

# GEORGIA STATION - VT0005556

## Consumer Confidence Report - 2024

This report is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided in 2024. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place and distributing copies by hand or mail.

As required by the Lead and Copper Rule Revision, we have prepared a service line inventory. The purpose of the inventory was to determine if any of our service lines contain lead, galvanized pipe requiring removal, or unknown materials. Please contact us if you would like access to this inventory.

## Water Source Information

Your water comes from:

Source Name	Source Water Type
WELL #1	Groundwater
WELL #2	Groundwater

The State of Vermont Water Supply Rule requires Public Community Water Systems to develop a Source Protection Plan. This plan delineates a source protection area for our system and identifies potential and actual sources of contamination. Please contact us if you are interested in reviewing the plan.

## Drinking Water Contaminants

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include surface water (streams, lakes) and ground water (wells, springs). As water travels over the land’s surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals. It also picks up substances resulting from the presence of animals and human activity. Some “contaminants” may be harmful. Others, such as iron and sulfur, are not harmful. Public water systems treat water to remove contaminants, if any are present.

In order to ensure that your water is safe to drink, we test it regularly according to regulations established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Vermont. These regulations limit the amount of various contaminants:

- 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides**, may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.
- Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity.
- Organic contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

## Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the past year. It also includes the date and results of any contaminants that we detected within the past five years if tested less than once a year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily show that the water poses a health risk.

**Terms and abbreviations** - In this table you may find terms you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

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

**Contaminant:** Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water.

**Corrosion Control Efforts:** Treatment (including pH adjustment, alkalinity adjustment, or corrosion inhibitor addition) or other efforts contributing to the control of the corrosivity of water, e.g., monitoring to assess the corrosivity of water.

**Herbicide:** Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

**Level 1 Assessment:** A level 1 Assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 Assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA):** The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during four consecutive calendar quarters.

**Maximum Contamination Level (MCL):** The “Maximum Allowed” MCL is 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 Contamination Level Goal (MCLG):** The “Goal” is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. Addition a disinfectant may help control 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 disinfectants in controlling microbial contaminants.

**Method Reporting Limit:** The lowest concentration of a chemical in a sample that a laboratory can reliably detect.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** NTU is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** (one penny in ten thousand dollars)

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l):** (one penny in ten million dollars)

**Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (ng/l):** (one penny in ten billion dollars)

**Pesticide:** Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** a measure of radioactivity in water

**Running Annual Average (RAA):** The average of 4 consecutive quarters (when on quarterly monitoring); values in table represent the highest RAA for the year.

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

**90th Percentile:** Ninety percent of the samples are below the action level. (Nine of ten sites sampled were at or below this level).

**Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):** PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals that have been in use since the 1940s. PFAS have been found in a wide variety of consumer products and as an ingredient in firefighting foam. PFAS manufacturing and processing facilities, airports, and military installations are some of the contributors of PFAS releases into the air, soil and water. Vermont currently regulates 5 PFAS and this list includes:

**Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA)**

**Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)**

**Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS)**

**Perfluoroheptanoic Acid (PFHpA)**

**Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (PFHxS)**

## Detected Contaminants GEORGIA STATION

Chemical Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Arsenic	05/01/2024	4	4 - 4	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	05/19/2021	0.022	0.022 - 0.022	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	05/19/2021	0.36	0.36 - 0.36	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

PFAS Contaminants	
Typical Source	A large group of human-made chemicals used widely in manufacturing and consumer products
MCL	20 (individual or sum of the 5 regulated PFAS compounds)
Units	All units in parts per trillion (ppt)
ND	This means the contaminant was not detected at the laboratory Method Reporting Limit.

Collection Date	PFHpA	PFNA	PFHxS	PFOA	PFOS	Sum of 5 regulated PFAS compounds
11/01/2023	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
11/03/2020	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
01/08/2020	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

\*Additional PFAS, not regulated by the Vermont Water Supply Rule, may also have been detected in the past five years. Please contact us if you would like more information on other unregulated PFAS that may be in your drinking water.

Lead and Copper	Collection Date	90th Percentile	Range	Unit	AL*	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
Lead	09/27/2024 - 09/29/2024	25	0 - 50	ppb	15	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	09/27/2024 - 09/29/2024	0.2	0.06 - 0.25	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

*The lead and copper AL (Action Level) exceedance is based on the 90th percentile concentration, not the highest detected result.*

***Complete lead tap sampling data (i.e. each individual sample result) are available for review. Please contact us if you would like to receive this data.***

Please see the notice included in this CCR with additional information about the lead action level exceedance. You may have already received a copy of this notice.

## Health Information Regarding Drinking Water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants 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 about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or visiting the website at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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. GEORGIA STATION 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 you wish to have your water tested, contact GEORGIA STATION. 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>.

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.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER.

## Sampling shows elevated lead levels in one home.

**Georgia Station – WSID VT0005556** found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in one home. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant people and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

### What Happened?

During the round of sampling performed between **June 1 – September 30, 2024**, we collected five (5) samples and analyzed them for lead. The samples resulted in a 90<sup>th</sup> percentile level of **25 parts per billion (ppb)** for lead, which is an action level exceedance.

### What Does a Lead Action Level Exceedance Mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 parts per billion (ppb). This means public drinking water system must ensure that lead in water from the customer's tap does not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled (90th percentile value). The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow, including distributing this information.

### Health Effects of Lead

*\*There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.\**

### Sources of Lead

Lead is a toxic metal that was used for many years in products found in and around our homes. The most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, faucets, and fixtures. In homes with lead pipes that connect the home to the water main, also known as lead services lines, these pipes are typically the most significant source of lead in the water. Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older cities and homes built before 1986. Lead may also come from lead solder used to connect pipes in home plumbing, and from some faucets and fixtures.

### Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water

Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead from drinking water.

- **Use your filter properly.** Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/home-drinking-water-filtration-fact-sheet> and EPA's [Consumer Tool for Identifying Drinking Water Filters Certified to Reduce Lead](#).

- **Clean your aerator.** Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator.
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Lead dissolves more easily in hot water.
- **Boiling water does not remove lead from water.**
- **Run your water to flush out lead.** The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home. Residents may contact us at 802-238-0071 for recommendations about flushing times in their community.
- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures that contain lead.** The amount of lead allowed in plumbing solder and fixtures has been reduced by several state and federal laws over the last few decades.
- **Have your water tested.** Contact us at 802-238-0071 for more information on getting your water tested.
- **Consider getting your child tested to determine lead levels in their blood.** A family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide information about the health effects of lead.

## What is Being Done?

The water system has:

- ☒ no known lead service lines
- ☐ full or partial lead service lines in some areas
- ☐ lead "gooseneck" or "pigtail" connections to service lines in some areas

We have engaged with the State and are working to determine which corrosion control treatment strategy would be most effective in addressing the situation.

What is **Georgia Station – VT0005556** doing?

This is the first Action Level Exceedance in this water system's history, and we do not anticipate finding a systemic issue. For 71 samples to date, 82% did not detect lead and only 3 times were samples greater than 0.006 mg/L (0.01, 0.012, and the recent 0.05 mg/L). We are working to identify the source of this high result. Lead exposure is a serious issue with serious risks. Please make sure to read through this information carefully, especially the steps you can take to reduce your risk of exposure to lead. Please reach out to us if you have any questions.

For more information, call us at 802-338-0051 or 802-782-8309. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.

*\*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. \**

This notice is being sent to you by **Georgia Station**. State Public Water System (PWS) ID#: **VT0005556**.