

## **City of Cascade Locks 2019 Annual Water Quality Report**

The City of Cascade Locks is 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. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

This year's Consumer Confidence Report is available online at our city website [www.cascade-locks.or.us/publicworks/water](http://www.cascade-locks.or.us/publicworks/water) and can be requested as a paper copy by contacting City Hall. Further information on past test results can be found at [www.yourwater.oregon.gov](http://www.yourwater.oregon.gov), search under the name 'City of Cascade Locks' or PWS ID 00172.

### **Is my water safe?**

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is **SAFE** and meets federal and state requirements. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

### **Where does my water come from?**

The City withdraws groundwater from a sandy gravel unconfined aquifer through two deep wells located on Herman Creek Lane. The City has completed a Source Water Assessment in the past and routine Sanitary Surveys are performed by the Hood River County Environmental Health Department every three years. The sanitary seal of Wells 1 and 2 has been noted as not being in conformance with current standards due to the presence of sand in the grout used to seal the well casing at the ground surface when they were originally constructed.

In 2019 the only treatment your water received was disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

### **Health Information**

The City routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The City tests for bacterial contaminants (coliforms) monthly and various chemicals on regular intervals ranging from 6 months (lead and copper) to 9 years (asbestos, arsenic, inorganic chemicals, nitrite, and radionuclides). In 2019, we sampled more than 50 times for nine different contaminants. We only detected contaminants in 5 samples, and only one (1) result exceeded the Action Level mandated by the EPA. (For more information see the section labeled Violations at the end of the report.)

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

### **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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; 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### **Additional Information for Lead**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health 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 City of Cascade Locks 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **How can I get involved?**

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please contact the City of Cascade Locks, or attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

### **Water Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair, and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They are inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

### **Cross Connection Control Survey**

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. The City is responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and ensuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

### **Other System Information**

In the last few years the City has completed construction of a new 480,000 gallon water reservoir and replacement of more than 3 miles of water mains in an effort to reduce leakage, improve water quality and provide adequate capacity to serve the community based on projected growth.

In 2019 City completed construction of the Corrosion Control Treatment Facility which adjusts the pH of the water to reduce the leaching of lead and copper from household piping into the water.

### **Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations**

The City incurred two violations in 2019 – both of which were for “Late or Nonreporting of the Lead & Copper Rule”. The City returned to compliance in January 2020.

### **Water Quality Data Table**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
TTHMs Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	[Total NA	80	2.0	1.9	2.0	2019	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Results	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
<b>Lead and Copper Contaminants</b>								
Copper - Action Level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	1.2	January to June 2019	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Copper - Action Level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	1.4	July to December 2019	2	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - Action Level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	2.2	January to June 2019	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - Action Level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	5.0	July to December 2019	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

<b>Violations and Exceedances</b>	
<b>Copper - Action Level at consumer taps</b>	<b>Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor. The Action Level exceedances were noted during the semi-annual testing.</b>

<b>Unit Descriptions</b>	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

**For more information please contact:**

Contact	Name:	Sheldon	Price
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Phone:	(541) 374-8484		

**Thank You for taking the time to read this report. The safety of our water supply, distribution and fire protection systems is vital to our community. It is our continuing goal to provide the highest possible quality of drinking water for Cascade Locks and protect our customers' and citizens' water supply both now and in the future.**

Gordon Zimmerman  
City Administrator