

WORTHINGTON FIRE DISTRICT

POTABLE WATER CONFIDENCE REPORT

JANUARY 1ST 2025 TO DECEMBER 31ST 2025

June 18th, 2026

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The Worthington Fire District was established in 1920 by Special Act of the Connecticut Legislature, with an effective date at which to begin operation of July 1, 1922. Its sole objective is the transmission and distribution of potable water to approximately 2,875 water customers with approximately 1,042 residential connections.

This bulletin has been prepared to provide Worthington Fire District's customers with the confidence that the water they drink meets and, in most cases, exceeds all State and Federal Drinking Water Requirements.

In 1967, the Worthington Fire District entered into an agreement to purchase water from the Berlin Water Control Commission. During the period covered by this report, January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, the Worthington Fire District provided water purchased from the Berlin Water Control Commission that included water from the Elton production wells (approximately 50%), the New Britain Water Department (approximately 43%), and the Cromwell Fire District (approximately 7%). This report covers the water supply provided to Worthington Fire District customers. Consumer Confidence Reports for the Berlin Water Control Commission, the New Britain Water Department, and the Cromwell Fire District are available on their respective websites and can be provided on request.

As required by the Connecticut State Department of Health, the Worthington Fire District has one Class 3 certified treatment operator, certified as Distribution System Operator and Water Treatment Plant Operator.

Monthly testing of the water supplied by the Worthington Fire District has shown that the water has met or exceeded every standard set by the State and Federal Agencies for quality and safety. The tables at the end of this report summarize the analytical results of water samples taken from various locations within the distribution system.

Report by:
Worthington Fire District
1400 Berlin Turnpike – Berlin, CT 06037

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This report uses the following terminology which you should be familiar with:

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

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.

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

SUBSTANCES THAT COULD BE IN WATER:

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 naturally occur 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.
- *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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided to the public. In Connecticut, these regulations are implemented by the Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily mean that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential side effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or on EPA's website: epa.gov/safewater.

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Table I includes all of the Required Regulated contaminants along with unregulated contaminants that were detected in the Worthington Fire District System or were detected by Worthington Fire District's suppliers during the 2025 sampling season. Although all were below Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), the following lists their significance and possible reasons:

Chlorine: is a water additive used to control microbes. Chlorine can react with organic acids and organic matter to form potentially hazardous Haloacetic Acids (HAA5's) and Trihalomethanes (TTHM's)

Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s): are formed as a result of chlorine, used in the disinfection process, reacting with natural occurring organic acids. *Levels well above the MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) may cause cancer.*

Trihalomethanes (TTHMs): are those compounds created by the chlorination of drinking water by the reaction of the chlorine or organic matter. A Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 0.080 milligrams per liter (mg/L) has been established. Some people who drink water containing Trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL, over many years, may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, or may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Turbidity: is a measure of the cloudiness of water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity levels can also hinder the effectiveness of disinfection. High levels of turbidity can have many causes including the presence of eroded sediment, suspended particles of silt and clay, and organic matter like algae, plankton, or other microorganisms.

Arsenic: Excessive levels of Arsenic are associated with increased risk for diabetes, high blood pressure, and cancer. Arsenic may be found naturally in the environment in natural deposits and may also be found in runoff from orchards, glass and electronic production wastes.

Barium: Excessive levels of Barium could cause increases in blood pressure. Barium is found naturally in the environment and may also be found in the discharge of drilling waste and metal finishing.

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Chlorides: are an indicator of sewage pollution if found in concentrations higher than normal for the area. Normal chloride concentrations vary with distance from bodies of salt water. Low levels of chlorides are not uncommon in ground water.

Fluoride: in low levels, has been shown to help prevent tooth decay. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has a recommended optimal level of 0.7 mg/L while the EPA's recommended upper limit for fluoride in drinking water is 2.0 mg/L. Excessive fluoride may lead to increased bone brittleness later in life. Fluoride may be produced by industrial activities and low levels of fluoride may be found naturally in the environment in soil and mineral deposits.

Nitrate Nitrogen: can enter potable water as runoff from fertilizers or, as in most cases, from erosion of natural deposits. *High concentrations, in excess of 10 parts per million (ppm) may cause a condition known as Methemoglobinemia when given to very young infants. It can also be transmitted to infants by nursing mothers who have consumed the water.*

Sodium: Persons with high blood pressure, hypertension, congestive heart disease or persons on a low salt diet should consult their physician before consuming a drinking water source with a high sodium level. Sodium is found naturally in the environment, leeching from soil and mineral deposits and increased levels of sodium can be caused by the salting of roads and water softening.

Sulfate: Excessive levels of Sulfate can produce a "rotten egg" smell and may cause a laxative effect after consumption. Sulfate is found naturally in ground water as a result of mineral deposits and high levels may be related to industrial discharges.

Total Organic Carbon: is a measure of the natural organic matter in potable water. It is used as a general measure of water quality and has no specific health concerns.

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The story of high lead levels in the water in Flint, Michigan illustrated the vital importance to public health of appropriate monitoring, sampling, and testing for lead and copper. The Safe Drinking Water Act banned the use of lead in new plumbing in 1986, however, older plumbing, including plumbing in the interiors of homes and businesses, may still contain lead in buildings built before 1986. Copper remains widely used in plumbing, as it is not nearly as corrosive as lead. The biggest concern regarding both lead and copper in drinking water stems from corrosion or leachability from service lines and plumbing. Federal regulations require that homes be sampled every three years by having the homeowner collect a one-liter sample from the cold-water kitchen tap as a "first draw" (after the water has been standing motionless in household pipes for at least six hours). Samples were collected from the Worthington Fire District in 2024. Table II of this report summarizes the results of this latest round of lead and copper testing. Nine of the ten homes samples tested below the action levels set by the EPA. The EPA requires 90% of samples taken in a sampling period to fall below the action levels, therefore, the Worthington Fire District remains in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule.

Please note the following information concerning lead and copper in public drinking water:

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 but may also be associated with the erosion of natural deposits.

Copper: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some individuals who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over years may suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal health provider. Sources of copper include corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, and leaching from wood preservatives.

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The Worthington Fire District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in household plumbing components. You share responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials to reduce risk. When your water has been sitting in the residential plumbing for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. Another simple way to reduce the possible exposure to lead is to regularly clean your faucet screens to remove material that may become trapped in the screen. Some of that material may be lead particles from your home's internal plumbing. Finally, do not use hot water from the tap to make infant formula or for cooking. Hot water may have higher mineral content than the cold water supplied by the Worthington Fire District. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. You may also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. 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://epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Worthington Fire District has completed a lead service line inventory. This inventory is available at the Worthington Fire District. This information may be requested via the above contact number or via a request through the Worthington Fire District website.

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION:

Infants and young 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 water containing lead in excess of the action level over many years can develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. While the Worthington Fire District uses no lead pipes in its distribution system, it does not have ownership or responsibility for the materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about the plumbing materials used in your residence or the lead levels in your home, you can contact the Worthington Fire District for further information.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS other immune disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care

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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 (800-426-4791) or on EPA's website: epa.gov/safewater.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION:

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 activity.

Preventing drinking water contamination at the source makes good public health sense, good economic sense, and good environmental sense. You can be aware of the challenges of keeping drinking water safe and take an active role in protecting drinking water. There are lots of ways that you can get involved in drinking water protection activities to prevent the contamination of the ground water source. Dispose properly of household chemicals, help clean up the watershed that is the source of your community's water, attend public meetings to ensure that the community's need for safe drinking water is considered in making decisions about land use. A water assessment of Worthington Fire District's various source water was completed by the Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Section. The updated assessment report can be found on the Department of Public Health's website: <https://portal.ct.gov/dph/drinking-water/dws/source-water-assessment-program-swap-reports> . These assessments found that the source water provided by the Berlin Water Control Commission and the New Britain Water Department have a low susceptibility to potential sources of contamination. You may also find information on EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection>.

WATER CONSERVATION:

Water is our most valuable natural resource. It is essential for life as we know it. Although we in the Northeast have been blessed with, at least until now, what appears to be an unlimited supply of pure, safe drinking water, the preservation of this valuable resource is the responsibility of all.

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Following are just a few of the many steps that we can all take to prevent the waste and, perhaps loss, of this most valuable gift:

- Detect and repair leaky faucets and toilets. Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks.
- Install water-efficient showers and dish-and/or-clothes washers
- Limit the time spent showering and wash vehicles only when absolutely necessary.
- Water lawns and gardens only when needed, and then only early (or late) in the day to prevent water loss by evaporation during the hot period of the day. Add mulch when possible to prevent evaporation.
- Make sure dishwashers are loaded to capacity.
- Do not leave water running when shampooing or brushing one's teeth.

If we all take these steps as well as any others that you may think of, we will be able to assure ourselves and future generations of a safe, potable drinking water supply for many years to come.

TAP VS BOTTLED WATER:

Over the last several decades, bottled water has become seen as a healthier and safer alternative to tap water. However, this is not necessarily the case. A four-year study conducted by the National Resource Defense Council (NRDC) showed that bottled water is not necessarily any cleaner or safer than tap water. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for regulating bottled water, but in practice, there is a patchwork of regulations and enforcement that vary by state. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for setting standards for tap water in the United States, with those standards implemented in Connecticut by the Department of Public Health's Drinking Water Section. It is worth considering that people spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. Additionally, concerns about the waste generated non-reusable plastic bottles and growing concerns over microplastics in the human body and cancer causing PFAS should all be considered when evaluating the pros and cons of bottled water vs. tap water.

For more information on the NRDC study please visit:
<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/bottled-water-vs-tap-water>

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WATER MAIN FLUSHING:

Distribution water mains bring water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. This water is of high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through them. You may be familiar with seeing a hydrant discharging water at significant volumes.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways: First, by removing sediments like iron and manganese, which may not directly pose health concerns, but can impact the color, taste, and clarity of the water. Sediments can also shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the potential growth of microorganisms within water mains. Second, flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen and disinfectant levels and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household use at that time and if you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for several minutes at a high rate for use. Avoid hot water use to avoid sediment buildup in your hot water heater. Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information about our water main flushing schedule.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER:

If you have any questions or concerns about the quality of your water or any of the information contained in this report, please contact the Worthington Fire District at 860-828-5630. The Worthington Fire District welcomes public input and participation in decisions affecting your drinking water. Meeting schedules, notices, agendas, and minutes are available on the Worthington Fire District Website: <https://wfdwater.com/>.

The Worthington Fire District is proud to offer this report to its customers and to report that all of the State and Federal requirements for Public Water have not only met but in most cases exceeded every standard set by the State and Federal Agencies for quality and safety. If you have any questions concerning the Worthington Fire District and the water that it supplies, please contact Mr. Joe Pagliaruli at (860) 828-5630. Mr. Pagliaruli will be most happy to answer any questions that you may have or supply you with any additional information you may need.

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REGULATED COMPONENTS

Table 1

Parameters tested by Worthington Fire District	Maximum Containment Level (MCL)	Maximum Containment Level Goal (MCLG)	Range	Average
Coliform Bacteria	<5% Positive; no more than 1 Positive per Month	0 per 100 mL	Absent = 0/100 mL	Absent = 0/100 mL
Chlorine Residual	4.0 mg/L	-	<0.05-0.30 mg/L	0.16 mg/L
Color	15 Color units	0 Color Units	0-5 Units	0 Units
pH	6.4-10.0	6.4-10.0	7.70-9.23	8.24
Turbidity	5 NTU	0 NTU	<0.14-0.35 NTU	0.17 NTU
Haloacetic Acids = HAA5s (Disinfection By-Products)	0.060 mg/L*	0.060 mg/L	<0.0020-0.0110 mg/L	0.0099 mg/L
Total Trihalomethanes TTHM's (Disinfection By-Products)	0.080 mg/L*	0.080 mg/L	0.0057-0.0794 mg/L	0.0390 mg/L

<=Less Than mg/L = Milligrams per liter NTU=Nephelometric Turbidity Units

*MCL for TTHM's and HAA5's is calculated based on the averages of samples collected over the course of the year.

Parameters tested by suppliers	Maximum Containment Level (MCL)	Maximum Containment Level Goal (MCLG)	Range	Average
Arsenic	10 mg/L	0 mg/L	0.9 mg/L	0.9 mg/L
Barium	2 mg/L	2 mg/L	0.245 mg/L	0.245 mg/L
Chloride	250 mg/L	250 mg/L	19.5 mg/L	19.5 mg/L
Fluoride	4 mg/L	2 mg/L	0.55-0.75 mg/L	<0.75 mg/L
Nitrate	10 mg/L	5 mg/L	0.025 mg/L	0.025 mg/L
Sodium	-	100 mg/L**	9.7 m/L	9.7 mg/L
Sulfate	250 mg/L	250 mg/L	9.3 mg/L	9.3 mg/L
Total Organic Carbon	-	4 mg/L	1.2-1.52 mg/L	<1.52 mg/L

<=Less Than mg/L = Milligrams per liter NTU=Nephelometric Turbidity Units

**Sodium has no established MCL, but the State of Connecticut has established a notification level at 100 mg/L.

Results Certified by: Northeast Laboratories, Inc. (30 Cold Spring Rd. Rocky Hill CT 06067) -Lab Cert: PH-040

This laboratory is accredited in accordance with the recognized International Standard ISO/IEC 17025. This accreditation demonstrates technical competence for a defined scope and the operation of a laboratory quality management system (refer to joint ISOILAC-IAF Communiqué dated April 2017).

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2024 LEAD & COPPER TEST RESULTS

Table 2

Monitoring Period: 2nd Quarter
Sample Source: Drinking Water
Collection Date: June 28th 2024

Sample Project ID	Street Location	Lead (ppb)	Rank	Copper (ppm)	Rank
2493903-01	Woodbine Court	<0.5	1	0.025	5
2493903-02	Sky View Drive	2.8	9	0.010	1
2493903-03	Worthington Ridge	0.5	5	0.011	2
2493903-04	Sunset Lane	1.0	7	0.031	6
2493903-05	West View Terrace	<0.5	2	0.064	7
2493903-06	Worthington Ridge	<0.5	3	0.068	8
2493903-07	Terry Road	2.3	8	0.076	9
2493903-08	Worthington Ridge	26.7	10	1.85	10
2493903-09	Wildem Road	0.7	6	0.014	4
2493903-10	Overhill Road	<0.5	4	0.012	3
90th percentile:		2.8 ppb		0.076 ppm	
		Action level 15 ppb		Action level 1.3 ppm	

ppb= Parts per billion ppm= parts per million <=less than

Summary of table 2:

Lead and Copper results for 2024 fall within the 90th percentile.

Comments:

Lead and Copper samples only need to be tested once every three years.

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