# Water Quality Report for 2019

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**

Esto es 2019 Informe sobre Calidad del Agua Ciudad de Walla Walla de agua potable. Si usted ha recibido, que usted un cliente del Sistema de Aguas de la ciudad. El informe contiene información importante sobre el agua del grifo. Si desea una versión en español del informe, por favor llame 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 2019, surface water comprised 68% 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***

In 2019 the Water Treatment Plant underwent a major upgrade, the existing Ozone Treatment system was removed and replaced with a new Ultraviolet (UV) Treatment system. In order to facilitate the upgrade our surface water system was shut down and we delivered groundwater through May 2019. Testing of the UV system was completed May 30, 2019 and the newly treated surface water was restored. The treatment process is considered dual disinfection; it involves the use of UV light and the addition of chlorine to inactivate or kill parasites, bacteria, microorganisms, and viruses that may be present in surface water. Disinfection is considered to be 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 commonly 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. In order 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***

In order 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 very old, and the City is using the Infrastructure Repair and Replacement Program (IRRP) and Capital Improvements Program (CIP) to replace old leaky pipes and services. In 2019, the City replaced 10,979 feet (2.08 miles) of water mains. In addition, the City completed a system wide leak detection project and all known leaks were repaired.

## Water Quality Data Table

In order 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 of 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 Low | Range High | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products** | | | | | | | | |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)* | NA | 60 | 14.2 | 2.2 | 37.1 | 2019 | No | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)* | NA | 80 | 11.8 | 3.7 | 23.3 | 2019 | No | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)* | 4 | 4 | 0.83 | 0.57 | 1.35 | 2019 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| TOC* | NA | TT | 0.34 | 0.25 | .59 | 2019 | No | Organic material in surface water |
| **Inorganic Contaminants Source Water** | | | | | | | | |
| Barium (ppm) | 2 | 2 | 0.005 | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Microbiological Contaminants** | | | | | | | | |
| Turbidity (NTU)* | NA | 5 | 0.21 | 0.08 | .94 | 2019 | 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 | 2019 | 1 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits |
| Copper – action level at consumer taps (ppm) | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.164 | 2019 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits |

**Table 2 - Physical Characteristics for 2019**

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) | 49.0 | 29.7 | 89.0 |
| Conductivity (umho/cm) | 69.6 | 49.4 | 174.0 |
| Hardness (ppm) | 39.6 | 24.0 | 72.0 |
| pH | 7.5 | 7.3 | 7.7 |
| Total Dissolved Solids (ppm) | 44.9 | 32.8 | 115.0 |
| Temperature (Fahrenheit) | 48.4 | 39.0 | 66.5 |

| 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, of 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
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