

◆ **WATER CONSERVATION:**  
**SAVES A NATURAL**  
**RESOURCE AND SAVES YOU**  
**MONEY** ◆

**HOW TO CONSERVE WATER**

Water is a precious and limited natural resource, so it is vital that we all work together to maintain it and use it wisely. Since your water bill is based on your usage, using less will result in lower bills. Here are a few tips you can follow to help you conserve:

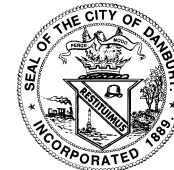
- Check for leaky toilets. Put a drop of food coloring in the tank; let it sit for several minutes to an hour, and check to see if the water in the bowl turns color. If it does, you have a leak. A leaking toilet can dribble away thousands of gallons of water a year.
- Run only full loads in dishwashers and washing machines. Rinse all hand-washed dishes all at once.
- Do not let the faucet run while brushing teeth and shaving. Turn water on as needed.
- Store a jug of ice water in the refrigerator for a cold drink instead of letting the faucet run until it gets cold.
- Water lawns and plants in the early morning or evening hours to avoid excess evaporation.
- Apply mulch around plants to reduce evaporation. Plant shrubs and ground covers that require less water and less maintenance.
- Never use the hose to clean debris off your driveway or sidewalk. Use a broom instead.
- Take shorter showers and shallower baths. Use low-flow shower heads and faucets.

**City of Danbury Water Dept.**

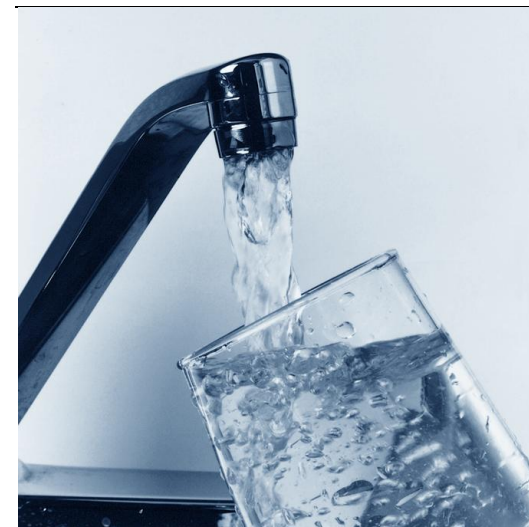
155 Deer Hill Avenue  
Danbury, CT 06810  
Phone (203) 797-4637  
Fax (203) 796-1590  
<http://www.danbury-ct.gov>

*Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.*

**DANBURY WATER  
DEPARTMENT**



**2015 ANNUAL WATER  
QUALITY REPORT**



*The City of Danbury has been providing municipal water to its citizens since 1860. From its small beginnings, the Danbury Water Department has grown today to serving 7 million gallons a day, from 8 reservoirs, holding over 3 billion gallons, treated by 2 water treatment plants serving around 70,000 customers each day.*

*This report is intended to provide you with important information about the drinking water we supply to you. It describes where your water comes from, how it is treated, what was found in it by laboratory testing, and what is done to protect its quality. Please share this report with friends, relatives, or tenants who use Danbury Water and may not have received their own report.*

## WATER QUALITY DATA TABLES

The tables below list all of the substances that we detected in Danbury drinking water in the year 2014 or the last required test date. During the year, the water we produced and supplied was tested for dozens of different substances, most of which were not detected. The chart below contains only those substances that were detected, and excludes substances that were not found. For tests completed in 2014, all regulatory MCLs have been met.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791. All 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 by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline number listed above.

### Regulated Contaminants - substances that EPA has set strict limits (MCLs) on due to potential health concerns

Contaminant (units)	Your Water	MCL	MCLG	Range Detected	Sample Date	Limit Exceeded	Typical sources in drinking water
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)*	1.53	15	0	-036 – 1.53	2013*	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	0.019	2	2	0.011 – 0.019	2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from metal refineries
Chlorine (ppm)	1.02	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	0.77 – 1.02	2014	No	Water treatment chemical
Copper (ppm)	0.28	AL=1.3	1.3	0.017 – 0.45	2014	No	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	1.14	4	4	0.66 – 1.46	2014	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
HAA5, Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	33.0	60	0	7.1 - 33.0	2014	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Lead (ppb)	1.4	AL=15	0	ND – 3.5	2014	No	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon (removal ratio)	1.0	TT=1.0	NA	1.00 – 1.05	2014	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs, Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	60.7	80	0	36.7 – 60.7	2014	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity- Filter Plant Monthly Percent Meeting Limit (%)	100	TT=95	NA	100	2014	No	Soil runoff, natural organic and inorganic matter
Turbidity (NTU)	0.22	TT=1	NA	0.08 – 0.22	2014	No	Soil runoff, natural organic and inorganic matter

### Secondary and Non-Regulated Contaminants - substances that do not have a strict limit (MCL) because of lesser or no health concerns

Contaminant (units)	Your Water	Recommended limit	Range Detected	Sample Date	Limit Exceeded	Typical sources in drinking water
Chloride (ppm)	60	250	53 – 60	2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits, urban storm runoff
Hardness (ppm)	96	250	82 – 96	2014	No	Erosion of natural minerals
pH (standard units)	7.7	6.5 - 8.5	6.7 – 7.7	2014	No	Water treatment chemicals
Sodium (ppm)	37	NL=28	31 - 37	2104	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits, urban storm runoff
Strontium, total (ppb)	71.6	NA	69.6 – 71.6	2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	27	NA	26 – 27	2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits, urban storm runoff

#### Data Table Key: Unit Descriptions:

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter

#### Important Drinking Water Definitions:

**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.

**MCL** Maximum Contaminant Level: This highest level of a regulated contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

**NL** Notification Level: The level at which a water utility must notify its customers of an exceedence.

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

**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.

**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.

**NTU** Nephelometric Turbidity Units (a measure of the clarity of water)

**ND** = not detected

**NA** = not applicable

\* = Alpha emitters only required every 3 years

pCi/L = picocuries per Liter (a measure of radioactivity)

## ***HOW WE ENSURE WATER QUALITY***

The Danbury Water Department considers the quality of your drinking water its most important task. In order to make certain of quality, many measures are taken. Some are described below:

- ***Security and Protection***

Activity on and around our reservoirs is regulated and monitored. Permits are required for construction, and activities that threaten contamination of our water supply are prohibited. Please help us by calling the Public Utilities Office at 797-4637 if you observe any actions that you feel could contaminate our drinking water. The City has an active Watershed Monitoring Program that identifies and reports potential problems.

Since 2001, we have increased the inspection and monitoring of our water supplies and facilities. We have increased the testing of the drinking water to assure a quality product reaches your tap. We have completed an extensive assessment of all our facilities and are implementing the recommended measures to make them more secure. Please report any unusual activities to the Danbury Police (911) and the Water Department at 797-4615.

- ***Distribution***

Every day, 7 million gallons of clean, potable water is distributed to Danbury's homes and businesses by our system of pipes, storage tanks, and pumping stations. In the spring of each year, the Water Department performs a system-wide pipe-flushing program, which removes accumulated sediment. This helps maintain high quality water as it is pumped or fed by gravity to your tap. A Water Department crew that is on standby 24 hours a day does repairs to broken water mains. **Service lines to individual homes are owned by the property owners, and repairs to these lines are the owner's responsibility.**

- ***Treatment***

Reservoir water is treated at our two water treatment facilities, the West Lake and Margerie Water Treatment Plants. The first step in treatment is chemical addition of aluminum sulfate to the water in order to remove impurities. Settling or floating of the impurities is done followed by filtering out microscopic particles through sand or

carbon, further purifying the water produced. Disinfection, the process used to kill disease-producing organisms, is done by careful addition of chlorine to the filtered water. Final treatment includes fluoride addition to prevent tooth decay, phosphate addition to reduce corrosion, and caustic soda addition to adjust the pH to neutral.

- ***Monitoring***

We continually verify our water's quality by daily testing in our state certified laboratory, and by 24 hour a day instrument monitoring. Our water plants are staffed with trained operators around the clock, 365 days a year. The City's Laboratory personnel, along with independent private laboratories perform about 27,000 water tests annually.



Danbury has over 2000 fire hydrants in the City for fire-fighting purposes

## ***SODIUM LEVEL NOTIFICATION***

Each year, Danbury water is tested for dozens of different substances including sodium. In recent years the sodium level in our water has been just above the 28 mg/L state notification level (NL). In 2014 a level of 37 mg/L of sodium was detected in one of the tests of your water. This

exceeds the NL and we're required to inform you of this. If you've been placed on a sodium-restricted diet, please inform your physician that your water contains 37 mg/L of sodium. For comparison purposes, most sodas contain around 150 mg/L, and low-fat milk contains over 400 mg/L of sodium.

## ***WHAT WE'RE DOING TO IMPROVE***

The goal and mission statement of the Danbury Water Department is to provide an adequate quantity of quality drinking water to all our customers. In order to achieve this goal we are continually looking to improve our system. In 2014 we obtained State of CT approval for year round use of our Kenosia Well Field. This approval increases our system's safe yield and helps to ensure that there will be adequate water to serve Danbury and assist the surrounding area in emergencies.

## ***HELP PROTECT OUR RESERVOIRS***

You can help protect our water supplies from pollution caused by runoff from storm events. Pollutants such as oils, salts and microbiological contaminants can flush off of road surfaces, driveways, parking lots and landscaped areas and drain to the closest stream, lake or reservoir.

Please prevent pollution by:

1. Do not dump oil or chemicals into storm drains or your lawn. Store waste materials safely and dispose of them at Danbury's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, held each year at the Public Works Complex in September for Danbury residents.
2. If you have a septic system, make sure that it is properly maintained. Pump the tanks regularly – at least once every two years. Do not put chemicals into your septic system.
3. Do not use excessive amounts of fertilizers or pesticides on your lawn. Some of these chemicals will drain into surface or ground waters.
4. Encourage the planting of buffer vegetation (shrubs and ground cover) at the edges of streams and ponds. Never clear cut your property. Keep as much natural vegetation as possible.

For more information: [www.nemo.uconn.edu](http://www.nemo.uconn.edu)

## **VIOLATION OF LEAD AND COPPER MONITORING REQUIREMENT**

Important information about your drinking water – monitoring requirements not met. Our water system violated drinking water test requirements during the past 3 year period (2011-2013). Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During this period we did not monitor your water for lead and copper as required and therefore we cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water regarding these parameters during this time period.

### What should you do?

There is nothing you have to do at this time. The table below lists the contaminants that we did not properly test for during last year, how often we are supposed to sample for this contaminant, how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the dates when follow up samples were taken.

Contaminant	Lead and Copper <sup>1</sup>
Required sampling frequency	30 samples every 3 years
Number of samples taken	0
When samples should have been taken	2011 - 2013
When samples were taken	2010 & 2014

### What is being done?

This violation was due to missing required testing of lead and copper in the Danbury Water Department distribution system during 2011-2013. To prevent this from occurring again, testing requirements for the water system have been entered into a computer which will automatically alert us of future requirements.

For more information, please contact David Scalzo at 203-796-1514 or at:

[d.scalzo@danbury-ct.gov](mailto:d.scalzo@danbury-ct.gov) or at the mailing

address listed above in the report.

Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly. You can do this by posting this in a public place or distributing copies by hand. This notice is being sent to you by the Danbury Water Department, State Water System ID # CT0340011.

<sup>1</sup>Lead and copper are required to be tested on “first-draw” samples taken directly from customer’s homes. The 30 samples every 3 year requirement is a reduced monitoring schedule, reduced because of repeated low levels of lead and copper in Danbury. Historically lead and copper are not a problem in your water.

You can minimize the potential for lead and copper exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking and cooking. If you are concerned about the levels in your drinking 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 at 800-426-4791 or at the web site:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

***Este informe contiene informacion importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hobbble con alguien que lo entienda***

### **WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM**

Danbury drinking water originates mostly from our two main reservoirs, Margerie and West Lake which are piped to our two water plants. The source water in these reservoirs comes from precipitation (rain and snowfall) that drains and collects in them. The reservoir water is turned into drinkable water by modern water treatment methods. Danbury’s secondary reservoirs are used to supplement our supply in dry periods and include East Lake, Padanaram, Upper Kohanza, and Lower

Kohanza Reservoirs, Boggs Pond, and Lake Kenosia. All together the City has over 3 billion gallons of water in storage when the reservoirs are full. Additionally, we maintain several wells near Lake Kenosia that can be used during prolonged dry periods.

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity. Since this drainage can end up in the City’s water supply, it is the responsibility of everyone living in the watershed to protect against pollution.

Contaminants that might be expected in untreated water include: biological contaminants such as viruses, parasites and bacteria including Giardia and Cryptosporidium; inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemicals from industrial or petroleum use such as MTBE; and/or radioactive materials such as radon.

Various treatment processes used in the water industry are designed to remove potentially harmful contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

A water assessment of the Danbury Water Department’s West Lake and Margerie Reservoirs 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: <http://www.ct.gov/dph>. The assessment found that the Margerie Reservoir has a LOW susceptibility to potential sources of contamination. The assessment rating of the West Lake Reservoir was determined to be MODERATE.

Additional source water assessment information can be found at the Environmental Protection Agency’s website: [www.epa.gov/drink](http://www.epa.gov/drink)