



ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025

Presented By
Rye Water District

PWS ID#: 2041010



Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. The Rye Water District is currently in compliance with all the regulated drinking water contaminants we sample for. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our staff works daily to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are currently designing a new treatment facility to improve our treatment process and prepare to meet the new per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) regulations. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water; however, if you wish to learn more, please feel free to contact us directly.

Community Participation

You are always welcome to attend the district's monthly meetings and provide your input about your drinking water. Rye Water District commissioners meet the first Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the district office, 60 Sagamore Road. Please feel free to email your questions or comments to water district commissioners at commissioners@ryewaterdistrict.gov. Also, please attend our annual meeting to vote on the water district's budget, warrant articles, and proposed projects. This meeting is normally held the last Saturday of March. See our website, ryewaterdistrict.com, for details.



Where Does Rye's Water Come From?

Rye Water District has two main sources of water, Rye production wells and water purchased from Portsmouth for customers on Wentworth Road, a section of Frontier Street, and Elizabeth Lane (off Pioneer Road).

Our primary source is the Garland Well, a gravel-packed well developed in the midseventies, which yields 400 to 470 gallons per minute (gpm). Our secondary sources are two deep-driven, high-yielding bedrock wells. The first is the Bailey Brook Well, developed in the early eighties, which yields 300 to 325 gpm. The second is the Cedar Run Well, our most recent source, developed and brought online in 2004. The Cedar Run Well yields 325 to 340 gpm and presently is serving as an emergency backup well. Combined, these three wells supplied over 131 million gallons in 2025. The water you receive at your home is a blend of all three wells.



About Our Monitoring Violation

During the compliance period, we did not monitor or test for nitrate at our Cedar Run Well. It was sampled in January 22, 2026, and results were below the detection limit.

Important Health Information

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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater.



Treatment Train Description

The water you receive at your tap is untreated groundwater. However, we adjust the pH of the water from the Garland Well as part of our corrosion control program. Disinfection of all water entering the distribution system is done with chlorine at a minimal dosage of 0.6 to 0.9 part per million (ppm) as required by the DES. We are currently designing a major water treatment upgrade at our Garland Road facility to meet the new PFAS standards.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water or system operations, please call Mr. Brian Goetz, District System Administrator, or Mr. Arik Jones, District Superintendent, at (603) 436-2596, or contact the Rye Water District commissioners at commissioners@ryewaterdistrict.gov. Many reports and additional information can be viewed online at ryewaterdistrict.com.

Substances That Could Be in Water

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 mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by contacting the U.S. EPA by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visiting epa.gov/safewater.



The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) come from 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. The water can also pick up and transport substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Contaminants, any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water;
- 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 occur naturally in the soil or groundwater or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming;
- Pesticides, generally any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest;
- Herbicides, any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation;
- Organic Chemical Contaminants, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and 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; and
- Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To protect public health, the U.S. EPA and the State of New Hampshire prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in tap water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Lead in Home Plumbing

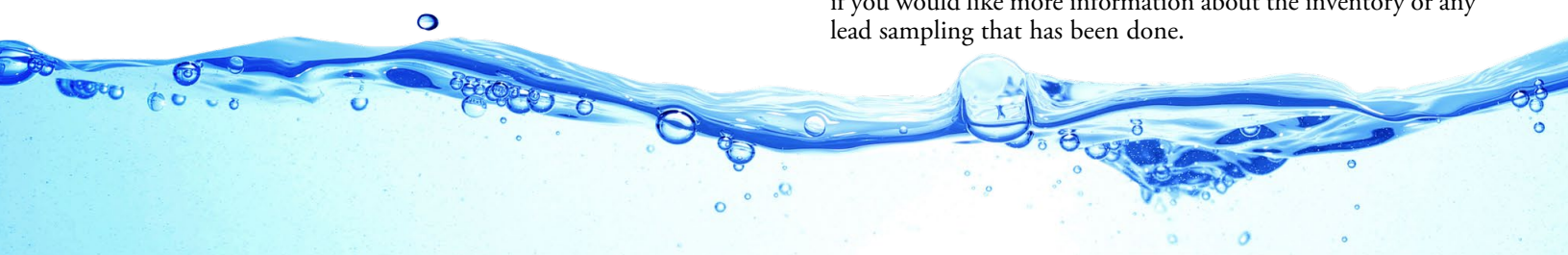
Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The Rye Water District is responsible for providing 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 it is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling 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, or 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 it tested, contact the Rye Water District at (603) 436-2596 or commissioners@ryewaterdistrict.gov. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at 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, or kidney or nervous system problems.

Per RSA 485:17-a, all New Hampshire schools and licensed childcare facilities must test for lead at all drinking water outlets where children can drink the water and remediate any outlets testing at or above 5 parts per billion (ppb). Three rounds of testing at least six months apart are required. A comprehensive list of facilities and results is available at gettheleadoutnh.org. You may also visit the direct link at des.nh.gov/water/drinking-water/lead/schools-and-child-care-programs/view-results.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service inventory may be viewed online at ryewaterdistrict.com/service-line-inventory. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.



Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2025	5	0	ND	ND-1	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2025	2	2	0.015	0.0114-0.0314	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2023	5	0	0.6	0.4-0.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	4	4	ND	ND-0.25	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	5.5	4.7-5.5	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	10	10	2.8	ND-3.1	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid [PFHxS] (ppt)	2025	18	0	1.61	0.972-1.61	No	Discharge from industrial processes, wastewater treatment; Residuals from firefighting foam; Runoff/leachate from landfills and septic systems
Perfluorononanoic Acid [PFNA] (ppt)	2025	11	0	ND	ND-1.66	No	Discharge from industrial processes, wastewater treatment; Residuals from firefighting foam; Runoff/leachate from landfills and septic systems
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS] (ppt)	2025	15	0	5.95	1.26-5.95	No	Discharge from industrial processes, wastewater treatment; Residuals from firefighting foam; Runoff/leachate from landfills and septic systems
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppt)	2025	12	0	6.66	3.33-6.66	No	Discharge from industrial processes, wastewater treatment; Residuals from firefighting foam; Runoff/leachate from landfills and septic systems
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	23.4	20.8-23.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community¹

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2025	1.3	1.3	0.0628	ND-0.635	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2025	15	0	ND	ND-0.0096	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits



SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2025	250	NA	66	37–66	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2025	1.0	NA	ND	ND–0.0036	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Iron (ppb)	2025	300	NA	558	ND–558	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2025	50	NA	92	ND–264.6	No	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (units)	2025	6.5–8.5	NA	7.2	6.51–7.6	No	Naturally occurring
Sodium (ppm)	2025	100–250	NA	98.2	45.6–105	No	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	250	NA	39	15–78	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Zinc (ppm)	2025	5	NA	ND	ND–0.3	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppt)	2025	3.6	ND–3.6	Discharge from industrial processes, wastewater treatment; Residuals from firefighting foam; Runoff/leachate from landfills and septic systems
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS] (ppt)	2025	7.8	5.9–7.8	Discharge from industrial processes, wastewater treatment; Residuals from firefighting foam; Runoff/leachate from landfills and septic systems
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppt)	2025	8.3	5.6–8.3	Discharge from industrial processes, wastewater treatment; Residuals from firefighting foam; Runoff/leachate from landfills and septic systems
Perfluoropentanoic Acid [PFPeA] (ppt)	2025	3.1	ND–3.1	Discharge from industrial processes, wastewater treatment; Residuals from firefighting foam; Runoff/leachate from landfills and septic systems
Hardness, Total [as CaCO ₃] (ppm)	2022	97.8	9.89–97.8	Leaching from natural deposits

Radon

Our system monitored for radon in July 2025 and found levels of 555 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) in our Bailey Brook Well, 1,365 pCi/L in the Garland Well, and 901 pCi/L blended into the water system.

Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon levels can build up in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, the amount of radon entering the home through tap water will, in most cases, be small. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer.

If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air. Testing is inexpensive and easy. You should pursue radon removal for your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 pCi/L or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call your state radon program or the U.S. EPA Radon Hotline at (800) SOS-RADON.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

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

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

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

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

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

BY THE NUMBERS



82

The average number of gallons of water an American uses per day.



27%

The percent of household water use attributable to toilets.



700

The average number of gallons that a household can save each year with water-efficient fixtures.



50-100

The typical design lifespan of underground drinking water pipes, in years.



<1%

The percent of Earth's water that is readily available as fresh drinking water.

Why can tap water have a taste?

Taste in drinking water is usually related to naturally occurring minerals, disinfectants, or seasonal changes in source water. While these characteristics may affect taste, they do not typically indicate a health risk.



Why is water sometimes called the “original energy drink”?

Water helps regulate body temperature, supports digestion, and keeps joints moving—without sugar, calories, or caffeine.

Can weather affect drinking water quality?

Heavy rain, drought, or seasonal changes can influence source water conditions. Water systems adjust treatment processes as needed to maintain water quality during changing environmental conditions.

Why is maintaining water infrastructure important?

Pipes, pumps, and treatment facilities are critical for delivering safe drinking water. Regular maintenance and upgrades help prevent leaks, breaks, and service disruptions.

What can customers do to help protect water quality?

Customers can help by reporting leaks, avoiding cross-connections, maintaining household plumbing, and staying informed through their annual water quality report.

Source Water Assessment Summary

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) prepared drinking water source assessment reports for all public water systems between 2000 and 2003 in an effort to assess the vulnerability of each of the state public water supply sources. Included in the report is a map of each source water protection area, a list of potential and known contamination sources, and a summary of available protection options. The results of the assessment, prepared on May 2, 2002, and November 12, 2004, are noted below.

- Garland Well: Three susceptibility factors were rated high, four were rated medium, and five were rated low.
- Bailey Brook Well: One susceptibility factor was rated high, four were rated medium, and seven were rated low.
- Cedar Run Well: One susceptibility factor was rated high, four were rated medium, and seven were rated low.

Although this information was current at the time the report was completed, it is now over 10 years old. Some ratings might be different if updated to reflect current information. At the present time, DES has no plans to update this data. The complete assessment is available for review at the Rye Water District (RWD) office, 60 Sagamore Road. For more information, call the RWD office at (603) 436-2596 or visit the DES Drinking Water Source Assessment website at <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/rye.pdf>