



Dear Valued Customer:

At Maine Water, we know that water touches everything we care about. Our team of 75 dedicated, highly trained professionals is committed to providing you with a reliable supply of high quality water and responsive service. We know the most important thing we do each and every day is to provide clean, safe drinking water so families can trust the water we provide will contribute to their good health.

We strive to make this report easy to read to help you understand more about your drinking water – where it comes from, what is done to protect and treat it, and what is in it. Within these pages are details about the drinking water quality test results, the source(s) of the drinking water supply, and an assessment about the susceptibility of water supply sources to potential contamination.

Maine Water is committed to the stewardship of its water resources, land and the environment and to its protection and conservation for current and future generations. We have a comprehensive source protection program for our water supplies, aquifers and watershed areas.

Maine Water's 2017 Annual Water Quality Reports include the results of more than 110,000 water samples tested at state certified laboratories for more than 120 potential contaminants and water quality parameters. We are pleased to report the water quality results in your system meet all state and federal drinking water standards.

Delivering safe drinking water to our customers and communities is our highest priority. Our Maine Water team appreciates the trust you put in us every day when you turn on the tap, and we are committed to honoring that trust and delivering you a world-class product. If you have any questions or comments about your drinking water or this report, please call our Customer Service staff at 1-800-287-1643 or send an e-mail to [customerservice@mainewater.com](mailto:customerservice@mainewater.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Knowlton".

Rick Knowlton  
President

# 2017 Water Quality Report

Maine Water Company Biddeford & Saco Division  
PWSID# ME0090170



Maine Water is pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the past year. This report was prepared under the requirements of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act to report annually the details of where your water comes from, what it contains, and the risks that our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. The federal law allows water providers to make reports available online as the accepted form of notification. In our effort to reduce costs and environmental impacts of printing, we will provide the information online and will mail the report to customers who request it. Maine Water will notify all customers through bill inserts, news releases and our website that water quality reports for all systems are available online or upon request.

If you have any questions about this report, please call our customer service team at 1-800-287-1643 or e-mail us at [customerservice@mainewater.com](mailto:customerservice@mainewater.com).

For the year 2017, we are pleased to report that your drinking water met all national primary drinking water standards.

**Sources of Supply** – The Saco River is the sole source of water for the Biddeford Saco water system. It begins as a small stream high in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and flows through 120 miles of New Hampshire and Maine forest and farmland before reaching our treatment facility. The Saco River watershed covers an area of roughly 1,700 square miles. We are fortunate that the Saco River is one of the cleanest major rivers in Maine and New England, due in part to the lack of any substantial industrial development along its shoreline. In fact, the majority of the Saco River in Maine has been given the cleanest rating possible for a river. To learn more about the watershed, go to U.S. EPA's Surf Your Watershed at [http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/huc.cfm?huc\\_code=01060002](http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/huc.cfm?huc_code=01060002). Additional information on the Saco River watershed and land use regulations in place for the watershed can also be obtained through the Saco River Corridor Commission's internet site at [www.srcc-maine.org](http://www.srcc-maine.org). We operate a conventional water treatment plant to make your water safe to drink. The treatment process consists of flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration. To the filtered water we add chlorine and ammonia for disinfection, fluoride to promote dental health, and a corrosion inhibitor to reduce corrosion in the pipe system. Certified operators ensure the quality of the water we produce.

Sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, ponds and wells. As water flows on the surface of the land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive material, and can also accumulate substances resulting from human and animal activity. The Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP) has evaluated all public water supplies as part of the Source Water Protection Program. The assessments included geology, hydrology, land uses, water testing information, and the extent of land ownership or protection by local ordinance to see how likely our drinking water source is being contaminated by human activities in the future. In 2015, a source water assessment was completed for the Biddeford Saco system and indicates a low risk of significant contamination. Assessment results are available at town offices, public water supplies and the DWP (207.287.2070).

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, or wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemicals contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring, or can be the results of oil or gas production or mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations established limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 at EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline website <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline>.

**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 website <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline>.**

**Protecting Water Sources:** Many people don't know that most contaminants enter rivers, lakes, and reservoirs with storm water runoff from streets, parking lots, golf courses, athletic fields, construction sites, farms, and residential neighborhoods. You can help reduce polluted runoff using the following guidelines:

- Restrict the use of lawn chemicals, especially before heavy rains.
- Dispose of pet or animal waste properly so that it does not wash into a nearby stream or storm drain.
- Have septic tanks inspected every two years, and cleaned as needed. Make septic system repairs as soon as possible.
- Do not pour used motor oil on the ground or into storm drains. Contact your town for proper disposal of household chemicals.
- Report muddy runoff from construction sites to your town's zoning or wetland officials.



**Educational Information about Lead and Copper:** Maine Water believes it is important to provide you with information about the sources of lead and copper in drinking water and the health effects associated with them.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Infants and 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 could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

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 people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. Anyone with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Maine Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. We have a comprehensive corrosion control program in the system to reduce the risk of lead leaching from a customer's service line or internal plumbing. For information on the levels of lead and copper detected in your drinking water system, please refer to the table in this water quality report.

You can minimize the potential for lead or copper exposure by flushing your tap water for 30 seconds to a minute before using the water for drinking or cooking anytime your water has been sitting idle for several hours. If you are concerned about elevated lead or copper levels, 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 at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead> or through the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline website <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline>.

**Water Quality Data:** The following tables list contaminants that were detected during 2017 in your water system. The table provides the maximum observed levels of regulated contaminants. The Safe Drinking Water Act allows us

to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. The Safe Drinking Water Act also allows monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate certain monitoring requirements. No testing waivers were granted in 2017.

**Turbidity Levels:** Turbidity is a measure of cloudiness or suspended colloidal matter (silt). Excessive turbidity can interfere with water disinfection. The standard for turbidity is that 95% of all readings in each month are less than 0.3 NTU and a single day maximum is less than 1.0 NTU. These standards were met consistently in 2017. The maximum monthly high turbidity during 2017 was 0.23 NTU and occurred in December.

**Microbiological Contaminants:** During 2017 none of the 480 distribution system samples tested positive for coliform bacteria.

**National Primary Drinking Water Contaminants**

Compounds	Test Date	Violation Y / N	Detection Value	Range of Detection	Federal/State Standard		Major Sources in Drinking Water
					MCL/ MRDL	MCLG/ MRDLG	
<b>Inorganics and Radionuclides</b>							
Barium, ppm	2017	N	0.004	NA	2	2	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Fluoride, ppm	2017	N	0.8	0.5-0.8	4	4	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Gross Alpha, pCi/l	2015	N	1.07	NA	15	0	Erosion of Natural Deposits

<b>Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts</b> -- Compliance for Haloacetic Acids and Total Trihalomethanes is based on a running annual average of quarterly samples at four locations. The range shows the highest and lowest result for all individual sample locations during 2017.							
Total chlorine, ppm	2017	N	0.02 ave	0.0-0.90	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Haloacetic Acids (HAA5), ppb</b>	2017	N	26	16 - 30	60	NA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Biddeford Animal Hospital		N	25	0 - 31			
Blue Point School		N	30	24 - 34			
Old Orchard Beach Town Hall		N	32	27 - 37			
Route 1 Irving Gas Station	N	32	27 - 37				
<b>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs), ppb</b>	2017	N	31	21 - 41	80	NA	
Biddeford Animal Hospital		N	38	21 - 61			
Blue Point School		N	34	20 - 49			
Old Orchard Beach Town Hall		N	35	22 - 49			
Route 1 Irving Gas Station	N	35	22 - 49				

**Lead and Copper Results--** Samples are from consumer's taps. 90% of the tests must be equal to or below the action level for rule compliance.

Lead and Copper	Test Date	90th Percentile	Total Number of Samples	Samples Exceeding Action Level	Federal/State Standard		Major Sources in Drinking Water
					Action Level	MCLG	
Copper, ppm	2017	0.30	30	1	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead, ppb	2017	4.8	30	3	15	0	

**Notes:**

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

**Fluoride:** Fluoride may help prevent tooth decay if administered properly to children, but can be harmful in excess. US Department of Health and Human Services recommend a level of 0.7 ppm.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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. Some levels are based on a running annual average.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** 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.

**NTU:** Nephelometric turbidity unit (cloudiness of water)

**pCi/L, picocuries/Liter:** A unit of concentration for radioactive contaminants.

**ppb:** A unit of concentration equal to one part per billion.

**ppm:** A unit of concentration equal to one part per million.

**PWSID:** Public water supply identification number.

**Running Annual Average (RAA):** The average of all quarterly samples for the last year at all sample locations.

**TTHM and HAA5:** Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids are formed as a byproduct of drinking water chlorination. This chemical reaction occurs when chlorine combines with naturally occurring organic matter in water.

**Total Coliform Bacteria:** Reported as the highest monthly number of positive samples, for water systems that take < 40 samples per month.

**Turbidity:** Monitored as a measure of treatment efficiency for removal of particles.

**Our water systems are designed and operated to deliver water to our customers' plumbing systems that complies with state and federal drinking water standards. This water is disinfected using chlorine, but it is not necessarily sterile. Customers' plumbing, including treatment devices, might remove, introduce or increase contaminants in tap water. All customers, and in particular operators of facilities like hotels and institutions serving susceptible populations (like hospitals and nursing homes), should properly operate and maintain the plumbing systems in these facilities. You can obtain additional information from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791**



**Infrastructure Investment:** As part of our commitment to maintaining water quality and service, Maine Water Company has invested more than \$40 million in water infrastructure upgrades and replacement over the past 5 years throughout all our Maine systems, and we are planning to invest another \$9 million in 2018.

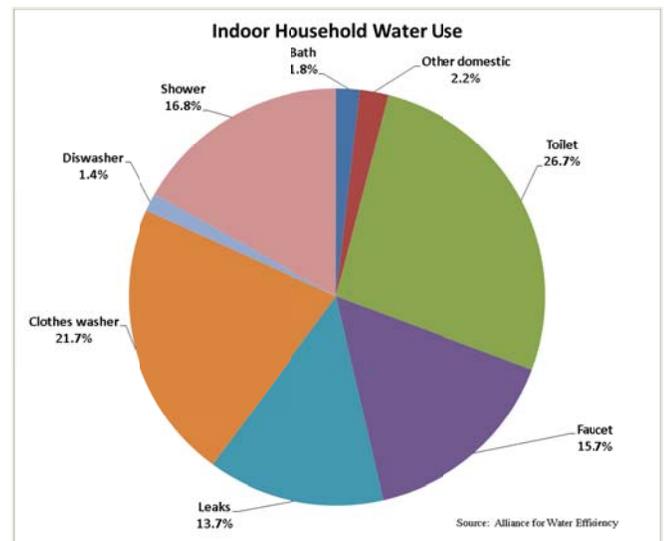
Families and communities see the benefit of these investments through:

- clean, safe drinking water that contributes to good health;
- an increase in the volume of water supplied to the nearby hydrant for public safety;
- a reliable supply of water for economic development and job creation; and
- new equipment and programs that result in greater water conservation, which is good for the environment.

We are investing in our systems so that they can continue to meet the needs of customers today and those of future generations.

**Conserving Water Indoors and Outdoors:** Conserving water helps to ensure that we have an adequate supply of water for public health and safety, and reduces demands on the state's water resources. The typical residential home uses 125 gallons of water per day; you can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using. Conserving can lower your water bill, and depending on the community where you live, may reduce your sewer bill.

Here are some things you can do to conserve:



- Repair leaking toilets - check for toilet leaks by putting a drop of food coloring in the tank. If the food coloring seeps into the bowl without flushing, there is a leak.
- Consider installing a low-flow 1.6 gallon per flush toilet.
- Don't use toilets as a wastebasket.
- Fix leaking fixtures.
- Run full loads in the dishwasher.
- Set the water level in the washing machine to match the amount of clothes being washed.
- Water lawns and gardens in the early morning.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Use a bucket rather than a running hose to wash cars.

Additional water conservation ideas and a link to a water saver calculator can be found on the conservation section of our website at [www.maineewater.com](http://www.maineewater.com)

