

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2008
Town of Goshen, 41 Webster Avenue, PO Box 217, Goshen, New York 10924

STONEHEDGE WATER DISTRICT

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY ID# 3503614

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Goshen, will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact the Town of Goshen Water & Sewer Department at (845) 294-6193. 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 at 7:30 PM every 2nd and 4th Thursday each month at the Town Hall, 41 Webster Avenue, Goshen, NY.

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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system serves approximately 132 people through 42 service connections. Our water source is groundwater drawn from a drilled well.

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. See "Table of Detected Contaminants" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from a drilled well. The source water assessment has rated this well as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbials. This rating is due primarily to the septic system that is located in the assessment area. In addition, the well draws from an unconfined aquifer of unknown hydraulic conductivity and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. While the source water assessment rates our well as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is tested for bacteria on a monthly basis and due to the negative results this supply has a waiver from disinfection.

A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted in this report.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

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 Orange County Health Department at (845) 291-2331.

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate	No	04/15/08	1.95	mg/l	10	MCL=10	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	No	04/15/08	60.8 ¹	mg/l	N/A	See Note 1	Naturally occurring; Road salt.
Lead	No	08/08	6.2 ² (0.6-9.6)	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	No	08/08	0.17 ³ (0.06-0.19)	mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	No	05/16/07	0.0078	mg/l	2	MCL=2	Discharge of drilling waste; Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate	No	05/16/07	43.0	mg/l	N/A	MCL=250	Naturally occurring
Combined Radium 226 & 228	No	2008 Quarterly	1.43 (1.15-2.25)	pCi/l	0	MCL=5	Erosion of natural deposits

NOTES

- 1- Water containing more than 20mg/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.
- 2- The level presented represents the average of the two highest values of the eight samples that were collected in August 2008. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- 3- The level presented represents the average of the two highest values of the eight samples that were collected in August 2008. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

Definitions:

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.
- 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):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).
- Micrograms per liter (ug/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of the radioactivity in water
- N/A:** Not applicable

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no MCL violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements. We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During 2008, our system was required to test for lead and copper. The testing was performed during the month of September. As noted in the “Table of Contaminants”, lead was detected in all five samples and copper was detected in four of the five samples, but all the detections were below the New York State requirement. Please note that infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead and/or copper levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home’s plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home’s water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2008, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operation, Monitoring and reporting requirements

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are 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 fire fighting needs are met.*

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- ◆ *Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.*
- ◆ *Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.*
- ◆ *Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it up 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.*

We at the Town of Goshen work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water source, which is the heart of our community, our way of life and our children’s future. If you have any questions or comments regarding this Annual Water Quality Report, please do not hesitate to contact our Water & Sewer Department at (845) 294-6193.