

IS MY WATER SAFE?

We are pleased to present this year's **Consumer Confidence Report**, the *Annual Water Quality Report*, as required by the **Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)**. 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 this information because informed customers are our best allies. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 9 of those contaminants, and found only 1 at a level higher than the EPA allows. At that time, our water temporarily exceeded the drinking water standards. (For more information see the section labeled "Violations" on the next page of this report.)

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).

Where does my water come from?

Your water comes from two wells that are sunk into an underground source of water called the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. This source is identified by DEQ as the Dalton Water Field. We own the land around the well and restrict any activity that could contaminate it. After the water comes out of the well, we pump it to our storage reservoir and water distribution system.

Our wells are within the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Wellhead Protection Area. This is a geographical and geological area where strict regulations to protect groundwater (drinking water) are applied.

Hardness: Many people ask about the hardness of our water. It is 213 mg/l or ppm or 12.3838 gpg measured as calcium carbonate.

Source water assessment and its availability

The state has completed an assessment of our source water. If you would like to review a copy of this report, please call our office at (208) 772-5639.

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 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). 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 dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity:

- 1) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;
- 2) 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, or farming;
- 3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses;
- 4) Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic systems; and
- 5) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

Our domestic/drinking water system is a non-profit, membership association and members are always welcome to attend our regular board meetings which are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Dalton Gardens City Hall in the Council Room located at 6360 N. 4th Street in Dalton Gardens.

Cross-Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to help you determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home, or business. A cross-connection is an unprotected, or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination, or pollution, to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below, please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and, if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- ◆ Boiler/Radiant heater (*water heaters not included*)
- ◆ Underground lawn sprinkler system
- ◆ Pool or hot tub (*whirlpool tubs not included*)
- ◆ Additional source(s) of water on the property
- ◆ Water trough &/or decorative pond

Monitoring & Reporting of Compliance Data Violations

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 2020-2022 we did not monitor/test for IOC-Asbestos and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. We have since taken the required sample(s) and the sample(s) show that we are meeting the drinking water standard. Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses.) You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

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 home plumbing. Dalton Water Association, Inc. 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Additional Information for Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic; it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans in high concentrations and is linked to other health effect, such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Results of Radon Monitoring

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon enter the home through the soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix radon problems that are not too costly. For additional information call your state radon program, or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. 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 the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
THMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	0.7	NA	NA	2021	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	2	NA	NA	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.03	NA	NA	2019	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1.9	NA	NA	2022	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform (TCR) (positive samples/month)	0	1	7	NA	NA	2022	No	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants								
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.619	NA	NA	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	2.48	N/A	N/A	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
Inorganic Contaminants								
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.13	2020	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	4	2020	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Violations and Exceedances								
Total Coliform (TCR): Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. July 2022, the routine water sample sites were contaminated and tested present for Coliform. This lasted for less than two days. System chlorination and flushing were conducted. Additional and repeat samples were taken. Corrective actions were taken. All future water samples tested absent for Coliform in 2022.								
Unit Descriptions								
Term	Definition			Term	Definition			
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water			positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive			
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)			NA	NA: not applicable			
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)			ND	ND: Not detected			
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)			NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.			
Important Drinking Water Definitions								
Term	Definition							
MCLG	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.							
MCL	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.							
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.							
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.							
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.							
MRDLG	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.							
MRDL	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.							
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated							
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level							