



## **2021 City of Cle Elum Consumer Confidence Report: Water Quality**

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report provides water quality data to the public in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency Federal Clean Water Act and Consumer Confidence Report requirements.

Federal and State drinking water standards require monitoring and reporting of specific water-quality parameters. For each parameter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established a maximum contaminant level (MCL) "below which there is no known or expected risk to health." Furthermore, the EPA requires that only State-certified laboratories using approved standard methods are permitted to be used when analyzing water samples for public water systems. This report is based upon data from the 2020 calendar year from treated water-quality results at the water treatment plant as well as samples collected from the City's water distribution system and residences.

The City's excellent drinking water originates with the high-quality sources of the Yakima River and the Cle Elum River well field and quality is further refined in our modern water treatment plant.

On October 10, 2018 the Washington Department of Health performed a Routine Sanitary Survey of the water treatment system in accordance with WAC 246-290-416 and found no deficiencies at the water sources or treatment plant; these surveys are very comprehensive and occur every 3 to 5 years.

The City of Cle Elum's drinking water continues to meet or exceed all Federal and State requirements and we are committed to providing you with the highest quality water possible.

### **Water conservation: It all starts with you**

Water conservation, using water efficiently and avoiding waste, is essential to ensure that we have adequate water today and into the future. Water is a finite resource and the supplies on Earth today are no more than what was here at the beginning of the planet. It is up to all of us to use the water we have wisely, and it is as simple as each of us making small changes. By being smarter about our water use, not only can we save water, energy, and money, we can help our rivers, too. When we use water more efficiently, we leave more water in rivers and streams to support fish, wildlife and recreation.

### **Water conservation tips**

- ✓ Check faucets for leaks, a small drip from a leaky washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day.
- ✓ Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket, every time you flush, 1 to 7 gallons of water is wasted.
- ✓ Check your toilets for leaks, put a little food coloring in your toilet tank, if, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired; most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install.

- ✓ Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators; "low-flow" means it uses less than 2.5 gallons per minute.
- ✓ Showers can use five to ten gallons every minute so be efficient.
- ✓ Consider replacing your 3 to 7 gallon per flush toilet with a "low flush" model, which use 1 to 1.6 gallons per flush.
- ✓ Insulate your water pipes with pre-slit foam pipe insulation; you'll get hot water faster plus avoid wasting water while waiting for it to run hot.
- ✓ Turn the water off while you brush your teeth or shave and save over two gallons a minute.
- ✓ Use your dishwasher and clothes washer for only full loads for optimum water conservation.
- ✓ When cleaning a partial load in your clothes washer, adjust the water level to match the size of the load.
- ✓ Consider replacing old clothes washers with new Energy Star rated washers which use 35 - 50% less water and 50% less energy per load.
- ✓ Consider planting drought-resistant lawns, shrubs and plants and group plants according to their watering needs.
- ✓ Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants, this will slow evaporation of moisture and increase the ability of the soil to retain moisture.
- ✓ Water your lawn only when it needs it; water in the early morning or evening, and try to avoid watering on windy days. This will limit the amount of water that is evaporated by the sun or blown onto sidewalks and driveways.
- ✓ Properly aim your sprinklers to water only the intended areas.
- ✓ Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.

### **About Drinking Water**

All drinking water, including bottled water, may be expected to contain small amounts of contaminants. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material and can pick up substances from the presence of animals or human activity. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

### **Contaminants that may be present include:**

- Microbiological contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, storm water runoff and residential use.
- Organic chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production. These can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which may be naturally occurring, or be the result of mining or oil and gas production.

**Do I need to take special precautions?**

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).

**Additional Information for Lead**

Lead plumbing was banned in 1985. 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 Cle Elum 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>.

**City of Cle Elum Drinking Water Quality**

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 attached table lists the results of the City of Cle Elum water quality analyses performed for the 2020 calendar year for all required regulated contaminants. 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.

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Potential Sources
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectant &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>								
Chlorine (ppm)	4.0 MRDLG	4.0 MRDL	See Range	0.53	3.79	Daily	No	Disinfection agent
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	NA	60	15.68	NA	9.7	Annual	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	9.03	NA	7.65	Annual	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL=1.3	From 10 houses	0.002	0.08	7/10/18	No	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	0	AL=15	From 10 houses	0.1	1.46	7/10/18	No	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	<0.05	NA	NA	10/21/20	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	0	15	1.09	NA	NA	9/15/15	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	0	5	0.46	NA	NA	9/15/15	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	0	1	ND	NA	NA	2 Per Month	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Unit Descriptions</b>								
<b>Term</b>			<b>Definition</b>					
ppm			ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)					
ppb			ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)					
positive samples/month			positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive					
NA			NA: not applicable					
ND			ND: Not detected					
<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>								
<b>Term</b>			<b>Definition</b>					
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.					
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.					

**For More Information Contact:**

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