

City Of Sisters
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Our First Priority Is The Water You Drink

The City Of Sisters is pleased to present to you this year's Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our ground water wells insure that we are providing you with some of the highest quality and best tasting water in Oregon. The water quality report is required annually by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Information on the water quality tests conducted on the City Of Sisters water supply is provided in this report. The word "contaminant" is used throughout the report to describe regulated contaminants detected in Sister water supply. Most of the reported contaminants are naturally occurring organic elements. The City Of Sisters takes great pride in our water quality. For more information you can attend one of our public meetings held the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm at 520 E. Cascade Ave.

Sources of Drinking Water

Key and Definitions

- **AL - Action Level**, the concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.
- **EPA - Environmental Protection Agency**, sets water quality standards and establishes methods and monitoring requirements for water utilities.
- **MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level**, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal**, the level of a contaminant in drinking water which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow a margin of safety.
- **PPB/ug/l - Parts Per Billion**, the equivalent of one second in 32 years.
- **PPM - Parts Per Million**, the equivalent of one second in 12 days.
- **Result** - the column that shows you what level of contaminant was found in the water you drink.
- **> Greater than**
- **pCi/l - Picocuries Per Liter**, a measure of radioactivity

The sources of (both tap 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 and human activity.

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, comes from agricultural, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic Chemical Contaminants, synthetic and volatile organic chemicals are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants, Naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Drinking water and bottled water may 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline

(800-426-4791)



Lead in Drinking Water

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 Sisters 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 to drink 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>. Or by contacting Umpqua Research Company, drinking water testing laboratory 541-312-9454.

The table below is a snapshot of contaminants out of hundreds tested annually that was detected in our drinking water. The City Of Sisters includes only contaminants that were detected over the last five years as we are allowed to test for some of the contaminants on a less frequent schedule per the EPA and Oregon Department Of Human Services.

Primary Standards (directly related to the safety of drinking water)

Inorganic Contaminants	(Units)	MCL	MCLG	Range/Result	Violation	Likely source
2010 - Fluoride	(ppm)	4	4	0.291 - 0.154	No	Erosion of natural deposits
2010 - Nitrate	(ppm)	10	10	1.02 - 0.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminants	(Units)	MCL	MCLG	Result	Violation	Likely source
*2010 - Sodium	(ppm)	N/A	N/A	8.59 - 11.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits
*Advisory only						
Radiological Contaminants	(Units)	MCL	MCLG	Range	Violation	Likely source
2009 - Gross Alpha	(pCi/l)	15	0	0.5 - 0.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium	(pCi/l)	5	0	0.7 - 1.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead & Copper	(Units)	MCLG	AL	90th%	Violation	Likely source
2009 - Copper	(ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.205	No	Household plumbing
Disinfection By-Products	Units)	MCL	MCLG	Range/Result	Violation	Likely source
2011 - Chlorine Residuals	(ppm)	4	4	0.2 - 0.3	No	By-product of DW disinfection
2009 - Total Trhalomethane	(ppb)	80	N/A	3.7 - 4.0	No	By-product of DW disinfection

The City Of Sisters chlorinates well #1 with a chlorine gas and wells 2 & 3 with an on site generated sodium hypochlorite to insure that the water you are drinking is free of any microbial contaminants from the source to your tap. The disinfection process is carefully controlled so that the disinfection effectiveness is maintained while keeping the levels of disinfection by-products below regulatory limits.

Health Information required by the EPA

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 advise 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)

Benefits of Drinking Water



Source Water Assessment

The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act require that all states conduct Source Water Assessments for public water systems within their boundaries. The assessments consist of (1) identification of the Drinking Water Protection area, i.e., the area at the surface that is directly above the part of the aquifer that supplies groundwater to our well. (2) identification of **potential** sources of pollution within the drinking water protection area, and (3) determining the susceptibility or relative risk to the well water from those sources. The purpose of the assessment is to provide water systems with information they need to develop a strategy to protect their water resource if they choose.

The Drinking Water Programs of The Department of Human Services and Environmental Quality have completed a Source Water Assessment. A copy of the report is on file for viewing by visiting City Hall at 520 E. Cascade Ave.

How to access more information on our water system

On the internet type in WWW.dhs.state.or.us/publichealth/dwp, under MENU click on [Data Online](#), under the blue box that has Drinking Water Program choose [WS ID Look Up](#), and in the box beside PWS Number: OR41 type in 00826 and click View Results. You can scroll to the bottom and choose options to browse information for City Of Sisters information.