

2024 CITY OF FOREST GROVE WATER QUALITY REPORT



SAFE, DEPENDABLE DRINKING WATER

The City of Forest Grove strives to provide customers with high quality water that meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards. The City has two reliable sources to meet demands now and into the future. The City owns 4,225 protected acres in the Clear Creek Watershed that provides water to our Watercrest Road Water Treatment Plant, where it is treated and filtered. Additionally, our partnership in the Joint Water Commission Water (JWC) supplies treated water from the upper Tualatin River, with summertime releases from Hagg Lake and Barney Reservoir.

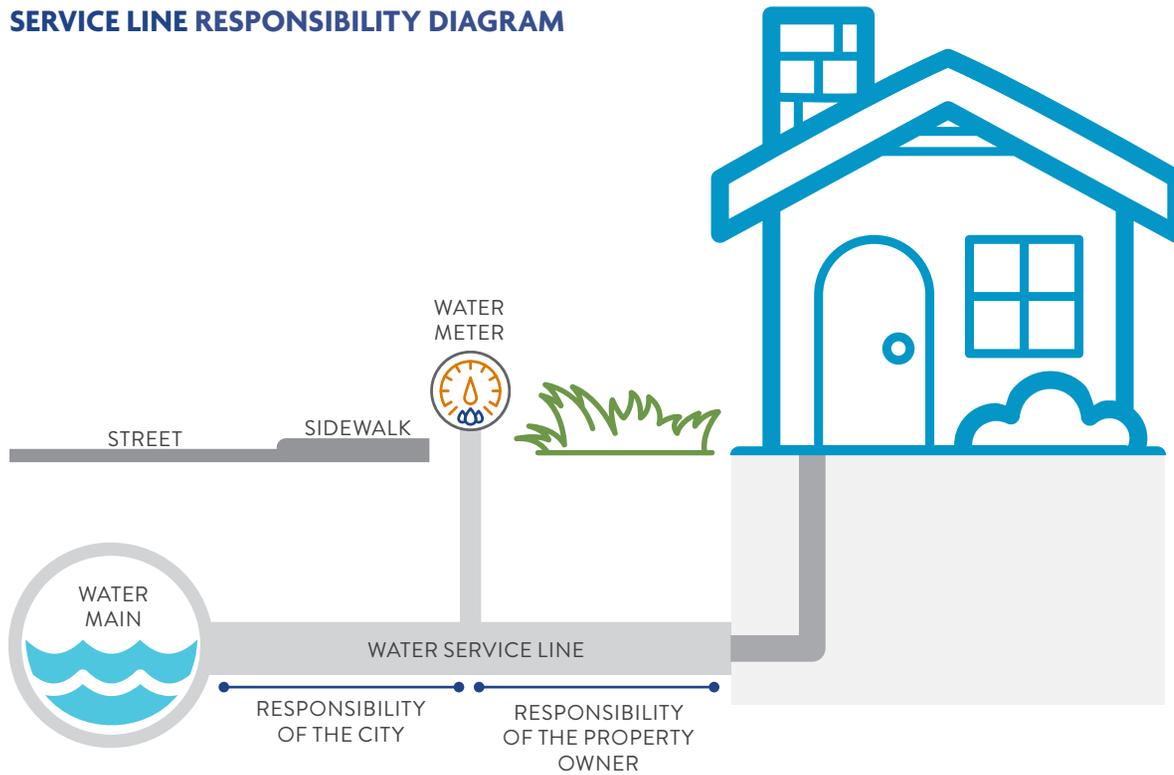
Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791 or epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES				FOREST GROVE WATER		JWC WATER			Typical Source
Substance	Units	MCLG [MRDLG]	MCL [MRDL]	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation?	
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.0017 ^b		0.005	0.005-0.005	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	ppm	[4]	[4]	2.15	0.37-2.15	1.56	0.92-1.56	No	Additive-controls microbes
Chromium	ppb	100	100	2 ^b		N/A	N/A	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	4.0	4.0	0.87	0.14-0.87	1.25	0-1.25	No	Additive-promotes strong teeth
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	ppb	50	50	ND		ND	ND	No	Agricultural runoff
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.17		0.53	0.35-0.53	No	Agricultural runoff
MICROBIOLOGICAL				FOREST GROVE WATER		JWC WATER			Typical Source
Total Organic Carbon	% removal	N/A	TT	33.9%	21.7-46.8%	44.6%	33.1-60.4%	No	
Turbidity	NTU	N/A	TT ^c	0.27	0.01-0.27	0.13	0.02-0.13	No	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly % meeting limit of 0.3)	NTU	N/A	TT ^c	100%	100%	100%	100%	No	Soil Runoff
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS				FOREST GROVE WATER		JWC WATER			Typical Source
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	N/A	60	32 ^d	21-40	N/A		No	
Total Trihalomethane	ppb	N/A	80	36 ^d	20-52	N/A		No	By-product of water chlorination
LEAD AND COPPER TESTING				FOREST GROVE WATER		JWC WATER			Typical Source
Substance	Units	MCLG [MRDLG]	MCL [MRDL]	Amount Detected	Sites Above AL	Amount Detected	Sites Above AL	Violation?	
Copper	ppm	1.3	TT,AL = 1.3	0.184 ^a	0	N/A	N/A	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead	ppb	0	TT, AL = 15	3 ^a	1	N/A	N/A	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

a- 90th percentile of samples taken, b- Data from 2020, c- At no time can turbidity (cloudiness of water) go higher than 1 Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU), d- Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) Unless otherwise noted, all data is from 2023 testing.

SERVICE LINE RESPONSIBILITY DIAGRAM



LEAD FREE WATER SYSTEM

Protecting public health is our focus, and that includes monitoring water quality at the treatment plant and in the pipes that carry the water to homes and businesses. We already test for the presence of lead in homes. Now, a new EPA regulation requires us to confirm all of the service lines that carry water from the water main to homes/business are lead-free.

Service lines are jointly owned by the City and private property owners. This ownership changes at the meter. In Oregon, lead service lines were not commonly used, and were banned in 1985. While the City has a fully known inventory of lead-free service materials on the City side, there are very few records of the Private side service materials.

Forest Grove Water used a statistical based method approved by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to confirm all water service (City and Privately owned) are lead free. Crews dug up and physically inspected 351 randomly selected private side service lines and recorded the material type. By confirming all 351 were lead free, we can be confident that all private side services in the City are non-lead. This method was cost-effective, saved time and had little to no impact on customers.

The City is in the process of submitting the completed inventory to OHA and will be making the inventory available to the public well before the October 2024 compliance deadline.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

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 or epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water.

DRINKING WATER AND 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. Forest Grove 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 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 epa.gov/SafeWater/lead. Customers of Forest Grove Water can request up to 2 free lead tests per household.



Contact Forest Grove Engineering Department at 503-992-3228 for more information.



PFAS

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are long-lasting human made chemicals that have been found in water, air, and soil in the United States and around the world. Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals. Exposure to these chemicals occurs by consuming PFAS-contaminated food or water, breathing air containing PFAS, or using products with PFAS. Beginning in April 2023, Forest Grove Water has tested its drinking water for 29 PFAS compounds every quarter as required by the EPA's Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5). **PFAS were not detected in your drinking water system during this monitoring period.**



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.



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 using the best available treatment technology.

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.

N/A Not Applicable / **ND** Not Detected

NTU Nephelometric Turbidity Units

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

MESSAGE FROM THE EPA

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.

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.

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.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

City Council, the policymaking 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 forestgrove-or.gov/citycouncil.



Forest Grove City Hall



forestgrove_oregon



City of Forest Grove



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