

2022

Drinking Water Report

City of Montesano Water System

State ID #56000



City of Montesano

Home of the Tree Farm

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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. It includes the most recent water quality results through the monitoring period ending December 31, 2022, in accordance with state and federal regulations (not all testing is required every year). This report also provides access through references and telephone numbers to source water assessments, health effects information, and other water system topics. This allows you to make personal health-based decisions regarding your drinking water consumption and become more involved in decisions which may affect your health. Most importantly, this report shows that your drinking water source meets all primary and secondary EPA and Department of Health standards. We hope you find this information helpful

Note from the Public Works Director:

The City received a monitoring violation for failure to collect a distribution sample for Disinfection Byproducts. We simply missed this sample requirement for this past year. Typically, our results for Disinfection Byproducts are far below the maximum contaminant levels. We will make sure to collect this sample on time this year.

Thank You, Mike Olden, P.E.

Your Water System

WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

- Your water comes from two wells (groundwater). The wells are located southeast and southwest of the City.
- Chlorine is added to your water for disinfection purposes.
- Sodium Hydroxide is added to adjust the pH of the water, to reduce its corrosivity toward household copper plumbing and fixtures.
- Fluoride is added to as a measure to try to prevent tooth decay.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION INFORMATION.

Your drinking water comes from groundwater wells. Protecting these drinking water sources is key to sustaining safe drinking water supplies.

What you can do to protect source water:

- Use chemical fertilizers and pesticides sparingly, if at all.
- Don't dump any hazardous waste on the ground. This includes: motor oil, pesticides, paint or paint cans, mothballs, flea collars, household cleaners, medicines, etc.

Check the SWAP information for your water system:

The Washington State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water has compiled Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) data for all community water systems in Washington.

A source water assessment includes:

- A delineation (definition) of the source water protection area,
- An inventory of potential sources of contamination, and
- A susceptibility determination (how susceptible the source is to contamination).

An interactive map with data for your water system is available at: fortress.wa.gov/doh/swap/

Cross-Connection Control

To ensure that the high-quality water we deliver is not compromised in the distribution system, the City has a cross-connection control program. Cross-connection control is critical to ensuring that activities on customers' properties do not affect the public water supply. Our cross-connection control specialist ensures that all of the existing backflow prevention assemblies are tested annually, assess all connections, and enforce and manage the installation of new commercial and residential assemblies.

Backflow can occur when certain pressure conditions exist either in our distribution system or within the customer's plumbing. A minor home improvement project — without the proper protections — can create a potentially hazardous situation, so careful adherence to plumbing codes and standards will ensure the community's water supply remains safe. Please be sure to utilize the advice or services of a qualified plumbing professional. Customers must ensure that all plumbing is in conformance with local plumbing codes. Additionally, state law requires certain types of facilities to install and maintain backflow prevention assemblies at the water meter. Washington Water's cross-connection control staff will determine whether you need to install a backflow prevention assembly based on water uses at your location.

Many water-use activities involve substances that, if allowed to enter the distribution system, would be aesthetically displeasing or could even present health concerns. Some common cross-connections are:

- Garden hoses connected to a hose bib without a simple hose-type vacuum breaker (available at a home improvement store)
- Improperly installed toilet tank fill valves that do not have the required air gap between the valve or refill tube
- Landscape irrigation systems that do not have the proper backflow prevention assembly installed on the supply line

The list of materials that could potentially contaminate the water system is vast. According to the EPA, a wide variety of substances have contaminated drinking water systems throughout the country as a result of poor cross-connection control. Examples include:

- Antifreeze from a heating system
- Lawn chemicals from a garden hose or sprinkler head
- Blue water from a toilet tank
- Carbonated water from a soda dispenser

Possible Contaminants

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 the water poses a health risk.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Common sources of drinking water — both tap and bottled water — include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, and reservoirs (surface water), and wells and springs (groundwater). As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. Water can also 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, parasites, 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 stormwater 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.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those 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/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 (800) 426-4791.

Key Definitions

ACTION LEVEL (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

LEAD AND COPPER 90TH PERCENTILE VALUE: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. This must be less than or equal to the AL or additional steps must be taken.

MAXIMUM CONTAINMENT LEVEL (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG): 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.

µMHOS/CM: A measure of specific conductance.

MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL (MRDL): 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.

MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL GOAL (MRDLG): 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.

N/A: Not applicable.

NOT DETECTED (ND): The result is less than the SDRL.

NEPHELOMETRIC TURBIDITY UNIT (NTU): A measure of water clarity.

PPB: Parts per billion (µg/L, micrograms per liter)

PPM: Parts per million (mg/L, milligrams per liter)

STATE DETECTION REPORTING LIMIT (SDRL): The minimum reportable detection of an analyte as established by DOH. If the test result is less than the SDRL, the contaminant is considered to be not detected.

SECONDARY MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (SMCL): These standards are developed as guidelines to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

Water Quality Table

Introduction

Your water is tested for more than 150 contaminants for which state and federal standards have been set.

Tables 1 & 2 list all primary contaminants that were detected at or above the state detection reporting limit (SDRL), along with their respective MCLs. Primary MCLs (primary standards) protect public health by limiting the levels of these contaminants in drinking water.

Table 3 lists secondary contaminants of interest to many consumers, as well as any unregulated contaminant detections. Secondary contaminants have no known health effects but can affect the aesthetic properties of water (taste, odor, and appearance). Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to help EPA determine their occurrence in drinking water and potential need for future regulation.

SOURCE CODES

The source codes indicate major sources of contaminants in drinking water.

AM	Water additive used to control microbes
CH	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
EN	Erosion of natural deposits
LN	Leaching from natural deposits
LX	Leaching from septic tanks
NAT	Substances that form natural deposits
NOM	Naturally occurring organic materials
RF	Runoff from fertilizer use
RLN	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
RS	Soil runoff
SEA	Seawater influence
SEW	Sewage
WI	Industrial wastes

2022 Water Quality

TABLE 1: PRIMARY CONTAMINANTS

Inorganic Chemicals	Year Tested	Units	MCL	MCLG	Your Water		Violation?	Source
Nitrate	2022	ppm	10	10	1.6		No	EN, LX, RF, SEW
Disinfectant (an additive)	Year Tested	Units	MRDL	MRDLG	Target Average	Range	Violation?	Source
Free Chlorine Residual	2022	ppm	4	4	0.5	0.20–1.0	No	AM

TABLE 2: LEAD AND COPPER

Samples are collected at customer kitchen or bathroom taps. Residences considered to be at highest risk for corrosion are selected for sampling (i.e., those with lead and copper in internal plumbing, based on specific EPA tiering criteria and available home construction details from county web sites). The number of homes sampled is based on population served by the water system. This testing is done every three years.

Primary Contaminants	Year Tested	Units	ACTION LEVEL (AL)	Samples > AL	Violation?	Source
Copper	2022	ppm	1.3	0 of 20	No	CH, EN
Lead	2022	ppb	15	0 of 20	No	CH, EN

TABLE 3: SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS

Secondary Contaminants	Year Tested ¹	Units	SMCL	Your Water	Violation?	Source
Chloride	2022	ppm	250	5.4	No	RLN, SEA
Sulfate	2022	ppm	250	2.4	No	RLN, WI
Sodium ²	2022	ppm	N/A	9.8	No	EN, SEA

¹ Most recent testing done, in accordance with the regulations (every three years).

² The EPA recommends 20 ppm sodium as a level of concern for consumers who must restrict their dietary intake.

About Lead

Washington Water is compliant with health and safety codes mandating use of lead-free materials in water system replacements, repairs, and new installations. We have no known lead service lines in our systems. We test and treat (if necessary) water sources to ensure that the water delivered to customer meters meets water quality standards and is not corrosive toward plumbing materials.

The water we deliver to your home meets lead standards, but what about your home's plumbing? In Washington state, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used for in-home plumbing (for example, lead solder used to join copper plumbing, and brass and other lead-containing fixtures). Therefore, the Lead and Copper Rule is a critical part of our water quality monitoring program, and we follow it completely. This rule requires us to test water *inside* a representative number of homes that have plumbing most likely to contain lead and/or lead solder. This test, along with other water quality testing, tells us if the water is corrosive enough to cause lead from home plumbing to leach into the water. If the Action Level (the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers action which a water system must follow before it becomes a health concern) is exceeded, either at a customer's home or system-wide, we work with the customer to investigate the issue. If the problem is system-wide, we will implement corrosion control treatment at the source before the lead levels create a health issue.

Elevated levels of lead, if present, can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children. If your home's plumbing contains lead piping or pipe fittings, lead solder, or brass fixtures that may contain lead, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two 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 by a certified lab. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Results of our lead monitoring program, conducted in accordance with the Lead and Copper Rule, can be found in Water Quality Table 2.

About Monitoring Waivers

(Reduced Monitoring)

ORGANIC CHEMICALS

Drinking water sources are sampled and tested a minimum of every six to nine years for an array of organic chemicals including volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) and synthetic organic chemicals (SOCs), such as herbicides and pesticides. VOCs are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Sampling frequencies for these groups of organic chemicals can vary depending on the county in which your water system is located, whether the source has been granted a monitoring waiver, and whether there have been past detections of any of these organic contaminants.

Monitoring waivers are granted by the DOH and are based on a source's susceptibility rating (risk of contamination), water quality history, and information gathered from across the state.

If there were detections of organic contaminants obtained during the most recent round of compliance monitoring (2015–2020 for VOCs; 2012–2020 for SOCs), they are shown in the water quality data tables. If there are none reported in the tables, there were none detected.

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS

Drinking water sources are sampled and tested a minimum of every six years for radioactive contaminants (radium 228 and gross alpha). These contaminants can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

If there were any detections obtained during the most recent round of compliance monitoring (2015–2020), they are shown in the water quality data tables. If there are none reported in the tables, there were none detected.

Water-Use Efficiency

Water is a precious, limited resource. In the Pacific Northwest, drinking water for our growing population competes with other uses that include agriculture, industry, recreation, and maintaining an adequate stream flow for fish.

- Water-use efficiency goals must be established in accordance with WAC 246-290-830(6)(b).
- We monitor the amount of water we withdraw from our wells, and track water losses along with water sold to our customers.
- The City also continues to invest in our infrastructure to reduce the amount of water lost to pipeline leaks.

DEMAND GOAL

The City has an overall goal of reducing Average Day Demand (ADD) by 5% over the next 10-year planning period. This relatively modest goal accounts for the already low ADD per customer that is occurring due to the fairly aggressive commodity charges. The majority of the savings will be met through measures that maintain an economic incentive to reduce water use. The public meeting requirements for goal setting was addressed through the recent WSP Update planning process.

DISTRIBUTION LEAKAGE GOAL

The Distribution System Leakage goal, which is not to be confused with Water Use Efficiency goals, is to maintain Distribution System Leakage below 10% in the future Water Use Efficiency estimates. A system is in compliance if Distribution System Leakage is less than or equal to 10 percent for the previous three-year period.

WATER PRODUCTION AND USE - 2021

- Total production: 249,749,000 gallons
- Total accounted usage: 212,974,528 gallons
- Total distribution system leakage 2021: 14.7%
- Total distribution system leakage 2020 to 2022: 12.2%

The City will begin work to complete leak detection on older portions of the distribution system in an effort to reduce distribution system leakage.

Important Contact Information

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www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw

Thank you!

Thanks for taking the time to learn more about your water quality!