



BANGOR WATER

2017 Water Quality Report

We provide a Water Quality Report each year to keep you informed of the protection, treatment, and safety of your drinking water. This overview presents the most important details, and if you have further questions, we welcome your call, email, or visit. You may also wish to view our website, www.bangorwater.org for additional information. Thank you for your support of our continued efforts to meet your drinking water needs and exceed your expectations!



Source of Supply: Floods Pond in Otis, Maine
Public Water System Identification: ME0090110

Definitions

AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. To meet compliance, 90% of sample results must be at or below the Action Level.

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average: A 12 month rolling average of all quarterly samples at specific sampling locations. Calculation of the LRAA may contain data from the previous year.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

mg/L: Milligrams per liter or parts per million (ppm).

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.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit: A measure of the amount of light scattered by suspended particles in a water sample.

µg/L: Micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ppb).

2017 Water Test Results Before Treatment

Compound	MCLG	MCL	Result ¹	Range	Source
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	5	3.14	0.29 - 3.14	Natural suspended particles

2017 Water Test Results After Treatment

Disinfectant	MRDLG	MRDL	Result ¹	Range	Source
Chloramines (mg/L)	4	4	3.11	2.61 - 3.11	Water disinfectant

Compound	MCLG	MCL	Result ¹	Range	Source
Barium (mg/L)	2	2	0.0013	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Uranium (µg/L)	0	30	0.55	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (mg/L) ²	1.3	AL > 1.3	0.15	N/A	Corrosion of household plumbing
Fluoride (mg/L) ³	4	4	0.8	0.6 - 0.8	Additive for dental health
Haloacetic Acids (µg/L) ⁴	N/A	60	29	9.6 - 38	Byproduct of water chlorination
Lead (µg/L) ⁵	0	AL > 15	4.73	N/A	Corrosion of household plumbing
Trihalomethanes (µg/L) ⁴	N/A	80	10	1.2 - 12	Byproduct of water chlorination
Uranium-238 (µg/L) ⁶	0	30	0.55	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits

Footnotes

- ¹ The results shown represent the highest value obtained in 2017 unless otherwise noted.
- ² 90th percentile result (2016), none of the 30 homes tested exceeded the copper action level.
- ³ For those systems that fluoridate, fluoride levels must be maintained between 0.5 to 1.2 mg/L. The optimum level for fluoride in drinking water is 0.7 mg/L.
- ⁴ Highest LRAA result from April 2016 - October 2017 and range of all 2017 results.
- ⁵ 90th percentile result (2016), none of the 30 homes tested exceeded the lead action level.
- ⁶ The result shown for Uranium-238 was obtained in 2014.

Cryptosporidium Monitoring

Part of our source water monitoring includes testing for *Cryptosporidium*, an organism capable of causing illness. To date, none have ever been found in Floods Pond. To keep your water safe, we use ultraviolet light treatment capable of inactivating *Cryptosporidium* if any are ever present. A two year round of monthly source water testing for *Cryptosporidium* began in October 2016 and will last through September 2018.

Bottom line? Your drinking water is safe!

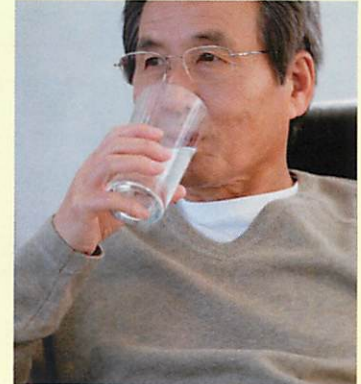
Your drinking water met or surpassed all state and federal drinking water quality requirements in 2017. Thanks to the pristine nature of Floods Pond, very few regulated compounds are found in the water before or after it is treated. Above is the full listing of regulated compounds most recently found. Many are natural and are detected only at low levels. Please note that lead and copper results were determined in 2016 in homes having copper pipes joined with lead solder. For a complete listing of all substances not found in your drinking water, please visit our website, www.bangorwater.org.



We Welcome Your Feedback

The Bangor Water District staff conducted a variety of activities related to water quality during 2017, and we encourage public comment on our efforts. If you wish to provide feedback, you can contact us:

- 1) by visiting our business office at 614 State St. in Bangor, ME, business hours are 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, excluding holidays
- 2) by mail at P.O. Box 1129, Bangor, ME 04402-1129
- 3) online at www.bangorwater.org
- 4) by telephone at (207) 947-4516 ext. 409 for Dina Page, our Water Quality Manager, or by fax at (207) 947-5707
- 5) at the District's Board of Trustees meetings held at 614 State St. on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 3:45 p.m.



Health Information From EPA

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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. You may also direct questions to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services Drinking Water Program at (207) 287-2070.



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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/>.

Knowing Where Lead Comes From

Lead is not found in Floods Pond; there is no lead in the water when it leaves the treatment facility; and Bangor Water uses piping and materials that do not add lead to water. None of the homes in our system have an external lead service line.

Since 1992, we have monitored homes known to have lead solder and other internal lead plumbing components. Results of our monitoring program guide our corrosion control treatment. Bangor Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in internal home plumbing components. You can reduce your potential exposure to lead by replacing your older household components containing lead with new "lead-free" varieties.



When water has been sitting unused for several hours, you can minimize any potential lead exposure simply by flushing your cold water tap for 2 to 3 minutes before using it for drinking or cooking.

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 internal home plumbing.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. 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://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

No Violations in 2017

Bangor Water is in full compliance with drinking water regulations administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Secondary Standards

These limits are established to protect aesthetic qualities in drinking water, and **do not** present a health risk.

Compound	Result ¹	Limit
Chloride (mg/L)	5	250
Color (units)	5	15
Copper (mg/L)	0.0016	1
Hardness (mg/L)	5.5	500
Iron (µg/L)	not detected	300
Manganese (µg/L)	4.1	50
Silver (µg/L)	not detected	100
Sodium (mg/L)	15	100
Sulfate (mg/L)	2	250
Zinc (mg/L)	not detected	5

Sources of Drinking Water

We all need water on a daily basis and often obtain it from a variety of sources including tap water and bottled water. It is important to keep in mind that the sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, ponds, and wells (ground water). As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground beneath, it can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material. It can also pick up substances resulting from human or animal activity. Bangor Water makes every effort to protect the Floods Pond watershed to minimize potential sources of contamination to your drinking water.

Low Risk of Contamination

The Maine Drinking Water Program has evaluated all public water supplies as part of their Source Water Assessment Program. Their report on Floods Pond concludes that the pond is at **low** risk of contamination. The Source Water Assessment for Floods Pond is available at the District's business office.

Receiving this exceptional, quality water is as simple as turning on your nearest tap!

Since the summer of 1959, Floods Pond has provided a consistent supply of water so clean and clear that it does not need to be filtered. Water from this surface supply is treated and made safe to drink using state-of-the-art ozone and ultraviolet light disinfection systems. Chloramines are added to provide long-term protection throughout the distribution system pipes. The treatment process includes pH adjustment for corrosion control and the addition of a small amount of fluoride for dental health. The source water protection plan we have for Floods Pond allows us to receive additional waivers as appropriate. Our most recent (three year) waiver for testing synthetic organic compounds (SOC), was renewed in 2017. Potential industrial sources of SOCs are not found within a half mile radius of the water source. It is important to note that lead is **not** found in Floods Pond. Likewise, lead is **not** introduced during our treatment or distribution. The Bangor Water system does **not** have any lead service lines connecting homes, schools, or businesses to our water mains.

Worry-free Water Without PFAS

Periodically, there are national concerns over the safety of drinking water, and most often, an issue is linked to human activity such as industrial use of chemicals. Recent media coverage has focused on findings of **perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances** (PFAS) in some drinking water sources. Since the 1950's, PFAS have been used in many consumer products. Due to their long lasting nature, PFAS are being discovered in water resources near where they were or still are being manufactured or applied to products. Sources of PFAS have never existed in or around Floods Pond, fortunately, and PFAS have never been found in our drinking water.