

# Drinking Water

## **Is my water safe to drink?**

The water supplied to you is routinely tested by both your public water system and the Nassau County Health Department for compliance with the New York State Sanitary Code, Part 5 drinking water standards or maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). Testing is performed at operating wells and at representative locations throughout the distribution system. Your public water system distributes each year the Annual Water Quality Report that summarizes water testing performed in the distribution system and a complete description of the operation including water conservation measures you can take and billing information.

## **My water has a problem with taste, odor or rust. Is it safe?**

The conditions are of an aesthetic, not health, nature. Please contact your water supplier if you are experiencing these conditions. Water systems in Nassau County can usually resolve these conditions in a short period of time.

## **Do I need to have my water tested for lead?**

Lead is found in water as the result of contact with lead plumbing or lead solder in your home's plumbing system. Lead levels increase in proportion to the time that water stays in piping. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) recommends that piping that is not used for more than six hours be flushed, for up to two minutes or until the water gets colder, to eliminate any lead which may have leached out of the plumbing.

## **Do I need a filter?**

Filters are not necessary for homes that are supplied by public water systems. Public water systems are routinely tested and meet drinking water standards set by the Federal and State Governments. If you still wish to install a filter, be certain to install a filter with a flow indicator and to strictly follow the manufacturer's recommendations for maintenance.

## **Do I need to drink bottled water?**

There is no need to use bottled water instead of tap water. Bottled water in New York State must meet the same water quality requirements of the New York State Sanitary Code that apply to tap water. Please be sure that the label has been certified by the New York State Health Department for sale. The certification identification is on the label as "NYSHDCERT #000". This assures that the water meets New York State requirements.

## **Is more information available?**

More information regarding your drinking water may be obtained by contacting your water supplier or by calling this Department at (516) 227-9692.

**What if I have a complaint about drinking water?**

Your local water supplier handles complaints about rusty water or odors. Other inquiries may be made to the Health Department Bureau of Water Supply at 227-9692 weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. For emergencies after business hours, call 742-6154.