liter (mg/L) One part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

Micrograms per liter (ug/L) One part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

Nanograms per liter (ng/L) 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.

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

One milligram per liter equals about one drop of water in a 10-gallon fish tank.

1 ppm



One microgram per liter equals about one drop of water in a 13,000-gallon swimming pool.

1 ppb



WHAT DOES THIS

INFORMATION MEAN?

Through regular testing, we've learned that some contaminants are present in your water—as is common with most water systems. The good news is that every substance detected was well below the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) set by the State. These MCLs are strict safety standards designed to protect public health, and our results show that your water continues to exceed those rigorous standards. We share this information to keep you informed and confident in the quality of your drinking water. As always, our team remains committed to providing water that's not just safe—but also clean, clear, and reliable.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Although the drinking water provided to the Valley Dale community met or exceeded all health-based State and Federal standards, 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).

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM COMPLYING WITH OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

Yes! During 2024, our system complied with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.





CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER?

Sources of LEAD in Drinking Water



Reduce Your Exposure To Lead



To find out for certain if you have lead in drinking water, **have your water tested.**

Replace Your Lead Service Line



Identify Other Lead Sources In Your Home

Lead in homes can also come from sources other than water. If you live in a home built before 1978, you may want to have your paint tested for lead. Consider contacting your doctor to have your children tested if you are concerned about lead exposure.



For more information, visit: [epa.gov/safewater](https://www.epa.gov/safewater)

Although **testing has never revealed hazardous levels of lead in your drinking water**, we are required to present the following

Important Information on Lead Contamination

from the United States Environmental Protection Agency

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. DCWWA is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but we 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 our office. 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>.

SCAN AND SEARCH

to quickly identify your service line material



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) DCWWA has prepared a lead service line inventory, which you can access by contacting our office to request a copy or by clicking or scanning the QR code above to search for your address on the New York State DOH's LSLI interactive map.

We are partners in

WATER CONSERVATION



Saving Water Saves Money

Using less water reduces the cost of treatment chemicals and electricity used in pumping water to your home. It also reduces strain on equipment, which means we need to replace wells, pumps, storage tanks, and other vital system components less often.



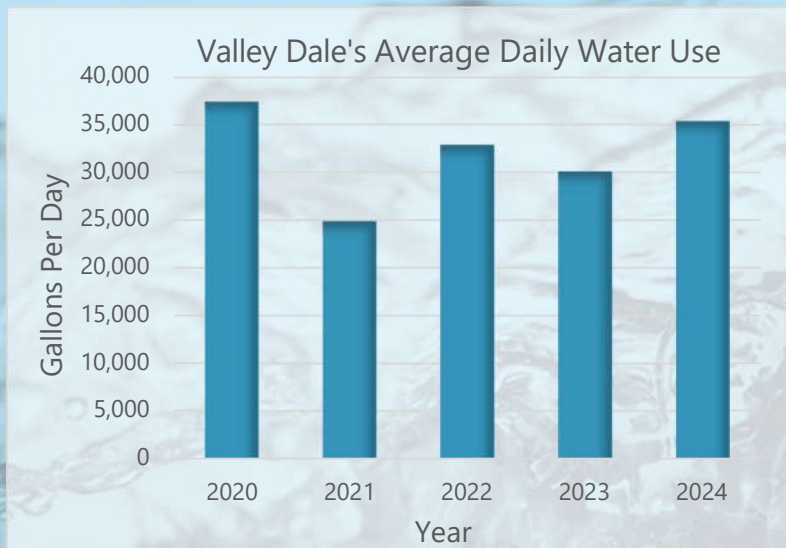
Saving Water Keeps Your System Sustainable

Using less water reduces stress on the aquifer your well draws from, keeping your community prepared for drought conditions and reducing the impact of future shifts in aquifer recharge patterns due to climate change.



Saving Water May Help Improve Water Quality

As the volume of water in the aquifer decreases, certain contaminants may become more concentrated in groundwater, causing users to experience unpleasant taste, color, and odor more often.



Every Drop Counts

Since 2021, water use in the Valley Dale Water system has increased by 42%, which adds up to nearly four million gallons each year! Even small increases in household usage can make a big impact over time.

If you have a home water softener or filtration system, we recommend checking its performance—these systems can use more water than usual when they need maintenance or adjustments.

Don't have a softener? No problem! Keep reading for simple, effective ways to conserve water at home and help reduce overall demand.

Simple Tips for Everyday Water Conservation



Don't let leaks drain your wallet. Even a small drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day, adding up to over 6,000 gallons a year! Take a few minutes to check faucets, toilets, and pipes—and fix any leaks as soon as you spot them.



Toilet leaks can be sneaky! To check for one, add a few drops of food coloring to the toilet tank and wait 10 to 15 minutes. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, you've got a leak. It's an easy test that could save 30,000 gallons a year.



Water lawns and gardens early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation. Make the most of every drop by switching to drip irrigation for targeted watering and adding a thick layer of mulch around plants to lock in moisture.

IN CLOSING

A Message from DCWWA's Executive Director

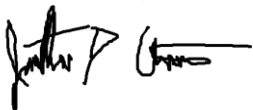
On behalf of the entire team at the Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority, I want to thank you for taking the time to review this Annual Water Quality Report. Our dedicated operations staff takes pride in the accurate and timely collection of thousands of water samples each year. The information in this report represents countless hours spent collecting, analyzing, and managing sample data. Presenting you with this annual synopsis of your water quality is a key part of our commitment to transparency, and we sincerely hope you find this report informative.

As the new Executive Director, a role I took on in October of 2024, I am honored to lead such a committed team of water professionals. I remain deeply focused on ensuring that our services meet the evolving needs of the people and communities we serve. As we face rising operational costs, we remain committed to controlling price increases and keeping rates as affordable as possible without compromising the quality of service you rely on.

I encourage you to reach out to our knowledgeable staff with any questions or concerns you may have about the water we provide. Your trust is important to us, and we are here to ensure that you have the data and confidence you need to make informed decisions for your family.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to serving you for years to come.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Churins

Executive Director
Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority