



Water Quality Report for 2023

Water System ID #925002

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The City of Walla Walla has met or exceeded the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) drinking water requirements. 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. 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.

Español

Este es el Informe de Calidad del Agua 2023 Ciudad de Walla Walla agua potable. Si ha recibido, usted es un cliente del Sistema de Agua de la ciudad. El informe contiene información importante sobre el agua del grifo. Si desea una versión en español del informe, llame al 509-527-4463.

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 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 can pick up naturally occurring minerals and organics. 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) or on the web at:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater>.

Where does my water come from?

The City of Walla Walla provides water from a combination of surface water and groundwater sources. In 2023, surface water comprised 77% of the total water; surface water comes from the protected Mill Creek Watershed. The Mill Creek Watershed is an uninhabited, pristine, 36 square mile area bordering Washington and Oregon in the Blue Mountains. Groundwater comes from deep wells located throughout the City.

Description of the Water Treatment Process

Our surface water treatment process consists of pre-treatment settling in combination with an upflow roughing filter to reduce turbidity and suspended solids, followed by dual disinfection. Dual disinfection utilizes UV light and the addition of chlorine to inactivate or kill parasites, bacteria, microorganisms, and viruses that may be present in surface water. Groundwater treatment is achieved with only the addition of chlorine. Chlorine disinfection is one of the major health advances of the 20th century.

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).

Results of Cryptosporidium monitoring

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes cryptosporidium, the most used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. As part of the rules that govern surface water treatment, a second round of cryptosporidium testing was completed in 2012. Results of this testing showed very low levels of cryptosporidium and was consistent with the first round of testing in 2005. Ingestion of cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

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 household plumbing. To improve health and safety, the US Congress has passed Public Law 111-380 regulating the amount of lead in potable water pipes, fittings and fixtures, the new law went into effect January 4, 2014. The City of Walla Walla is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and has taken all the proper steps to comply with this law; however, we cannot control the variety of materials being used in plumbing components connected to, but outside the public water system. 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>.

Source water assessment and its availability

To assure our water meets all the regulatory guidelines, the City conducts regular analysis which includes daily raw water microbial testing, finished water microbial testing of the distribution system 40 times per month, weekly physical testing, and annual chemical and organic testing as set forth by EPA and the DOH. To receive additional information on the results of the analysis, contact the Water Treatment Plant office at 509-522-3775.

How can I get involved?

For questions or comments, please feel free to contact the City's Water Division at 509-527-4380. Citizens may get involved in water issues through the Water/Wastewater Advisory Committee or by attending City Council meetings. More information may be obtained by calling the City Manager's Office at 509-527-4522.

Water Use Efficiency Summary

The City's water distribution system is aging, and the City is using an Infrastructure Repair and Replacement Program (IRRP) along with a Capital Improvements Program (CIP) to replace old leaky pipes and services. In 2023, the City replaced 7,250 feet (1.37 miles) of water main and added 4,848 feet (0.92 miles) of new water main. The City continues to conduct system wide leak detection, in 2023 our unaccounted-for water decreased to 11.7%, to meet State DOH requirements the goal is 10%.

Water Quality Data Table

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations limiting the number of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were detected in your water. 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 a list of definitions on page 4.

Table 1 – Regulated Contaminants

Substances (units)	Goal (MCLG) or MRDLG	Limit MCL, TT, or MRDL	Avg. Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)*	NA	60	30.3	8.1	66.6	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)*	NA	80	29.6	10.7	64.1	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)*	4	4	0.79	0.58	1.01	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
TOC*	NA	TT	4.08	1.25	9.27	2023	No	Organic material in surface water
Inorganic Contaminants Source Water								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0049	NA	NA	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
Turbidity (NTU)*	NA	5	0.40	0.14	.81	2023	No	Soil runoff

***Note:** There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants sampled at the Customer Tap							
Lead – action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	3.7	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper – action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.164	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Table 2 - Physical Characteristics for 2023

The following results are not required by law to be in this report but are provided for your information.

Contaminants	Average	Lowest	Highest
Alkalinity (ppm)	38.5	27.6	58.8
Conductivity (umho/cm)	54.5	23.4	119.1
Hardness (ppm)	30.9	21.0	47.0
pH	7.6	7.3	7.7
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	36.0	15.5	80.2
Temperature (Fahrenheit)	57.7	44.0	70.0

Chemical Monitoring Violation
Notice to Water System Users

The City of Walla Walla Water System 92500 in Walla Walla County is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring indicate whether or not your drinking water meets health standards.

The City of Walla Walla did not meet our monitoring requirements by failing to take a Nitrate sample in 2023 from our water source S-11, a ground water well, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your water during that time. Although previous (2022) and subsequent (2024) monitoring from that source water indicate levels of 0.91 mg/L and 0.70 mg/L respectively, well below the MCL of 10 mg/L.

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
NA	Not applicable
ND	Not detected
NR	Monitoring not required but recommended.
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water.
ppb	Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppm	Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
AL	Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
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.
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.
MNR	Monitored not Regulated
MPL	State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level
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.
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.
TT	Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Variances and Exemptions	State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

For more information, please contact: Tom Krebs, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor Address: 55 E Moore Street, Walla Walla, WA. 99362 Phone: 509-527-4380 E-Mail: tkrebs@wallawallawa.gov