

VILLAGE OF SAUGERTIES WATER DEPARTMENT

WATER QUALITY UPDATE

Taste and Odor Conditions

June 19, 2026

Over the past several weeks, many residents have contacted the Water Department regarding ongoing taste and odor issues in the public water supply. We understand your frustration and want you to know that we share your concerns.

As a lifelong resident of Saugerties, I take great pride in providing safe, high-quality drinking water for our community. While the water remains safe to drink and continues to meet all State and Federal drinking water standards, I recognize that the current taste and odor conditions are unacceptable to many of our customers.

Since this issue began, Water Department staff have been working daily to reduce the effects of the early-season algae bloom affecting our source water. Most recently, we have been applying chlorine to the raw water entering the treatment process to help oxidize the naturally occurring compounds responsible for the taste and odor. This effort has produced encouraging results, and we have begun receiving positive feedback from some customers.

While these improvements are helping, our treatment plant does not currently provide enough contact time for complete removal of these compounds. For that reason, we are working with the Department of Health to implement sodium permanganate treatment, which we believe will provide additional improvement.

It is also important to understand that changes made at the treatment plant are not immediately noticeable throughout the water system. Water must move through our 3-million-gallon storage tank and distribution system before reaching all customers. As a result, it can take approximately five to seven days for treatment changes to be fully reflected throughout the system.

We appreciate the patience and understanding of our residents as we continue working through this issue. We remain committed to improving water quality and will continue to provide updates as progress is made.

Sincerely,

Mike Hopf
Water Superintendent
Village of Saugerties Water Department

For questions or concerns:

Village of Saugerties Water Department
845-246-8958 or email: vdavide@villageofsaugerties.org

Town of Saugerties Water Department
(Malden, Glasco, Kings Highway, and Barclay Heights Water Districts)
845-246-8671