



VERMONT DRINKING WATER WEEK

2026 DRINKING WATER TASTE TEST

Do you have the best tasting drinking water in Vermont? Well, here's your opportunity to prove it. Vermont Drinking Water Week Committee welcomes public water systems to enter the 2026 Drinking Water Taste Test. The contest will be held at Vermont Rural Water Association's Annual Conference at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee on May 14.

Date: Thursday, May 14, 2026

Time: Deliver samples by 9 am. Judging starts at 9:30 am.

Location: Lake Morey Resort, 82 Clubhouse Rd, Fairlee, VT

Rules

- Water system must have a valid Permit to Operate with no state or federal drinking water violations during the previous calendar year.
- Submit an entry form to info@vtruralwater.org by Friday, May 1.
- Provide one (1) gallon of water in a container that is clearly marked with water system name, WSID, and category (CWS groundwater, CWS surface water, NTNC or TNC). Glass containers are recommended.
- Water must be at room temperature. Chilled water will be disqualified.
- Drop off your sample at the taste test table in the lobby by 9 am on May 14.
- Samples should be drawn no earlier than the day before the event.
- Water will be judged by a panel of industry professionals. Water will be served at room temperature in plastic cups. System names will remain anonymous to the judges during the contest.
- It is your responsibility to collect your container after judging. Unclaimed containers will be recycled.

Categories

- Community Water System (CWS) – Surface Water
- Community Water System (CWS) – Groundwater
- Non-transient Non-Community (NTNC)
- Transient Non-Community (TNC)

An overall winner will be chosen from among the top finishers in each category.

Winner

Winners will be announced during the conference luncheon. Participants are asked to be present in the lunchroom. The winning system will be entered into the Great American Water Taste Test, held by the National Rural Water Association, in February 2027. The Vermont Rural Water Association will pay to ship the winning water sample to Washington, D.C. Vermont Rural Water will also work with the winning system to write a press release for local newspapers.

Don't want to compete but willing to judge? Email info@vtruralwater.org