Old Town Water District's
Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
for 2025

Background: We are pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want our customers to know about the quality water services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

Water Source: The Old Town Water District was formed in 1925. We serve the towns of Old Town, Milford, Bradley, portions of Orono, portions of the University of Maine, and the Penobscot Nation on Indian Island. Our water comes from five gravel packed wells: three on Spring Street and two on Bennoch Road. All of our water is treated at the Spring Street filter plant. We add chlorine for protection against harmful pathogens, adjust pH for corrosion control, and add fluoride to reduce tooth decay, as approved by referendum vote of the citizens of the Old Town Water District.

Contact Info: Our office is located at 109 Center Street, and our office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact Steven M. Lane, Superintendent, Old Town Water District, 109 Center Street, Old Town, Maine 04468. Phone 207-827-2145. Fax 207-827-2191. Email officemanager@oldtownwater.org. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. Any member of the public is invited to attend any of our regular meetings. They are generally held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 AM at the District office.

Source Water Assessment: The 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). This assessment 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 and public water systems.

Water District Overview: We provide high quality water for domestic, commercial and industrial use. We maintain fire hydrants throughout Old Town, Milford, Bradley, and a small portion of Orono. We maintain water services, repair water mains, flush our system once per year, sample and analyze the water both at our wells and filter plant as well as in the distribution system. We read meters and bill residential accounts quarterly for water usage. Most commercial and industrial accounts are billed monthly. We have an approved cross connection control (backflow) program to protect the public water supply from contamination. We have three trustees; two from Old Town, one from Milford. We have a staff of eight dedicated employees consisting of a superintendent, foreman, two office staff, two meter /service people, a filter plant operator and a maintenance and repair person.

Definitions:

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

Location Running Annual Average (LRAA): A 12-month rolling average of all monthly or quarterly samples at specific sampling locations. Calculation of the RAA may contain data from the previous year.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: is the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: is 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 contaminants.

Running Annual Average (RAA): A 12-month rolling average of all monthly or quarterly samples at all sample locations. Calculation of the RAA may contain data from the previous year.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): Non-mandatory water quality standards.

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.

Variances & Exemptions (V&E) - State or EPA permission ***not*** to meet a set standard or treatment technique under certain conditions.

Units:

ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L).
ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L).
MFL = million fibers per liter
pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).
ppt = parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
pos = positive samples

Health Information

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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.0

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 from 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) or at the following link:

https://www.epa.gov/ccr/forms/contact-us-about-consumer-confidence-reports

Lead and Copper

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. Old Town Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water, and wish to have your water tested, contact your public water system. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at:
http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

Our public water system completed a Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) as required by the Revised Lead and Copper Rule. It is publicly accessible by either contacting your system via phone or email, picking up or viewing a copy at a physical address, or via the website link provided. Our system is making the inventory available using this method: It is publicly accessible at this location: **https://www.oldtownwater.org/inventory.pdf** or viewed at our office by request.

Water Quality: The Old Town Water District routinely tests for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31, 2025.

WATER TEST RESULTS							
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Of Test	Level Detected	Units	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria 10 samples per month Coliform (TCR) (1)	N	2025	0	Present Absent	0	1	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (11)	N	10/31/23	<0.6	NTU	na	TT3	Soil runoff
The following were detected in our water supply:							
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (6)	N	08/22/2023	<.15	ppb	0ppb	10ppb	Naturally present in the environment
Barium	N	08/22/2023	0.0034	ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (4) 90% system sample Number of sampling sites Exceeding the action level: **5**	Y	07/01/2025 12/31/2025	1.4 Range (0.21-1.7 ppm)	ppm	1.3 ppm	AL=1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Fluoride (3) Alternate concentration .7 ppm	N	2/12/2025	0.82	ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead (4) 90% system sample Number of sampling sites Exceeding the action Level: **3** Complete lead tap sampling data are available upon request	N	07/01/2025 12/31/2025	6.3 Range (0-24 ppb)	ppb	0 ppb	AL=15 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Nitrate (5)	N	07/22/2025	1.0	ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radionuclides							
Combined Radium (-226&-228)	N	11/3/2020	0.033	pCi/L	0 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium -226	N	11/3/2020	0.015pCi/L	pCi/L	0 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium -228	N	11/3/2020	0.018 pCi/L	pCi/L	0 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Radon (8)	N	3/21/2013	217 pCi/L	pCi/L	4000 pCi/L	4000 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfectants and Disinfectant Byproducts							
Total Haloacetic acids (HAA5) (9) LRAA 2025	N	RAA	53	ppb	0 ppb	60 ppb	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) (9) LRAA 2025	N	RAA	70	ppb	0 ppb	80 ppb	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Daily Average Range Chlorine Residual 2025	N	AA	.71 to 1.60	ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Added as a disinfectant

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3) (required monitoring for 30 contaminants)							
Magnesium	N	08/22/2023	6.7	ppm	na	na	Naturally present in the environment
Sodium	N	08/22/2023	70	ppm	na	na	For monitoring purposes
Iron	N	08/22/2023	.16	ppm	na	na	Secondary or aesthetic contaminant, not hazardous to health
Chloride	N	08/22/2023	76	ppm	na	na	For monitoring purposes
Sulfate	N	08/22/2023	5	ppm	na	na	For monitoring purposes
Zinc	N	08/22/2023	0.001	ppm	na	na	For monitoring purposes
Manganese	N	08/22/2023	.0017	ppm	na	na	For monitoring purposes

All other regulated drinking water contaminants were below detection levels.

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 LRAA.
10) PFAS: The degree of risk depends on the level of chemicals and duration of exposure. Laboratory studies of animals exposed to high doses of PFAS have shown numerous negative effects such as issues with reproduction, growth and development, thyroid function, immune system, neurology, as well as injury to the liver. Research is still relatively new, and more needs to be done to fully assess exposure effects on the human body.
11) Turbidity: 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 that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Violations

Violation Period	Violation Type
7-1-2025 to 12-31-2025	SE Violation - State Exceedance Copper Summary District System

Waiver Information

We completed all Synthetic Organic Compounds testing in 2025

Lead & Copper Action Level Exceedance: In 2025, routine sampling detected copper in the excess of the maximum level allowed. Five out of forty sites sampled, exceeded the action level for copper. Drinking water regulations require that samples are taken from homes with a high-risk potential for lead/copper in the plumbing. The following were action steps we were required to take and the dates those actions were completed. Distribute public lead/copper education material to all residents on October 2, 2025; Submit a corrosion control plan to the State Drinking Water Program on March 31, 2025. Our plan we submitted to reduce the corrosivity of the water (or reduce lead/copper levels) involves pH and alkalinity adjustment using caustic soda. We have to fully implement/complete our plan by September 4, 2027. Lead/copper sampling will resume in May and August 2026. Results of subsequent future lead/copper testing will be made available to all residents. Lead Health Effects: Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Copper Health Effects: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short time could experience gastrointestinal distress, or suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their doctor.

In our continuing effort to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it is necessary to make continuous investment in the treatment and distribution system. The costs of these investments are reflected in the approved water rates. Rate adjustments are necessary periodically in order to address these improvements. The process of changing rates is regulated by the Maine Public Utilities Commission, and customer notification is required. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family or business with safe, clean, quality water during 2026.

We at the Old Town Water District work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.

Old Town Water District Board of Trustees;

Shawn Small, Chair
Donald Sturgeon, Co-chair & Treasurer
Travis Folsom, Clerk & Asst. Treasurer
Steven M. Lane, Superintendent

Please share this information with anyone who drinks this water (or their guardians), especially those who may not have received this report directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this report in a public place or distributing copies by hand, mail, email, or another method.