

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2025
Blackberry Hill
Town of Southeast, New York
(Public Water Supply ID # 3905683)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, Blackberry Hill, 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. Last year, our tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contamination level or any other water quality standards. 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 Special Districts Administrator for the Town of Southeast at (845) 279-8206, or e-mail at specialdistricts@southeast-ny.gov. We want you to be informed about your drinking water.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system serves approximately 500 people through 225 service connections, which includes multiple dwellings with one or more connections. The water supply consists of two wells located off Noel Court. Well number one produces between 60 to 70 gallons per minute and well number two produces between 12 to 30 gallons per minute. The water is pumped into the plant where it is chlorinated for disinfection. The water then travels to fill three 20,000-gallon water storage tanks. The water is then pumped from the storage tanks using two booster pumps into a hydro-pneumatic tank. The water then discharges from the tank into the distribution system on demand.

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, total trihalomethanes, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Putnam County Health Department at (845) 808-1390.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper *	No	April 2025 May 2025	0.139 (Range = 0.053 – 0.203)	mg/L	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Copper *	No	August 2025	0.0803 (Range = 0.025 – 0.096)	mg/L	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead **	No	August 2025	0.75 (Range = ND – 1.5)	ug/L	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	No	6/13/2025	0.52	mg/L	10	AL = 10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chloride	No	4/22/2025	148	mg/L	n/a	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Sodium	No	4/22/2025	14.6	mg/L	n/a	See Health Effects ***	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Barium	No	4/22/2025	0.032	mg/L	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Zinc	No	4/22/2025	0.021	mg/L	n/a	5	Naturally occurring; Mining waste.
Fluoride	No	4/22/2025	0.12	mg/L	n/a	2.2	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Sulfate	No	4/22/2025	21.4	mg/L	n/a	250	Naturally occurring.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Gross alpha activity (including radium – 226 but excluding radon and uranium)	No	6/18/2024	4.15	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	No	6/18/2024	5.9	ug/L	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Trihalomethanes	No	7/9/2025	0.60	ug/L	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids	No	7/9/2025	1.2	ug/L	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Calcium	No	5/7/2025 8/26/2025	0.65 91.3 91.8 92.6	mg/L	n/a	n/a	
Alkalinity	No	5/7/2025 8/26/2025	162 166 140 151	mg/L	n/a	n/a	
Conductivity	No	5/7/2025 8/26/2025	770 741 748 746	umhos/cm	n/a	n/a	

Footnotes:

* The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 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, 5 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value is the reported value. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

** The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 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 lead values detected at your water system. In this case, 5 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value is the reported value. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

*** 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.

Definitions:

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).

Action Level (AL) - The concentrations of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment, or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

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

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

Nanograms per liter (ng/L) – Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion – ppt).

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

We are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water.

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. *Blackberry Hill* 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 *VRI Environmental Services for Blackberry Hill*. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2025, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

INFORMATION ON LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

A Lead Service Line (LSL) is defined as any portion of pipe that is made of lead which connects the water main to the building inlet. An LSL may be owned by the water system, owned by the property owner, or both. The inventory includes both potable and non-potable SLs within a system. In accordance with the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) our system has prepared a lead service line inventory and have made it publicly accessible by (include instructions on how to access the inventory (including inventories consisting only of a statement declaring that the distribution system has no lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or lead status unknown service lines) and/or visiting the NYS website at:

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/service_line/NY3905683.htm

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

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

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- ◆ Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- ◆ Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- ◆ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential 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.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. If you have any comments or questions regarding the information presented in this report, please do not hesitate to contact the Special District Office by either e-mailing specialdistricts@southeast-ny.gov or calling 845-279-8206. We will do our best to provide you an answer or direct you to the operators of your water system who are here to answer any of your questions.