

City of Molalla Annual Water Quality Report for Calendar Year 2012

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) now requires all community water systems to provide customers with a water quality report each year. Molalla's water comes from the Molalla River several miles upstream of the city and is treated at the Molalla Municipal Water Treatment Plant. The Molalla River watershed encompasses a total of about 203 square miles and provides us with an extremely clean source of surface water. A source water assessment is available for customer's review. We are pleased to report that our water is safe and continues to meet or exceed Federal and State requirements.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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/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 (800-426-4791).

We have been testing the quality of your water for many years. Currently there are about 100 water quality standards for potential contaminants in drinking water supplies in Oregon. Of these, a few contaminants have been detected in our drinking water at levels well below maximum acceptable levels set by the State and EPA as indicated in the following table:

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants						
Turbidity	N	0.93 Highest single measurement	NTU	N/A	TT=NTU's at any time. 100%<0.3	Soil Runoff
Unregulated VOC's						
Chloroform	N	17.5	ppb	N/A		
Bromodichloromethane	N	1.1	ppb	N/A		
Disinfection Byproducts						
Haloacetic acids (HAA5)	N	14.6	ppb	0	60	Byproducts of disinfection process
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes)	N	19.1	ppb	0	80	Byproducts of disinfection process
Chlorine						
Sodium Hypochlorite	N	1.5 (Maximum Level detected)	ppm	MRDLG= 4.0	MRDL= 4.0	Used for chlorination / disinfection
Lead and Copper Results						
Substance	Units	Action Level	90 th Percentile	Homes exceeding Action Level	Complies	Likely Source of Contaminations
Lead	ppb	15	7.0	0	y	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	ppm	1.3	.084	0	y	Corrosion of household plumbing

Testing

Testing for lead and copper was performed in September 2012. Tests at the 90th percentile were 7 ppb lead and 0.084 ppm copper. 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 Molalla 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Samples are routinely collected from numerous points in the distribution system and then tested. State certified operators collect the samples, which are then tested at state certified laboratories. We constantly monitor for various constituents in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements.

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 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Important Definitions:

- Maximum Contaminants Level Goal (MCLG): The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum Contaminants Level (MCL): The highest level of contaminants that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Turbidity: A measure of the cloudiness of the water and is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants such as chlorine.
- 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 contamination.

During 2011 sampling we completed a year of TOC (Total Organic Carbon) & we were consistently below MCLs which qualified us for reduced monitoring for these contaminants.

Opportunities for public participation: Residents are always welcome to attend city council meetings, which are normally the 2nd and 4th Wednesday's of each month.

For more information, call the City of Molalla at 503-829-6855. El informe contiene informacion importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Traduzcal a hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.