Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024
Town of Skaneateles
24 Jordan Street, Skaneateles, NY 13152
(Public Water Supply ID #3304347)

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the past year. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water source. This report also details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risk water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. We remain committed to providing you with the safest and most reliable water supply.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please call #315-729-3483 or the Town of Skaneateles Water Department office, phone #315-685-0268.

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. Regular Town Board Meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of each month. The meetings are held at the Town Hall, 24 Jordan Street, Skaneateles, NY and begin at 6:30 p.m.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

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. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Departments and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

TOWN OF SKANEATELES WATER SOURCE

Our community water system receives its water from a surface water source, Skaneateles Lake. It is the fourth largest third deepest of the Finger Lakes. It has a surface area of 13.6 square miles with a maximum depth of 300 feet. The source of water for the lake is its watershed. The watershed acreage calculated by the Geographic Information System (GIS) is 37,724 acres or 58.94 square miles. During 2024, the system did not experience any restriction of our water source.

Two intake pipes owned by the City of Syracuse bring water from the lake to a gate house in the Village of Skaneateles. The water is treated at the beginning of the intake pipes with chlorine and again with chlorine and fluoride at the gate house. From the gate house the water is pumped by the Village of Skaneateles to its treatment plant where the water is disinfected using ultra-violet light and supplemental chlorine can also be added. The water is then conveyed to the two water storage tanks via a dedicated fill line, and from there it is gravity distributed to both village and town customers alike. There are nine points of connection between the village and town. Not all of these connections are opened or metered, some are just in place for emergency. The Town of Skaneateles has two other connections with the Towns of Sennett and Elbridge.

SWAP SUMMARY FOR SKANEATELES LAKE

The NYS DOH has evaluated the Town of Skaneateles' source water susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), and their findings are summarized here. It is important to stress that these assessments were created using available information and only estimate the potential for source water contamination. Elevated susceptibility ratings do not mean that source water contamination has or will occur for the Town of Skaneateles. The City of Syracuse provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure the water delivered to Town of Skaneateles meets all applicable standards.

This assessment found a moderate susceptibility to contamination for the Skaneateles Lake source of drinking water. The amount of pasture in the assessment area results in a high potential for protozoa contamination. No permitted discharges are

found in the assessment area. There are no likely contamination threats associated with other discrete contaminant sources, even though some facilities were found in low densities.

FACTS AND FIGURES

The Town of Skaneateles water system serves a population of approximately 3,500 through 1,100 connections. In 2024 the Town purchased 106,645,243 gallons of water from the Village of Skaneateles. The amount delivered to customers was 77,845,391 gallons. Of the 25,580,852 gallons that were not billed, approximately 3 million gallons were used for flushing hydrants, fighting fires, municipal use, and system leakage. Our billing figures show that 70% of our customers use approximately 6,600 gallons of water each month at an average cost of approximately $250 per year.

In 2025, the Town of Skaneateles adopted a tax district fee for water infrastructure. This charge is based on an estimated dwelling unit figure that is applied to the tax bill. From 2025 forward, residents will only see the actual use of water charged on their bill in lieu of a base fee with additional usage.

FILTRATION WAIVER

The Town of Skaneateles along with the City of Syracuse and Village of Skaneateles is currently operating under an open-ended filtration avoidance extension that was granted in June of 2004.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. The Town is required to test for total coliform, chlorine residual, lead and copper, total trihalomethanes and turbidity

We are also required to take monthly bacteria samples. The Town took forty-eight bacteriological samples in 2024. These samples are taken to the CES lab in Syracuse to be tested for Total Coliform and E. Coli, as directed by the New York State Department of Health. Last year all bacteriological samples were found to be negative for Total Coliform and E. Coli bacteria. The results of all tests are available at the Town of Skaneateles Water Department Office, phone #315-685-0268.

In addition, the City of Syracuse tests the water entering the Gatehouse for all contaminants listed in the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. These contaminants include inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, volatile organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds, and radiological compounds. Refer to Detected Contaminants Table below compiled by the Syracuse Water Department. For more information on the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, consumers are encouraged to call The Safe Drinking Water Hotline telephone number: 800-426-4791. 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426- 4791) or the Onondaga County Health Department at 315-435-6600.

The tables presented below depict 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.

To understand the tables below, the following definitions may be helpful:

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
N/A: Not applicable.
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 using the best available treatment technology.
Maximum Contaminant Lever Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known health risk. 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.
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).
Nanograms per liter (ng/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).
NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit: a measurement of the turbidity, or cloudiness of the water. **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)**: A measure of the radioactivity in water.
Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Nd: Not detected above the regulated detection level.
Total Trihalomethanes: the combined concentration of the following four contaminants; Bromodichloromethane, Bromoform, Chloroform and Dibromochloromethane.
Haloacetic acids: the combined concentration of the following five contaminants; Dibromo-, Dichloro-, Monobromo-, Monochloro-, and Trichloro-, acetic acids.

Table Of Detected Contaminants: Town of Skaneateles Water Sampling

Contaminant	Violation	Date Of Sample	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity	No	2024 Weekly	0.42 (0.17-1.28)	NTU	N/A	5	Soil Runoff.
Lead	No	July 2023	3.0 (ND - 3.8)	UG/L	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and service lines connecting building to water mains, erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	No	July 2023	0.99 (0.305 - 1.13)	MG/L	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Chlorine Residual	No	2024 Weekly	0.37 (0.10-0.62)	MG/L	N/A	(MRDL) 4	Water additive used to control microbes.

Notes:

- Skaneateles WD Distribution System: Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. Our highest single turbidity measurement for the year (1.28 NTU) occurred on 3/26/24. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 5 NTU. The levels recorded were well below the acceptable range allowed and did not constitute a treatment technique violation.

-The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 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, 20 samples were collected in your water system and the 90th percentile value was 3 ug/L. The action level for Lead was not exceeded at any of the 20 sites tested.

-The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 samples collected. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the 20 sites tested.

Table of Detected Contaminants: Disinfectant and Disinfection by-products Town of Skaneateles testing

Contaminant	Violation	Dates Of Samples	Level Detected (Range)	Units of Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Trihalo-Methane's **	No	3/6/24 6/28/24 9/16/24 12/4/24	29.7 (18.0-54.3)	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	3/6/24 6/28/24 9/16/24 12/4/24	14.78 (9.3-27.0)	UG/L	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.

** **Total Trihalomethanes** – the combined concentration of the following four contaminants; Bromodichloromethane, Bromoform, Chloroform, and Dibromochloromethane.

*** **Haloacetic acids** – the combined concentration of the following five contaminants; Dibromo-, Dichloro-, Monobromo-Monochloro-, and Trichloro –, acetic acids**.**

Table of Detected Contaminants: Skaneateles Lake source water (City of Syracuse testing)

Contaminant	Violation	Date Of Sample	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL,TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	No	5/9/2024	0.0229	MG/L	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chloride	No	11/13/2024	23.1	MG/L	N/A	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Fluoride	No	Daily	0.73 (0.0-1.44)	MG/L	N/A	2.2	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Magnesium	No	5/9/2024	0.00054	MG/L	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring
Nitrate	No	5/9/2024	0.41	MG/L	10	10	Runoff from land applied fertilizer and septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Odor	No	5/9/2024	1	UNITS	N/A	3	Organic or inorganic pollutants originating from municipal and industrial waste discharges; natural sources.
Potassium	No	11/13/2024	1.52	MG/L	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring
Sodium	No	5/9/2024	12.8	MG/L	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Sulfate	No	11/13/2024	11.0	MG/L	N/A	250	Naturally occurring

Notes:

-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.

Table of Detected Contaminants: City of Syracuse testing

Contaminant	Violation	Date Of Sample	Upper Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL,TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity	Yes	1/9/2024 1/10/2024 1/13/24	19.05 46.90 18.96 (upper levels detected)	NTU	N/A	5	Explanation found below **

Notes:
-The City of Syracuse measures the turbidity in its raw water every 4 hours. Turbidity has no health effects. However, Turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, including Giardia Lamblia and Cryptosporidium. Please pay special attention to the additional statement in this document regarding Cryptosporidium.

** Incoming Skaneateles Lake water is continually monitored at the water treatment plant in Skaneateles for turbidity (measurement of water quality for clarity). Turbidity is caused by particles in the water and is measured in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU). Skaneateles Lake turbidity is generally the result of the re-suspension of bottom sediments because of wind driven wave action or from the introduction of suspended sediment as a result of snow melt and storm water runoff.

Turbidity is regulated for the Skaneateles Lake supply by two standards. One is a treatment technique requirement, which is violated if any turbidity measurement exceeds 5 NTU. The second, more critical, threshold is a turbidity regulatory limit, or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violation, which occurs when two consecutive daily entry point analyses exceed 5 NTU.

One treatment technique violation occurred in 2024. On January 13, 2024, turbidity levels entering the City of Syracuse's water intake exceeded the maximum allowable standard of 5 NTU due to high winds. Turbidity levels reached 18.96 NTU at 4:00 am.

One Turbidity Event occurred in 2024. A multi-day weather event commenced on January 9 comprising of sustained west winds. The inclement weather resulted in Intake #1 exceeding 5 NTU on separate consecutive days. An elevated turbidity recording of 19.05 NTU was recorded at 8:00 pm on January 9 and a turbidity recording of 49.90 NTU at 12:00 am on January 10. Intake #2 was closed from January 9 to January 15. The treatment technique violation and Turbidity Event were both reported to the Onondaga County Health Department.

Syracuse Water Department, Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

The table shows that our system uncovered some problems this year. Turbidity is regulated for the Skaneateles Lake supply by two standards. One is a treatment technique requirement, which is violated if any turbidity measurement exceeds 5 NTU. The second, more critical, threshold is a turbidity regulatory limit, or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violation, which occurs when two consecutive daily entry point analyses exceed 5 NTU.

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Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth.

Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

The NYSDOH sets drinking water standards and has determined that the presence of microbiological contaminants is a health concern at certain levels of exposure. If water is inadequately treated, microbiological contaminants in that water may cause disease. Disease symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and possibly jaundice, and any associated headaches and fatigue. These symptoms, however, are not just associated with disease-causing organisms in drinking water, but also may be caused by a number of factors other than your drinking water. The NYSDOH has set enforceable requirements for treating drinking water to reduce the risk of these adverse health effects. Treatments, such as filtration and disinfection, remove or destroy microbiological contaminants.

We have learned through our testing that some other contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State. For more information please contact the Town of Skaneateles Water Department at 315-729-3483. 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 Skaneateles Water Department* 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 Skaneateles Water Department at 315-729-3483.* 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?

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 2024, the City of Syracuse did not monitor or test for 1,4-Dioxane and therefore cannot be sure of the 1,4 Dioxane levels in your drinking water during that time. A make-up sample for 1,4 Dioxane was collected in early 2025 and was found to be below the laboratory's minimum reporting limit.

INFORMATION ON CRYPTOSPORIDIUM AND GIARDIA

New York State law requires water suppliers to notify their customers about the risks of Cryptosporidium and Giardia. These pathogens are of concern because they are found in surface water and ground water under the influence of surface water throughout the United States. Filtration and disinfection are the best methods for use against them, but 100% removal or inactivation cannot be guaranteed. Cryptosporidiosis and Giardiasis are intestinal illnesses caused by these microscopic parasites. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and cramps. Most healthy people can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their health care provider regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection.

The City of Syracuse Water Dept. took a total of 24 Cryptosporidium and Giardia samples in 2024 representing water originating from Skaneateles Lake. Two Raw water samples (one from each intake) were sampled monthly. Neither Cryptosporidium or Giardia were detected in any of the City of Syracuse's Raw water samples.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal requirements, 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).
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS OR GIARDIASIS PLEASE CONTACT THE ONONDAGA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT at 315-435-6600

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 requesting a copy from the Town of Skaneateles Water Department and/or visiting the "New York State Lead Service Line Inventory – Map" website at:
https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/New-York-State-Lead-Service-Line-Inventory-Map/fkii-zkcq

INFORMATION ON FLUORIDE ADDITION

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. Fluoride is added to your water by the City of Syracuse Water Department before it is delivered to us. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at a properly controlled level. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the State Department of Health requires that the City of Syracuse monitor fluoride levels daily to make sure fluoride is maintained at a target level of 0.7 mg/L. During 2024 monitoring showed that fluoride levels in your water were within the 0.1 mg/L of the target level 73.05 % of the time. None of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels approaching the 2.2 mg/L MCL threshold for fluoride.

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 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. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office if you have questions.

ATTENTION:

TOWN OF SKANEATELES WATER CUSTOMERS

The Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024 for the Town of Skaneateles is now available on the Towns website.
https://www.townofskaneateles.com/assets/Uploads/SkaneatelesWDs-NY3304347-AWQR2024.pdf

A copy of the report is also available at:
Town Hall
24 Jordan Street
Skaneateles, NY 13152
Or by calling the Town Clerk's Office at 315- 685-3473
Frank Lessaongang, Foreman
Town of Skaneateles
Water Department