2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The Water We Drink

Columbia Valley Water District

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, which informs you about the quality of the safe and dependable supply of drinking water services we deliver to you every day. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and protecting our water resources. Our water source is three wells, drawing groundwater from the Columbia Valley Aquifer.

We proudly report that **our drinking water is safe** and meets federal and state requirements.

For more information about this report or your water utility, please contact the office at: (360) 599-1699 or *admin@cv-wd.com.* We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. You're welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30 P.M. at the District Office at 6229 Azure Way, Maple Falls, WA 98266.

The Columbia Valley Water District routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of **January 1st to December 31st, 2020** and earlier**.** All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In the table below you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Action Level (AL) - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) - (mandatory language) A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

All 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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

COLUMBIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant (Unit Measurement)	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of detections	Year Tested	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
State Regulated Microbiological Contaminants						
Turbidity (ntu)	N	0.22	<0.1-0.22	2018	TT	Soil runoff
Inorganic Contaminants						
Arsenic (mg/l)	N	0.002	<2-3	2018	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	N	.018	.005-.018	2018	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate -N	N	0.91	.32--.91	2020	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Asbestos	N	0.2000	0.2000	2019	7	Decay of asbestos water mains, Erosion of natural deposit
Copper and Lead						
Copper (mg/l)	N	0.325	.0087--.325	2020	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Lead (mg/l)	N	.0052	.001--.0052	2020	0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Byproducts						
THM - Total Trihalomethane	N	ND	<0.5	2020	80	Disinfection By Products
HAA5 - Halo-Acetic-Acids	N	ND	< 1	2020	60	Disinfection By Products

Turbidity - Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Arsenic - Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Barium - Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

Copper - Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Nitrate - Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

Asbestos - Some people who drink water containing asbestos in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of developing benign intestinal polyps.

Lead. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. 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.

Columbia Valley Water 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 thirty seconds to two 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The district continues to work on its Water Use Efficiency Plan that is being developed to meet State Department of Health requirements and better serve our customers. After receiving customer input during the Water Conservation public meeting held June 25, 2015 the District has adopted interim Water Use Efficiency Goals which include: Reducing customer usage by 2% over 6 years (2022); Reduce unaccounted for water (lost water including leakage) to less than 10% in 3 years.

Some of the measures we are using to achieve these goals include: Customer Education such as: Wise Water Use advertising and public education as a member of Whatcom Water Alliance; Seasonal Road signs to "Please Conserve Water"; The District has implemented a water use conservation rate structure. The district is also performing a leak detection program that is including customer awareness, water loss monitoring, and leak detection practices and more frequent meter readings to help detect customer side leaks and make them aware of the leaks.

WATER LEAK FACTS:

- A 1/8-inch hole in a metal pipe, at 60 psi, leaks 3,800 gallons of water in 24 hours.
- A leak the size of a pinhead can waste 360,000 gallons per year, enough to fill 12,000 bathtubs to the overflow mark.
- A leaking toilet can use 90,000 gallons of water in 30 days.
- A dripping faucet/hose bib can lose up to 450 gallons a month or 5,400 gallons per year.
- A typical toilet leak at today's rate can add $$$ to a single water bill.
- Using a broom to clean the sidewalk instead of a hose saves 200 gallons of water.

If your toilet is running constantly, you could be wasting 3,000 gallons of water or more every day.

If your toilet is leaking, the cause is most often an old, faulty toilet flapper. Over time, this inexpensive rubber part decays, or minerals build up on it. It's usually best to replace the whole rubber flapper—a relatively easy, inexpensive do-it-yourself project that pays for itself in no time.

"The Columbia Valley Water District is making every effort to continually improve customer service and to maintain the highest standard of water quality

Це повідомлення містить важливу інформацію про воду, яку ви п'єте. Попросіть кого-небудь перекласти вам це повідомлення або поговоріть з людиною, яка розуміє його зміст.

В этом сообщении содержится важная информация о воде, которую вы пьёте. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести для вас это сообщение или поговорите с человеком, который понимает его содержание.