

2023 WATER Quality REPORT

VIEW ONLINE:



FOREST
GROVE OREGON

Based on data from the calendar year 2022

Why Provide This Report?

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **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**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

FOREST
GROVE OREGON

www.forestgrove-or.gov

(503) 992-3259

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VIEW ONLINE:

<https://yourwater.oregon.gov/inventory.php?pwsno=00305>

Message From the EPA:

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. Immunocompromised 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**.

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. We are 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 drinking 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. The City of Forest Grove will provide up to two free Lead tests per household for customers of Forest Grove Water. Please contact the City of Forest Grove Engineering Dept. at **503-992-3228** for details.



In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and

Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Definitions

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

MCL/Maximum Contaminant Level – highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

MCLG/Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – 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.

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 Disinfectant Level Goal – 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.

NA Not Applicable / **ND** Not Detected

NTU Nephelometric Turbidity Units

TT Treatment Technique – a required process intended to reduce a contaminant level in drinking water.

Public Participation

Public Participation Opportunities: City Council, the policy-making body of the city, meets the 2nd and 4th Monday each month at 7:00pm in the Community Auditorium, 1915 Main St., Forest Grove. Additional City Council information can be found at www.forestgrove-or.gov/citycouncil.

Source Water Assessment

In 2019, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) conducted an Updated Source Water Assessment of the Clear Creek Watershed, as well as the Upper-Tualatin River Watershed. Source water assessments identify potential contaminant sources that may affect the water supply. The main concern identified was increased erosion from harvesting operations could cause runoff and increase the likelihood of landslides. The **Watershed Stewardship Management Plan** focuses on how we are addressing our source water vulnerabilities. To view any of these documents, please contact **503-992-3259**, or email asewall@forestgrove-or.gov.

Forest Grove wants our valued residents to be informed about the water we drink.

Water Quality Data 2022

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report, unless otherwise noted. 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 change frequently. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Regulated Contaminants

Substance (Units) (ppm=parts per million) (ppb=parts per billion)	MCLG [MRDLG]	MCL [MRDL]	Forest Grove Water (Low-High)	JWC (Low-High)	Violation?	Typical Source
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0017 ^B	0.0055 (0.0046-0.0055)	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	[4]	[4]	1.29 (0.31-1.29)	1.54 (0.80-1.54)	No	Additive-controls microbes
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	2 ^B	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	TT, AL=1.3	0.269 ^{AB} (0.022-0.369)	NA	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Fluoride (ppm)	4.0	4.0	0.99 (0.38-0.99)	1.06 (0.14-1.06)	No	Additive - promotes strong teeth
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	50	50	ND	0.15 ^C (ND-0.15)	No	Agricultural runoff
Lead (ppb)	0	TT, AL=15	2 ^{AB} (ND-7)	NA	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.20 ^C	0.32 (0.05-0.32)	No	Agricultural runoff

Microbiological

Total Organic Carbon (removal)	NA	TT	31.8% (30.9-32.8%)	42.1% (29.5-58.6%)	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT ^D	0.18 (0.01-0.18)	0.17 (0.02-0.17)	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity Samples (<0.3 NTU) ^F	NA	TT ^D	100% (100%)	100% (100%)	No	Soil runoff

Disinfection Byproducts

Haloacetic Acid (ppb)	NA	60	29 ^E (12.2-43.7)	NA	No	By-product of water chlorination
Total Trihalomethane (ppm)	NA	80	26 ^E (8.4-51.8)	NA	No	By-product of water chlorination

Notes:

A. 90th percentile of samples taken. **B.** Data from 2020. **C.** Data from 2021. **D.** At no time can turbidity (cloudiness of water) go higher than 1 NTU. **E.** Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA).

Notice of Violation

Our system failed to sample for Nitrate and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC). We are required to sample both annually. Due to an oversight, we failed to collect the samples prior to the Water Treatment Plant shutting down for maintenance last summer. Testing in the previous 5 years revealed Nitrate levels at or below 0.20 mg/L, and no detection of VOCs. Drinking water containing Nitrate in excess of 10 mg/L could have potential health hazards, especially for infants. Drinking water containing high levels of certain VOCs over a period of time, can lead to health hazards, including cancer and effects on the immune and nervous system. Going forward, staff will perform all required sampling early in the sampling window, to prevent an issue like this from happening again.

City of Forest Grove Provides Exceptional Water!

The City of Forest Grove is pleased to present this report to provide information about the high-quality water and services delivered to you every day. We provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water and protect our water resources. This includes the **Watercrest Road Water Treatment Plant** (Clear Creek Watershed) and the **Joint Water Commission (JWC)**

Water Treatment Plant (Barney and Scoggins Reservoirs through the Tualatin River). Our water is safe, and meets federal and state requirements.

Please contact Andy Sewall, Treatment Plant Superintendent, with any questions or concerns at **(503) 992-3259**, or email asewall@forestgrove-or.gov.