

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024
Town of Montezuma Water District
8102 Dock St Montezuma NY 13117
(Public Water Supply NYID# NY0501733)
Submitted April 15, 2025

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Montezuma will issue an annual report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and the awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate any maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to NYS standards is contained in this report.

If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please contact Town Supervisor, David Corey at 315-776-8844 x2 . We want you to be informed of your drinking water and any concerns you may have. We invite all members of the community to attend any of the regularly scheduled Board meetings – meetings are scheduled the third Tuesday of every month at 6pm, located at the Montezuma Town Hall 8102 Dock St Montezuma, NY 13117.

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 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 and the FDA have regulations that establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide protection for public health.

The Town of Montezuma purchases water from the city of Auburn. Please refer to the 2024 Annual Water Quality Report for the City of Auburn at <https://www.auburnny.gov/municipal-utilities/pages/annual-drinking-water-quality-reports>

Our water system serves approximately 475 people through 215 service connections. Our water source is Owasco Lake. The Town of Montezuma buys their water from the Cayuga County Water Authority who in turn is supplied by the City of Auburn. The City of Auburn owns and operates two Water Filtration Plants, a Rapid Sand Filtration Plant and a Slow Sand Filtration Plant; both are located at the corner of Swift St. and Pulsifer Drive in the City of Auburn. During the 2017 season a Powdered Activated Carbon system was built at the Upper Pumping Station to help treat microcystin. After filtration the water is disinfected by liquid chlorine before introduction to the distribution system. The finished water is pumped through the City of Auburn distribution system to the Cayuga County Water Authority distribution system that flows along Rte. 38 to Port Byron. A meter vault located along Route 31 meters the water usage for the Town of Montezuma. Water not consumed by our customers in the Town of Montezuma is then stored in a 300,000 gallon steel reservoir located on High Street.

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, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, 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, is 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 (#1-800-426-4791) or the Cayuga County Health Department (#315-253-1405)

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminants	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Ave/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper ¹	NO	9/20/2024	0.0476 Range 0.0068-0.0662	mg/L	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead ²	NO	9/20/2024	<1 Range <1 – 1.1	ug/l	0	.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and service lines connecting building to water mains, erosion of natural deposits
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes	NO	Samples taken Quarterly 2/12/24 5/13/24 8/15/24 11/22/24	55 ³ Range 34.8 – 72.9	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	Samples taken Quarterly 2/12/24 5/13/24 8/15/24 11/22/24	13 ³ Range 3.1 – 14.5	ug/l	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection need to kill harmful organisms

1 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 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, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value (<1 ug/l) The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 samples collected. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 – This level represents the highest locational running annual average calculated from data collected.

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 is 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.

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

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).

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 where there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

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 New York State requirements.

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. *The Town of Montezuma* is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact *The Town of Montezuma and Town Supervisor, David Corey* at 315-776-8844 x2 . 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 2024, 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, which no lead service lines were found. We have made it publicly accessible by our town website at <https://townofmontezuma.org/departments/water-district/> Additional copies are available at the Town Clerk's office at 8102 Dock St Montezuma NY 13117.

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 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 firefighting needs are met.

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

Conservation tips include:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded – 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 – a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day – fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from unseen 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 of our customers help us protect our water sources – the heart of our community. Please call our office if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

**Town of Montezuma Water District
8102 Dock St
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