

# AUBURN WATER DISTRICT

## 2017 Annual Water Quality Report

### IS MY WATER SAFE?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report will provide you with information about the quality of your water for the year 2017. It is our goal to continuously produce adequate supplies of safe and affordable drinking water. We strive to apply the best available treatment systems and are committed to protecting our only water resource, Lake Auburn. Please take time to read this report. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us.

The Auburn Water District monitors your drinking water according to the requirements of Federal and State rules and regulations. The information provided here shows the results of our monitoring from the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. Some substances will be reported with earlier dates if they were not tested for in 2017.

### WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

Your drinking water comes from Lake Auburn. The source of Lewiston and Auburn's public drinking water since 1875, Lake Auburn is fed by a mostly forested watershed including Buckfield, Turner, Hebron, Minot and East Auburn. Due to the high quality of Lake Auburn's water the EPA has exempted the Auburn Water District and Lewiston Water Division from the requirement to filter the water prior to disinfection. This exemption reduces treatment costs while providing excellent, safe water to our consumers. To assure long-term protection of the water source, in 1993 the two Districts formed the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission empowered to protect the lake and surrounding watershed. The most effective, safest and least expensive method for keeping Lake Auburn clean is to assure that water entering the lake is protected through a well managed watershed. For more information about watershed protection and how you can do your part visit: [www.lakeauburnwater.org](http://www.lakeauburnwater.org) or call 207-784-6469.

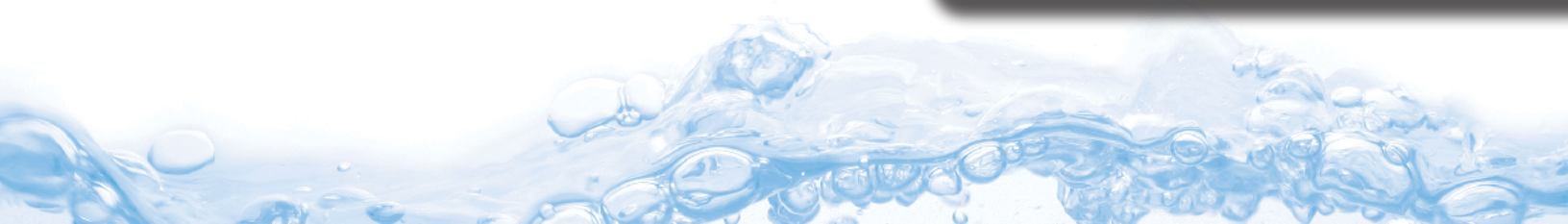
A recent study of the watershed was completed indicating potential sources of contaminants to the lake. A copy of the report, called The Lake Auburn Diagnostic Study, is available at [www.lakeauburnwater.org](http://www.lakeauburnwater.org).

### SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT:

Sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, ponds, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from human or animal activity. The Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP) has evaluated all public water supplies as part of the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). The assessments included geology, hydrology, land uses, water testing information, and the extent of land ownership or protection by local ordinance to see how likely our drinking water source is to being contaminated by human activities in the future. Assessment results are available at town offices, public water suppliers, and the DWP. For more information about the SWAP, please contact the DWP at 207-287-2070.

### ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.



# LEAD AND COPPER RULE: LEAD PUBLIC EDUCATION

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Auburn Water District found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

## HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones which may affect brain development.

## SOURCES OF LEAD

Lead can be found in many places. Knowing where lead is can help limit your contact with it. Though most cases of lead poisoning in Maine were a result of lead paint dust, you can be exposed to lead through drinking and cooking with water that has lead. Lead can dissolve into water from lead solder or brass faucets, fittings, and valves. Lead can also come from jobs and hobbies that work with lead or lead paint as well as from things you buy such as toys and antiques.

## STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

- 1) Run the water for at least 15 seconds or until it becomes noticeably colder before using it for drinking or cooking. The longer water sits in piping the more lead it may contain.
- 2) Do not drink or cook with water from the hot water faucet. Hot water can dissolve lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, use water from the cold water faucet and heat it on the stove or in the microwave.
- 3) Do not use water from the hot water faucet to prepare baby formula.
- 4) Boiling the water does not reduce lead levels.
- 5) Consider using bottled water for drinking and cooking.
- 6) If you are concerned about lead, contact your health care provider or the Maine Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (866-292-3474). You can ask about having you or your child tested for lead.

## HOW LEAD GOT INTO YOUR WATER

The most likely reason lead is in your water is because it dissolved from lead solder or out of brass plumbing materials such as faucets, fittings, and valves. The Auburn Water District is currently reviewing its corrosion control treatment to reduce lead leaching from our customer's plumbing. Lead has not been detected in water from Lake Auburn.

## TO FIND OUT MORE

If you have questions, call us at Auburn Water District or visit our website at [awsd.org](http://awsd.org). To learn other ways to protect yourself and your family from lead, visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

## TESTING YOUR WATER

To find out how you can get your water tested for lead, contact A&L Laboratory, 207-784-5354. Your cost would be approximately \$25 per test.

## LEAD IN PLUMBING MATERIALS

Some plumbing materials including solder and brass fixtures may contain lead. If you want to make changes to your plumbing, it is important to know that "lead-free" materials are allowed to have up to 0.2% lead (solder) or up to 8% lead (fixtures). Some newer products, including those labeled for sale in California and Vermont, may contain much lower levels of lead.

## TABLE DEFINITIONS

*In this table you will find terms and abbreviations you may not be familiar with. The following definitions are provided to help you understand the terms.*

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**Running Annual Average (RAA):** The average of all monthly or quarterly samples for the last year at all sample locations.

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

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**PPM:** Parts per million

**PPB:** Parts per billion

**<:** symbol for less than

**TTHM/HAA5:** Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids are formed as a by-product of drinking water chlorination.

**NTU:** Nephelometric turbidity units

**NA:** Not applicable

**(90th %ile):** 90th percentile of samples. 90% of the tests must be equal to or below the action level.

# WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER?

This table provides Auburn Water District's 2017 Water Quality sampling test results for the public water supply

Contaminant	Date	Results	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Source
<b>Microbiological</b> Coliform (TCR) (1)	2017	0 pos	1 pos/mo or 5%	0 pos	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganics</b> Barium	4/13/2017	0.0012 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits
Flouride (3)	6/19/2017	0.8 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
<b>Lead/Copper</b> Copper 90th% Value (4)	1-1-/2017 - 6/30/2017	0.176 ppm	AL = 1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead 90th% Value (4)	1/1/2017 - 12/31/2017	8.4 ppb	AL = 15 ppb	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
<b>Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts</b>					
<b>AVCOG (SITE #9)</b> Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (9)	LRAA(2017)	25 ppb Range (15-24 ppb)	60 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) (9)	LRAA(2017)	33 ppb Range (18-39 ppb)	80 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
<b>AWD EP (SITE #36)</b> Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (9)	LRAA(2017)	23 ppb Range (15-25 ppb)	60 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) (9)	LRAA(2017)	36 ppb Range (19-39 ppb)	80 ppb		By-product of drinking water chlorination.
<b>POLAND SPING (SITE #32)</b> Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (9)	LRAA(2017)	26 ppb Range (17-27 ppb)	60 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) (9)	LRAA(2017)	33 ppb Range (22-41 ppb)	80 ppb		By-product of drinking water chlorination.
<b>RIVERSIDE SS (SITE #9)</b> Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (9)	LRAA(2017)	33 ppb Range (15-28 ppb)	60 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) (9)	LRAA(2017)	33 ppb Range (20-38 ppb)	80 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
<b>Chlorine Residual</b> Chlorine Residual	1/1/2017-12/31/2017	Range 2.4-3.4	MRDL=4 ppm	MRDLG= 4 ppm	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
<b>Turbidity</b> Turbidity	1/1/2017-12/31/2018	High Average 1.63 NTU	5 ntu	N/A	Soil runoff.
<b>Secondary Contaminants</b> CHLORIDE 13 ppm 4/13/2017 • IRON 0.014 ppm 4/13/2017 • MANGANESE 0.0024 ppm 4/13/2017 • SODIUM 13.3 ppm 4/13/2017 • SULFATE 5 ppm 4/13/2017 Zinc 0.0078 ppm 3/14/2016 • Magnesium 0.88 ppm 3/11/2015 • Nickel 0.0 ppm 4/16/2014					

**Violations: Violation Period:** 1/1/2017-6/30/2017 **Violation Type:** 66 Violation - LEAD CONSUMER NOTICE (LCR) LEAD & COPPER RULE

We are required to notify any customer who participated in our lead/copper testing of their individual lead results. In 2017, we failed to provide this information to our customers. In actuality, the Auburn Water District provided test results to participating customers, but did not provide test results to the Maine Drinking Water Program.

**Notes:** 1) **Total Coliform Bacteria:** Reported as the highest monthly number of positive samples, for water systems that take less than 40 samples per month. 2) **E. Coli:** E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely-compromised immune systems. 3) **Fluoride:** For those systems that fluoridate, fluoride levels must be maintained between 0.5 to 1.2 ppm. The optimum level is 0.7 ppm. 4) **Lead/Copper:** Action levels (AL) are measured at consumer's tap. 90% of the tests must be equal to or below the action level. 5) **Nitrate:** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health provider. 6) **Arsenic:** While your drinking water may meet EPA's standard for Arsenic, if it contains between 5 to 10 ppb you should know that the standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing it from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. Quarterly compliance is based on running annual average. 7) **Gross Alpha:** Action level over 5 pCi/L requires testing for Radium 226 and 228. Action level over 15 pCi/L requires testing for Uranium. Compliance is based on Gross Alpha results minus Uranium results = Net Gross Alpha. 8) **Radon:** The State of Maine adopted a Maximum Exposure Guideline (MEG) for Radon in drinking water at 4000 pCi/L, effective 1/1/07. If Radon exceeds the MEG in water, treatment is recommended. It is also advisable to test indoor air for Radon. 9) **TTHM/HAA5:** Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids (TTHM and HAA5) are formed as a by-product of drinking water chlorination. This chemical reaction occurs when chlorine combines with naturally occurring organic matter in water. Compliance is based on running annual average.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## DESCRIPTION OF WATER TREATMENT PROCESS

Water from the intake pipes is screened prior to the addition of measured doses of chloramine. Chloramine is a disinfectant that kills harmful bacteria, viruses and microbes. Additional disinfection is achieved with ultraviolet treatment. Fluoride is added for dental health benefits. Because some of our customers' homes contain lead and/or copper plumbing, we add a blended phosphate to the water to stop lead corrosion.

**WE ALWAYS AIM TO DELIVER SAFE DRINKING WATER TO YOUR TAP.** State Licensed operators run your water system. The drinking water is tested 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We conduct thousands of water tests each year to monitor water quality. In addition, we closely monitor the lake and contributing waters. Technology enables safety systems to ensure that treatment continues to operate correctly.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LEAD

If present, elevated levels of **Lead** can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Auburn Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.



## AUBURN WATER DISTRICT

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