DUTCHESS COUNTY
WATER AND WASTEWATER AUTHORITY

BIRCH HILL WATER SYSTEM

WATER QUALITY REPORT

2025

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 a Board of Directors appointed by the Dutchess County Legislature.

As owner and operator of 18 drinking water systems that collectively serve over 22,000 people, DCWWA is committed to 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, 8:00 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

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.

NEW YORK STATE | 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 microbial and nitrate contamination. These ratings are due primarily to the proximity of the wells to a landfill and a permitted discharge facility (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 Birch Hill Water System has been in service since 1991. The system has been owned by DCWWA since 2009 and has been operated by DCWWA staff since 2022.

Birch Hill's water source is groundwater drawn from three wells, which were drilled in 1998. To maintain water production, these wells are periodically redeveloped when their pumping rates decline.

Water from the wells is pumped to the treatment plant, where it goes through a multi-step process to ensure it is clean and safe. First, sodium hypochlorite is added to disinfect the water and eliminate any harmful microbes. Disinfected water passes through greensand filters, which remove naturally occurring metals that can affect the water's look, taste, and overall quality. After that, phosphoric acid is added to prevent corrosion in the pipes, which keeps harmful metals like lead and copper from leaching into the water. Finally, sodium hydroxide is used to raise the pH. This helps preserve the system's infrastructure while keeping your water crisp and refreshing.

After treatment, the water is stored in a 15,000-gallon underground tank and pumped to two 1,000-gallon hydropneumatic tanks, which help maintain consistent pressure as the water travels through the system's 9,085 feet of distribution piping.

Are There Contaminants in Our Drinking Water?

As State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. In 2025, our staff conducted tests for over 50 different contaminants. Of these, 14 contaminants were present at detectable levels.

The following pages show what was detected, when samples were collected, how much was found, and how those results compare with State health standards. Some contaminants are tested less often because their levels usually remain stable over time. When that happens, the most recent available result may be from an earlier year, but it still reflects the current quality of your drinking water.

In 2021, samples collected from two raw well sources, Well 4A and Well C4, exceeded the State standard for color. Color has no health impacts and is effectively removed by Birch Hill's water treatment equipment: Birch Hill's finished water meets all relevant safety and aesthetic standards.

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

Map of Dutchess County groundwater and surface water sources available online at https://gis.dutchessny.gov/nri/

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Birch Hill Water System

Public Water System ID Number NY1330021

Disinfectants and Treatment Chemicals

Orthophosphate

A treatment chemical added to control corrosion in water system piping.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Range			Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Dates	Min	Average	Max	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Entry Point	Daily	1/1/25 - 12/31/25	1.64	**2.34**	4.66	N/A	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**
System Wide	Monthly	1/22/25 - 12/3/25	0.525	**0.8**	1.2	N/A	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**

Chlorine Residual

An oxidizing chemical added during water treatment to kill bacteria and other pathogens.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Range			Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Dates	Min	Average	Max	MRDL	MCLG		Yes/No
Entry Point	Daily	1/1/25 - 12/31/25	0.46	**1.08**	3.04	4	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**

Disinfection Byproducts

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)

Byproducts formed when chlorine used to disinfect drinking water reacts with naturally occurring organic matter from soil and decaying vegetation in the source water.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
System Wide	Every 3 Years	8/24/22	**3.9**	80	N/A	µg/L	**Yes ✓**

Lead and Copper Monitoring

Copper

A metal commonly used in household plumbing that can enter drinking water when piping corrodes. It may also come from erosion of natural mineral deposits or from copper released by some wood preservatives.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Range			Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Dates	Min	90th Percentile	Max	AL	MCLG		Yes/No
System Wide	5 Samples Every 3 Years	8/27/25 - 9/3/25	0.167	**0.528**	0.563	1.3	1.3	mg/L	**Yes ✓**

Note: The value presented above represents the 90th percentile of the sites tested for copper. In this case, 5 samples were collected throughout the distribution system, and the action level was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

Inorganic Contaminants

Zinc

A naturally occurring metal that can enter drinking water from erosion of natural mineral deposits or from mining wastes.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Well 4A	As Needed	7/26/21	**3.07**	5	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**
Well 5A	As Needed	2/15/21	**2.32**	5	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**
Well C4	As Needed	7/30/21	**0.154**	5	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**

Sulfate

A naturally occurring mineral that enters drinking water as it dissolves from rocks and soil.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Well 4A	As Needed	7/26/21	**39.1**	250	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**
Well 5A	As Needed	2/15/21	**62.1**	250	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**
Well C4	As Needed	7/30/21	**45.7**	250	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**
Entry Point	Annual	4/19/23	**51.6**	250	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**

Sodium

A naturally occurring mineral that can enter drinking water from rocks and soil, road salt used for winter deicing, water softener brine discharges, and animal waste.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Well 4A	As Needed	7/26/21	**16.6**	See Note	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**
Well 5A	As Needed	2/15/21	**20.9**	See Note	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**
Well C4	As Needed	7/30/21	**38.8**	See Note	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**
Entry Point	As Needed	4/19/23	**33.7**	See Note	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**

Note: 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.

Selenium

An element that occurs naturally in rocks and soils and can enter drinking water from natural deposits. It may also come from industrial discharges, including refineries and mines.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Range			Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Dates	Min	Average	Max	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Entry Point	Every 3 Years	3/27/25 and 4/9/25	ND	**0.61**	1.22	50	50	µg/L	**Yes ✓**

Nitrate (as N)

A nutrient that occurs naturally in the environment and is also widely used in fertilizers. It can enter drinking water through runoff from fertilizer use, septic systems or sewage, and erosion of natural mineral deposits.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Well 5A	As Needed	2/15/21	**0.257**	10	10	mg/L	**Yes ✓**
Entry Point	Annual	4/9/25	**0.255**	10	10	mg/L	**Yes ✓**

Nickel

A naturally occurring metal that can enter drinking water from erosion of natural mineral deposits or from wastes generated during some manufacturing processes.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Well 4A	As Needed	7/26/21	**0.0176**	N/A	N/A	µg/L	**Yes ✓**
Well 5A	As Needed	2/15/21	**0.0923**	N/A	N/A	µg/L	**Yes ✓**
Well C4	As Needed	7/30/21	**0.0441**	N/A	N/A	µg/L	**Yes ✓**

Manganese

A mineral that occurs naturally in soil and rock that can enter drinking water from these natural deposits. Elevated levels may also indicate contamination from nearby landfill sites.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Range			Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Dates	Min	Average	Max	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Entry Point	Quarterly	2/6/25 - 11/5/25	ND	**0.9**	1.8	300	N/A	µg/L	**Yes ✓**

Chloride

This naturally occurring mineral can enter drinking water from rocks and soil. Elevated levels may also indicate contamination from road salt used for winter deicing.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Well 4A	As Needed	7/26/21	**29.5**	250	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**
Well 5A	As Needed	2/15/21	**31.9**	250	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**
Well C4	As Needed	7/30/21	**65.6**	250	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**
Entry Point	As Needed	4/19/23	**52.73**	250	N/A	mg/L	**Yes ✓**

Beryllium

This metal can enter drinking water from industrial discharges associated with metal refining and manufacturing in the electrical, aerospace, and defense industries.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Range			Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Dates	Min	Average	Max	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Entry Point	Every 3 Years	3/27/25 and 4/9/25	ND	**1.44**	2.89	4	4	µg/L	**Yes ✓**

Barium

A naturally occurring metal that can enter drinking water from erosion of natural mineral deposits. Other sources may include discharges from drilling wastes and metal refineries.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Well 4A	As Needed	7/26/21	**0.00814**	2	2	mg/L	**Yes ✓**
Well 5A	As Needed	2/15/21	**0.0239**	2	2	mg/L	**Yes ✓**
Well C4	As Needed	7/30/21	**0.0159**	2	2	mg/L	**Yes ✓**

Antimony

Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Well C4	As Needed	7/30/21	**0.0012**	6	6	µg/L	**Yes ✓**

Volatile Organic Contaminants

Toluene

Leaks from gasoline tanks; Discharge from petroleum factories. Leaching of solvent from lining of potable water tanks.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Well 4A	Every 3 Years	5/1/24	**1.26**	5	N/A	µg/L	**Yes ✓**
Well 5A	Every 3 Years	5/1/24	**0.75**	5	N/A	µg/L	**Yes ✓**

Radiological Contaminants

Uranium

A radioactive element naturally present in rocks and soils that can enter drinking water through erosion of natural deposits.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Entry Point	Every 3 Years	4/9/25	**2.6**	30	0	µg/L	**Yes ✓**

Gross Alpha Activity (inclulding radium-226 but excluding radon and uranium)

This measure of naturally occurring radioactivity can result from erosion of natural mineral deposits.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Entry Point	Every 3 Years	4/9/25	**1.58**	15	0	pCi/L	**Yes ✓**

Physical Characteristics

Turbidity - Raw Well

Turbidity can result from soil runoff entering the source water.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Well 4A	As Needed	7/26/21	**6.96**	N/A	N/A	NTU	**Yes ✓**
Well 5A	As Needed	3/16/21	**1.44**	N/A	N/A	NTU	**Yes ✓**
Well C4	As Needed	7/30/21	**0.55**	N/A	N/A	NTU	**Yes ✓**

Odor

Smell caused by organic or inorganic pollutants originating from municipal and industrial waste discharges or from natural sources.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Well 4A	As Needed	7/26/21	**1**	3	N/A	Units	**Yes ✓**
Well 5A	As Needed	2/15/21	**1**	3	N/A	Units	**Yes ✓**
Well C4	As Needed	7/30/21	**3**	3	N/A	Units	**Yes ✓**
Entry Point	As Needed	4/19/23	**2.67**	3	N/A	Units	**Yes ✓**

Color

Color in drinking water can result from inadequate disinfection, from naturally occurring organic matter such as decaying leaves, plants, and soil, or from dissolved metals such as copper, iron, and manganese.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	MCLG		Yes/No
Well 4A	As Needed	7/26/21	**20**	15	N/A	Units	**No ✗**
Well 5A	As Needed	2/15/21	**5**	15	N/A	Units	**Yes ✓**
Well C4	As Needed	7/30/21	**20**	15	N/A	Units	**No ✗**

Note: Color has no health effects. In some instances, color may be objectionable to some people at as low as 5 units. Its presence is aesthetically objectionable and suggests that the water may need additional treatment.

Unregulated Perfluoroalkyl Substances

Perfluoro-pentanoic Acid (PFPeA)

This synthetic compound has been released into the environment through widespread commercial and industrial use.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	HAL		Yes/No
Well 4A	Annual	8/6/25	**2.32**	50,000	N/A	ng/L	**Yes ✓**
Well C4	Annual	8/6/25	**3.08**	50,000	N/A	ng/L	**Yes ✓**

Perfluoro-hexanoic Acid (PFHxA)

This synthetic compound has been released into the environment through widespread commercial and industrial use.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	HAL		Yes/No
Well C4	Annual	8/6/25	**1.94**	50,000	N/A	ng/L	**Yes ✓**

Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA)

This synthetic compound has been released into the environment through widespread commercial and industrial use.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	HAL		Yes/No
Well 4A	Annual	8/6/25	**2.25**	50,000	N/A	ng/L	**Yes ✓**
Well C4	Annual	8/6/25	**2.75**	50,000	N/A	ng/L	**Yes ✓**

Perfluoro-butanesulfonic Acid (PFBS)

A synthetic chemical released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.

Sample Collection Information			Contaminant Detection Level	Compliance Levels		Units	Compliance
Location	Frequency	Date	Result	MCL	HAL		Yes/No
Well 4A	Annual	8/6/25	**1.99**	50,000	2,000	ng/L	**Yes ✓**
Well C4	Annual	8/6/25	**3.11**	50,000	2,000	ng/L	**Yes ✓**

Note: All perfluoroalkyl substances, besides PFOA and PFOS, are considered Unspecified Organic Contaminants (UOC) which have an MCL = 0.05 mg/L = 50,000 ng/L.

Exterior of the Birch Hill Water Treatment Plant before (left) and after (right) its 2012 upgrade, which added iron and manganese treatment and addressed water quality issues that had affected the community for over 20 years.

DCWWA routinely tests your water for many other potential contaminants, not just those listed in the main table.

In the Birch Hill Water System, the following contaminants were tested during the reporting period, but were not detected at measurable levels.

Entry Point

Inorganic Contaminants

Antimony • Arsenic • Barium • Cadmium • Chromium • Cyanide • Fluoride • Iron • Mercury • Nickel • Silver • Thallium • Zinc

Radioactive Contaminants

Beta particle and photon activity from manmade radionuclides • Combined Radium - 226 and 228

Physical Characteristics

Color

System Wide

Microbiological Contaminants

Total Coliform Bacteria

Lead and Copper Monitoring

Lead

Well 4A

Microbiological Contaminants

Total Coliform Bacteria

Organic Contaminants

Methyl-tertiary-butyl-ether (MTBE)

Volatile Organic Contaminants

1,1,1-Trichloroethane • 1,1-Dichloroethylene (1,1-Dichloroethene) • 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene • 1,2-Dichloroethane • 1,2-Dichloropropane • Benzene • Carbon tetrachloride • Chlorobenzene • cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (cis-1,2-Dichloroethene) • Ethylbenzene • m-Xylene • o-Dichlorobenzene (1,2-Dichlorobenzene) • o-Xylene • p-Dichlorobenzene (1,4-Dichlorobenzene) • p-Xylene • Tetrachloroethylene (Tetrachloroethene) (Perchloroethylene) (Perchloroethene) (PCE) • Total Xylenes • Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (trans-1,2-Dichloroethene) • Vinyl chloride

Synthetic Organic Contaminants

1,4-Dioxane • Hexafluoro-propylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA) • Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (PFHxS) • Perfluorononanic Acid (PFNA) • Perfluoro-octanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) • Perfluoro-octanoic Acid (PFOA)

Unregulated Perfluoroalkyl Substances

11-Chloroeicosafluoro-3-Oxaundecane-1-Sulfonic Acid (11Cl-PF3OUdS) • 1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorodecanesulfonic Acid (8:2FTS) • 1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (4:2FTS) • 1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (6:2FTS) • 4,8-Dioxa-3h-Perfluorononanoic Acid (ADONA) • 9-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-Oxanone-1-Sulfonic Acid (9Cl-PF3ONS) • N-Ethyl Perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid (NEtFOSAA) • N-Methyl Perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid (NMeFOSAA) • Nonafluoro-3,6-Dioxaheptanoic Acid (NFDHA) • Perfluoro(2-Ethoxyethane)Sulfonic Acid (PFEESA) • Perfluoro-3-Methoxypropanoic Acid (PFMPA) • Perfluoro-4-Methoxybutanoic Acid (PFMBA) • Perfluorodecanoic Acid (PFDA) • Perfluorododecanoic Acid (PFDoA) • Perfluoroheptanesulfonic Acid (PFHpS) • Perfluoroheptanoic Acid (PFHpA) • Perfluoro-hexanoic Acid (PFHxA) • Perfluoropentanesulfonic Acid (PFPeS) • Perfluorotetradecanoic Acid (PFTA) • Perfluorotridecanoic Acid (PFTrDA) • Perfluoroundecanoic Acid (PFUnA)

Well 5A

Volatile Organic Contaminants

1,1,1-Trichloroethane • 1,1-Dichloroethylene (1,1-Dichloroethene) • Benzene • Carbon tetrachloride • Chlorobenzene • Ethylbenzene • m-Xylene • o-Dichlorobenzene (1,2-Dichlorobenzene) • o-Xylene • p-Dichlorobenzene (1,4-Dichlorobenzene) • Tetrachloroethylene (Tetrachloroethene) (Perchloroethylene) (Perchloroethene) (PCE) • Total Xylenes • Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (trans-1,2-Dichloroethene) • Vinyl chloride

Synthetic Organic Contaminants

1,4-Dioxane • Hazard Index • Hexafluoro-propylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA) • Perfluoro-butanesulfonic Acid (PFBS) • Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (PFHxS) • Perfluorononanic Acid (PFNA) • Perfluoro-octanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) • Perfluoro-octanoic Acid (PFOA)

Unregulated Perfluoroalkyl Substances

11-Chloroeicosafluoro-3-Oxaundecane-1-Sulfonic Acid (11Cl-PF3OUdS) • 1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorodecanesulfonic Acid (8:2FTS) • 1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (4:2FTS) • 1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (6:2FTS) • 4,8-Dioxa-3h-Perfluorononanoic Acid (ADONA) • 9-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-Oxanone-1-Sulfonic Acid (9Cl-PF3ONS) • N-Ethyl Perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid (NEtFOSAA) • N-Methyl Perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid (NMeFOSAA) • Nonafluoro-3,6-Dioxaheptanoic Acid (NFDHA) • Perfluoro-3-Methoxypropanoic Acid (PFMPA) • Perfluoro-4-Methoxybutanoic Acid (PFMBA) • Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA) • Perfluorodecanoic Acid (PFDA) • Perfluorododecanoic Acid (PFDoA) • Perfluoroheptanesulfonic Acid (PFHpS) • Perfluoroheptanoic Acid (PFHpA) • Perfluoro-hexanoic Acid (PFHxA) • Perfluoropentanesulfonic Acid (PFPeS) • Perfluoro-pentanoic Acid (PFPeA) • Perfluorotetradecanoic Acid (PFTA) • Perfluorotridecanoic Acid (PFTrDA) • Perfluoroundecanoic Acid (PFUnA)

Well C4

Organic Contaminants

Methyl-tertiary-butyl-ether (MTBE)

Volatile Organic Contaminants

1,1,1-Trichloroethane • 1,1-Dichloroethylene (1,1-Dichloroethene) • 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene • 1,2-Dichloroethane • 1,2-Dichloropropane • Benzene • Carbon tetrachloride • Chlorobenzene • cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (cis-1,2-Dichloroethene) • Ethylbenzene • m-Xylene • o-Dichlorobenzene (1,2-Dichlorobenzene) • o-Xylene • p-Dichlorobenzene (1,4-Dichlorobenzene) • Styrene • Tetrachloroethylene (Tetrachloroethene) (Perchloroethylene) (Perchloroethene) (PCE) • Total Xylenes • Vinyl chloride

Synthetic Organic Contaminants

1,4-Dioxane • Hexafluoro-propylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA) • Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (PFHxS) • Perfluorononanic Acid (PFNA) • Perfluoro-octanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) • Perfluoro-octanoic Acid (PFOA)

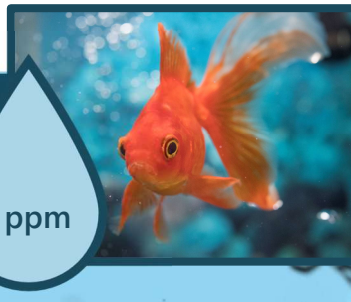
Unregulated Perfluoroalkyl Substances

11-Chloroeicosafluoro-3-Oxaundecane-1-Sulfonic Acid (11Cl-PF3OUdS) • 1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorodecanesulfonic Acid (8:2FTS) • 1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (4:2FTS) • 1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (6:2FTS) • 4,8-Dioxa-3h-Perfluorononanoic Acid (ADONA) • 9-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-Oxanone-1-Sulfonic Acid (9Cl-PF3ONS) • N-Ethyl Perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid (NEtFOSAA) • N-Methyl Perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid (NMeFOSAA) • Nonafluoro-3,6-Dioxaheptanoic Acid (NFDHA) • Perfluoro(2-Ethoxyethane)Sulfonic Acid (PFEESA) • Perfluoro-3-Methoxypropanoic Acid (PFMPA) • Perfluoro-4-Methoxybutanoic Acid (PFMBA) • Perfluorodecanoic Acid (PFDA) • Perfluorododecanoic Acid (PFDoA) • Perfluoroheptanesulfonic Acid (PFHpS) • Perfluoroheptanoic Acid (PFHpA) • Perfluoropentanesulfonic Acid (PFPeS) • Perfluorotetradecanoic Acid (PFTA) • Perfluorotridecanoic Acid (PFTrDA) • Perfluoroundecanoic Acid (PFUnA)

DEFINITIONS

AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
HAL	Health Advisory Level: USEPA Health Advisory Levels identify the concentration of a contaminant in drinking water at which adverse health effects and/or aesthetic effects are not anticipated to occur over specific exposure durations. Health Advisory Levels are not to be construed as legally enforceable federal standards and are subject to change as new information becomes available.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
mg/L	Milligrams per Liter: One part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: 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.
mrem/yr	Millirems per Year: A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
ND	Non-Detect: Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.
ng/L	Nanograms per Liter: One part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).
pCi/L	Picocuries per Liter: A measure of the radioactivity in water.
TON	A subjective measure of odor in drinking water, determined by diluting a sample with odor-free water until the smell is no longer detectable. Higher TON values indicate stronger odor.
TT	Treatment Technique: Required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
µg/L	Micrograms per Liter: One part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

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



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

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

Through routine testing, we detected small amounts of naturally occurring substances in your drinking water. This is common in public water systems and privately-owned wells alike. The good news is that all contaminants detected in the treated water were well below the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) established by the State to protect public health.

In 2021, untreated water from two of Birch Hill's three source wells had visible color that exceeded the level considered acceptable for drinking water. Testing performed in 2023 confirmed that the treated water entering the distribution system had no visible color.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Although the drinking water provided to the Birch Hill 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?

In 2025, we experienced a minor delay in sending lead results to customers who participated in routine lead and copper sampling. Regulations require that we share results within 30 days of receiving them from the laboratory. In this case, we sent notifications in 33 days.

We would like to assure our customers that no lead was detected in any of the samples we collected in 2025, or in any samples since we began treating the water with phosphoric acid in 2022. This treatment helps prevent corrosion and reduces the potential for metals to enter drinking water. Homes in your community were built after lead was no longer commonly used in plumbing materials, and the distribution system contains no lead pipe, so your potential lead exposure through drinking water is very low.

This delay did not affect water quality or pose any risk to public health. We have reviewed our processes and made adjustments to ensure that all future notifications are sent within the required timeframe.

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

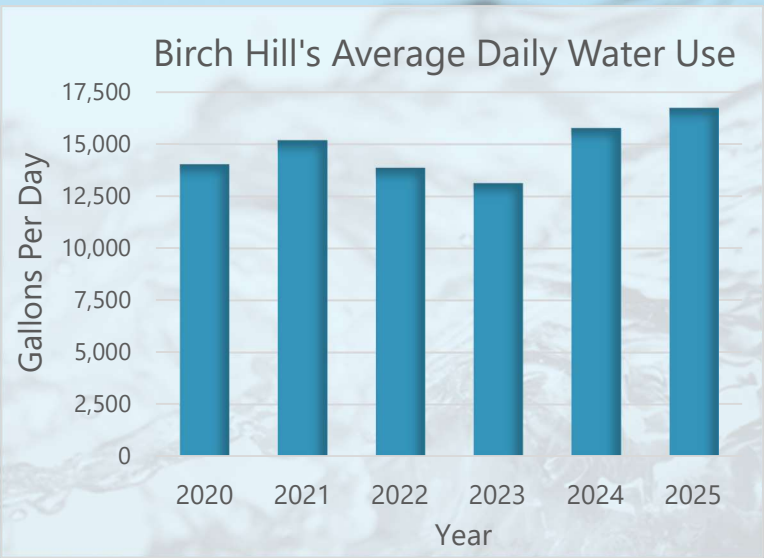
Using less water reduces the cost of treatment chemicals and electricity used in pumping water to your home. It also reduces strain on equipment, which means we need to replace wells, pumps, storage tanks, and other vital system components less often.

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 climage 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 2020, water use in the Birch Hill system has increased by approximately 19%, which adds up to nearly a 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 when they need maintenance or adjustments.

No softener? No problem. Keep reading for easy, effective ways conserve more water at home.

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.