

Table of Detected Contaminants

Lead & Copper in the Distribution System

Contaminant	Sample Source	Violation Yes/No	Date(s) of Sampling	Average Level found (Range)	90th Percentile Value	Units Measured	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	OCWA Distribution System	No	July - Sept 2023	0.061 (<0.002-0.355)	0.139	mg/L	0	AL = 1.3* mg/l	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	OCWA Distribution System	No	July-Sept 2023	4.0 (< 1.0 - 71.8)	6.7	µg/l	0	AL = 15* µg/l	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

*AL (Action Level) – Only 10% of samples can exceed this level.

About Lead and Copper: To deter the leaching of lead and/or copper from our customers' pipes, OCWA has been mandated to implement corrosion control. The method of corrosion control used on waters originating from Otisco and Skaneateles lakes is the addition of orthophosphate. The adjustment of pH is the method used for water from Lake Ontario. OCWA is required to sample for lead and copper to make sure our corrosion controls are effective. The latest sampling period was July - September of 2023. OCWA will sample again in 2024.

90th Percentile Values for Lead & Copper: The values reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile. The 90th percentile value is the concentration that 90% of the taps sampled were at or below. Since the action level for lead is 15 µg/l, 90% of the taps tested had to be at or below this value. The above chart shows that 90% of the taps tested were at or below 6.7 µg/l in July - September of 2023. The action level for copper is 1.3 mg/l. The observed 90th percentile for copper was 0.139 mg/l. The above chart shows that that 90% of the taps tested were at or below this value. The testing showed that OCWA's methods of corrosion control were effective.

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT 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. OCWA is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, 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 other 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 OCWA at 315-455-7061. 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>.