

# **Candlewood Knolls Water Authority**

## **Consumer Confidence Report 2024**

### **Is my water safe?**

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

### **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

### **Where does my water come from?**

The Candlewood Knolls water system is 42 years old. We provide both seasonal and year-round water to subscribers in accordance with State regulations. We currently have 3 active wells. Two wells are located on the ballfield, and one well is located at Camp Arden on the tank site. Our water source is unfiltered ground water and comes from the Watershed west of Candlewood Lake in the Town of New Fairfield and extends to the New York State line.

### **Source water assessment and its availability**

The CT Department of Public Health (DPH) Drinking Water section has a program in place for water quality monitoring and compliance. The CKWA follows this program for water testing monthly, quarterly, annually or any other monitoring period requirement. We collect water samples from the distribution system and the active wells and have them tested by an

independent laboratory. The laboratory reports the results to the State to maintain compliance. Some tests are not required every year so you may see different contaminant results in each of these annual reports. All water quality test reports are available upon request.

Also, an assessment of the CKWA was completed by the CT DPH, Drinking Water Section in Oct 2023. They assessed our performance with site visits and an evaluation. The updated assessment report can be found on the DPH's website: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Drinking-Water/DWS/Source-Water-Assessment-Program-SWAP-Reports>. The assessment found that our drinking water source has a moderate susceptibility to potential sources of contamination. Additional source water assessment information can be found at the Environmental Protection Agency's website: : <https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection/source-water-assessments>

## **Why are there contaminants in my drinking 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 indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public and private water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## **How can I get involved?**

The Candlewood Knolls Water Authority (CKWA) is a group of your neighbors who volunteer to oversee and administer the community water system. You can be involved by attending annual community meetings and participating in discussions of the water system. Community meetings are held in the clubhouse in July and Sept. Watch the community calendar for specific dates and times. We encourage public participation in decisions that affect the quality of our water.

## **Water Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely.
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## **Source Water Protection Tips**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Do not dump anything into our storm drains as they drain directly into the lake.

## **Additional Information for Lead**

The system inventory does not include lead service lines.

In 1983/1984 CK replaced the original cast iron water piping distribution system with PVC and copper water piping. Using construction drawings, notes, field observation, personnel observation and interviews with consumers we were able to determine that CK has NO lead water distribution service lines.

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. Candlewood Knolls Water Authority is responsible for providing high quality drinking water. We completed a survey of all service lines and CK does not have any lead piping but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for several minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and 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>.

The CKWA tests every year for the presence of lead in our water system per CT DPH requirements. To date we have had lead counts well below the maximum contaminant levels. The CT DPH required all private and public water systems to perform a Lead Service Line Survey and submit the results before the Oct 2024 deadline. The CKWA documented all water distribution piping material for both the CK distribution system up to the curb box and the customer owned portion from the curb box to the homes shut off valve. We found NO lead water piping. Water piping in your home beyond the water shut off valve is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure is not lead piping. The 2024 Lead Service Line Report is available by request to the CK office.

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## Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source	
				Low	High				
Inorganic Contaminants									
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	3.11	1.63	3.11	2024	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Microbiological Contaminants									
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	1	00	NA	NA	2024	No	Soil runoff	
Radioactive Contaminants									
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	00	5	0.501	NA	NA	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Range		# Samples Exceeding AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
				Low	High				
Inorganic Contaminants									
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.026	0.0167	0.263	0	2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	00	15	00	NA	2.84	0	2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Violations and Exceedances

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
NA	NA: not applicable

Unit Descriptions	
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	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	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level
90th Percentile	Compliance with the lead and copper action levels is based on the 90th percentile lead and copper levels. This means that the concentration of lead and copper must be less than or equal to the action level in at least 90% of the samples collected.

**For more information please contact:**

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