

WATER QUALITY REPORT & CONSERVATION TIPS

WHAT IS IN OUR WATER?

Contaminants that may be found in the water include inorganic compounds. These are naturally occurring contaminants (salts and metals) as a result of storm runoff, mining, and farming. In order to insure the water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulation which limit the amount of certain contaminants.

LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLE RESULTS FOR 2011

SUBSTANCE	ANALYSIS	ACTION LEVEL	NUMBER OF SAMPLES EXCEEDING ACTION LEVEL	CONTAMINATE SOURCE
Copper	0.158 PPM @ the 90 th Percentile Value	1.3 PPM	0	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Lead	0.00222 PPM @ the 90 th Percentile Value	15 PPM	0	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Note: 20 lead and copper samples are collected every 3 years from selected homes throughout the City.

2010-2011 SAMPLE ANALYSIS RESULTS

SUBSTANCE	ANALYSIS	MCL	MCLG	NUMBER OF SAMPLES EXCEEDING	CONTAMINATE SOURCE
Fecal Coliform & E. Coli for 2011	ND	1 positive	0	0	Naturally present in the environment
Total Coliform Bacteria for 2011	ND	Fewer than 40 samples/month= 1	0	0	Naturally present in the environment
Nitrate for 2011	<0.10	10 PPM	10 PPM	0	Fertilizer runoff, septic tank leaching, sewage leakage, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite for 2011	<0.10	1 PPM	1 PPM	0	Fertilizer use runoff, septic tank leaching, sewage leakage, erosion of natural deposits
Cryptosporidium	Mean Concentration: 0.02 oocysts/L	N/A	0	3 of 24 samples from April 2010 to March 2011	Animal Feces
Copper pre-water treatment facility	0.0516 PPM	Action Level 1.3 PPM	1.3 PPM	0	Naturally occurring
Disinfection Residuals					
Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	18.97 PPB	80 PPB	NA		Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Halocacetic Acids(HAA)	16.6 PPB	60 PPB	NA		Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Definitions:

PPM= Parts Per Million ¹ **MCL= Maximum Contaminant Level** ² **MCLG= Maximum Contaminant Level Goal**
 (the highest level of contaminant allowed in drinking water) (the level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk)

Treatment Technique = A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

Action Level = The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) = 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 contaminant.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) = The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

- ◆ There were approximately 29 synthetic organic chemicals tested for and not detected.
- ◆ There were approximately 21 volatile organic chemicals tested for and not detected.
- ◆ The 2011 hardness value for untreated water was 83 PPM.
- ◆ The 2011 iron value for untreated water was <0.05 PPM.
- ◆ The 2011 manganese value for untreated water was <0.01 PPM.



◆ **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 home plumbing. The City of Baker City 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, 1-800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

◆ “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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).”

◆ “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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).”

◆ We measure turbidity of the water coming into our system. The highest single measurement cannot exceed 5.0NTU. During the 2010 calendar year our highest reading was 3.513 NTU on April 21. Our 12 month average was 0.15 NTU. 100% of our measurements were below the 5.0 NTU limit (95% is the minimum percent acceptable). We had no violations. The major source of our turbidity is soil runoff.

◆ **Cryptosporidium:** In January 2006, the federal EPA implemented the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule known as LT2. This rule required the City to perform 12 months of sampling and testing, resulting in the detection of the cryptosporidium oocyst in Baker City’s surface water collection source (Watershed). The Cryptosporidium parasite can be found in the feces of most animals, this parasite can cause gastrointestinal health issues if ingested by a healthy person, and for people with a poor immune system can cause more serious illness. Detection of the oocyst has triggered the ultraviolet light treatment technique that renders the oocyst sterile and harmless to ingest. The ultraviolet treatment facility is in the design stages at this time.

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

Our drinking water comes from two separate sources. The first source is the Baker City Watershed. The watershed encompasses 10,000 acres primarily comprised of Federal land and contains Goodrich (Lake) Reservoir with a capacity of 210 million gallons and may other primary springs, streams and diversions. The second source of water is ground water from the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) well located at 4100 Indiana Ave. The watershed water is injected into the well during winter months, stored for a period of time in the aquifer underground, and then is “recovered” during our peak summer season. The City is also authorized to utilize the native ground water via this well. All water is treated with chlorine as required at the City’s reservoir site.

WHAT CONTAMINANTS *MAY* BE PRESENT?

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 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 uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO SAVE MONEY AND WATER!

Inside —

- ◆ Install an aerator on faucets to reduce the amount of water used by adding air to the water flow.
- ◆ Replace washers in faucets to eliminate drips. A dripping tap can waste eight bathtubs of water in one month.
- ◆ Install a low-flow showerhead to reduce water use. They have the same pressure as regular showerheads.
- ◆ Run only full loads in your dish and clothes washers; wash in warm or cold water, not hot.
- ◆ Add a displacement device to the toilet tank to reduce the amount of water in the tank. This tip can save as much as 1/2 gallon per flush.
- ◆ Replace old toilets with low flow toilets to reduce the amount of water use by 1 to 3 gallons per flush.
- ◆ Be aware of the amount of water you use and look for ways to use less whenever you can.

Outside —

- ◆ Water landscaping early in the morning or evening to avoid rapid evaporation.
- ◆ Adjust sprinklers to water plants only - not pavement.
- ◆ Mulch around all plant material to reduce evaporation.
- ◆ Watch for runoff. Soil can only absorb so much water.
- ◆ Learn what types of grass, shrubbery and plants do best in your area and plant accordingly. Plant the right plants in the right places.



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TO: Current Resident

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Traduscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.**