

UNH Water Supply
28 Waterworks Road
Durham, NH 03824

Durham Public Works Department
100 Stone Quarry Drive
Durham, NH 03824

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Where Does Your Water Come From?

The UNH-Durham Water System is a jointly operated water system, meaning that both UNH and the Town of Durham contribute to the production of safe drinking water. Your water comes from combined sources provided by UNH and/or the Town at any given time. There are **1,300 water meters in the Town's System, which are read monthly and billed quarterly and over 200 UNH meter locations.**

The University owns and operates the Surface Water Treatment Plant, which includes the Lamprey River Pump Station, and the portion of the water distribution system serving the University. The new Water Treatment Plant (WTP) became operational on March 11th, 2020 and replaced the Arthur Rollins Treatment Plant that was originally constructed in 1935. The raw water is supplied to the treatment plant from a reservoir on the Lamprey River and/or the Oyster River, and/or the Spruce Hole Well. The Spruce Hole site serves a dual purpose: (1) to convey river water from the Lamprey River to artificially recharge the underlying Spruce Hole Aquifer; and (2) to convey groundwater from the Spruce Hole Well to the UNH-Durham Water Plant for treatment. At the UNH Water Treatment Plant, treatment process chemicals are added to assist in removal of impurities through settling. The water is then filtered through layers of anthracite coal and sand. The final stage of treatment involves the addition of chlorine for disinfection, fluoride to minimize tooth decay, sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) for pH control, and blended phosphate to minimize corrosion of the piping system. The maximum capacity of the WTP is around 2 million gallons per day.

The Town of Durham owns and operates the Lee Well and Pump Station, Foss Farm and Beech Hill Storage Tanks, the Town reservoir behind the Wiswall Dam on the Lamprey River, Technology Drive and Madbury Road pressure stations and the portion of the **distribution system serving the residents and businesses of the Town. The Town's portion of the water system is under direct** control of the Durham Public Works Department. The Lee Well is a gravel packed well located on Angel Rd. in Lee, N.H. The Town of Durham owns the land on which the wellhead and pump house are sited. The well has an estimated safe yield of approximately 550,000 gallons per day. The well water is naturally filtered underground. Water pumped into the distribution system has chlorine added as a disinfectant, fluoride to minimize tooth decay, sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) for pH control, and blended phosphate to minimize corrosion of the piping system.

The Spruce Hole Land and Water Supply is jointly owned by UNH and Durham and was brought online in 2016 providing additional water capacity and redundancy to the **UNH-Durham water system. The location of the Spruce Hole Well (the Town's Gravel Pit)** was originally acquired by the Town of Durham in 1982 and it has been used as a gravel/borrow pit for Town use only. The UNH/Durham Water System was awarded the 2017 Source Water Sustainability Award for our efforts in Water Conservation and development of the Spruce Hole Well and Artificial Recharge Project.

Drinking Water Contaminants

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.

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, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- Lead- If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious 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. The UNH-Durham Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. 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 at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Why are contaminants in my water? Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about **contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the US Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)** *Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider. 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 at 1-800-426-4791.* *In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.*



UNH-DURHAM WATER SYSTEM- PWS ID # 0691010 2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT

The water that the UNH-Durham Water System provides to University and Durham buildings and residences meets or exceeds State and USEPA strict standards. This report has been created to inform you of the quality of drinking water delivered to you on a daily basis.

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* If you are interested in learning more about the UNH-Durham Water System or in attending a future meeting, please contact the University or Public Works Department at the email or number listed above.