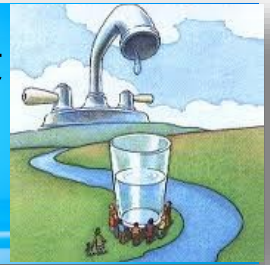




# Drinking Water Quality Report 2018



The City of Sisters is continuously striving to provide the best possible drinking water to you and your family. Please take a few moments to read this report that goes into detail about all the testing our water system undergoes to make sure we stay in compliance with the State and EPA. If after reading this report and you still have questions, please feel free to contact our office, at (541) 549-6022, or attend one of our City Council meetings held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. You can also look up information on-line at <https://yourwater.oregon.gov/namelook.php> and enter Sisters. Click on 00826 for City of Sisters' information.



## Our Water

Our groundwater wells are recharged by precipitation which infiltrates the soil surface and then percolates deep into the ground to recharge the aquifers. Water travels through the ground and is filtered naturally underground. The water is then pumped from the ground and piped to your home for drinking.

## An Important Message from the Environmental Protection Agency

The sources of (both tap 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 dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radio active material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals and human activity.

**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 stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

**Pesticides and Herbicides**, comes from agricultural, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic Chemical Contaminants**, synthetic and volatile organic chemicals are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive Contaminants**, naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Drinking water and bottled water may contain 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Important Information About Water and Your Health

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 advise about drinking water from their healthcare providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants. For more information call the Safe Drinking Water Hot Line, at (800) 426-4791. Additional information can be found on the CDC website: [www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/public/faq.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/public/faq.html).

## Lead in Drinking Water....Are You at Risk?

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 Sisters is responsible for providing high quality drinking water to your tap. We cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. 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 to drink 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, at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>, or at [www.leadline.org](http://www.leadline.org), or by contacting Edge Analytical, drinking water testing laboratory at (541) 639-8425.

Our most recent test results are shown in the data table below. We are required to report only those substances that were present at detectable levels. We are allowed to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year. Therefore, some of the data can be more than one year old.

Primary Standards (directly related to the safety of drinking water)						
Inorganic Contaminants	Units	MCL	MCLG	Range/Result	Did a Violation occur ?	Likely Source
2017 - Arsenic	ppb	10	0	2.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
2017 - Barium	ppm	2	2	0.002	No	Erosion of natural deposits
2017 - Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.11	No	Erosion of natural deposits
2018 - Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0 - 0.32	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminants						
2017 - Sodium	ppm	N/A	N/A	10.7	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead and Copper	Units	MCLG	AL	90 <sup>th</sup> %	Did a Violation occur ?	Likely Source
2018 - Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.191	No	Household plumbing
2018 - Lead	ppb	0	15	2.0	No	Household plumbing
Disinfection By-Products						
2018 - TTHM	ppb	80	N/A	3.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
2018 - Chlorine Residuals	ppm	4	4	0.3 - 0.23	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
The City Of Sisters chlorinates well #1 with a chlorine gas and wells 2 & 3 with an on site generated sodium hypochlorite to ensure that the water you are drinking is free of any microbial contaminants from the source to your tap.						

- **AL - Action Level**, the concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.
- **EPA - Environmental Protection Agency**, sets water quality standards and establishes methods and monitoring requirements for water utilities.
- **MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level**, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal**, the level of a contaminant in drinking water which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow a margin of safety.
- **PPB - Parts Per Billion**, the equivalent of one second in 32 years.
- **PPM - Parts Per Million**, the equivalent of one second in 12 days.
- **pCi/l - Picocuries Per Liter**, a measure of radioactivity.
- **Result** - the column that shows you what level of contaminant was found in the water you drink.
- **TT - Treatment Technique**, a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

### City of Sisters Source Assessment

An assessment of our water system has been completed by the Department of Human Services to determine susceptibility to potential sources of contamination. A copy is on file by contacting City Hall at (541) 549-6022.



# Standards

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 Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline at (800) 426-4791.