

CITY OF WAPATO  
PUBLIC WORKS ■ WATER DIVISION  
Consumer Confidence Report

2019

Water is a limited resource and the one thing we cannot live without. The City of Wapato is committed to safeguarding the community's drinking water and strives to meet or exceed all quality standards. You are encouraged to review the following water quality report, which is required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the State of Washington. This report contains important information, including ways you can help keep our drinking water clean and safe.

### Our Water Sources

Wapato's water is drawn from the Columbia Plateau Alluvium Aquifer, an underground layer of porous rock containing water. The City accesses the water by pumping from four water wells, each approximately 700 feet deep. Wapato also has two storage reservoirs with a 1.5 million gallon capacity. The water is immediately disinfected by the addition of chlorine, then pumped directly into the City's water distribution system.



### Our Water Treatment

Chlorine is used to disinfect the drinking water supply, daily testing is required in order to measure the chlorine residual. This is done to ensure that the levels of chlorine throughout the distribution system are sufficient to eliminate certain bacteria while remaining well below the maximum level established by the EPA. The water is also tested for disinfection by-products which may form in the distribution system as a result of the chlorination process.

### How to Interpret this Report

Although this report may seem overwhelming, it contains valuable information for water users. In order to alleviate confusion and/or concern as you review the supplied information, terms and units have been defined. The word "contaminant" is used throughout this document to describe anything detected in the drinking water supply. This term is commonly used in the drinking water industry and should not necessarily invite concern, for all drinking water contains trace amounts of minerals and other substances. The purpose of this report is to provide you with an understanding and perspective enabling you to make informed decisions about your drinking water. Units used to measure contaminants in drinking water are parts per million (ppm) or parts per billion (ppb). To gain a perspective on this measurement, imagine one billion (1,000,000,000) blue jelly beans. Now imagine that one of these jelly beans is red. The amount of red jelly beans in relation to blue ones would be 1 ppb, or 1/1,000,000,000. This example works the same way in respect to ppm as well. As you read this report, be sure and keep these figures and definitions in mind. This will assist you in interpreting what you are reading and empower you as a water customer.

### Outdoor Water Conservation

- We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk.
- Wash your car and/or bathe your pets on the grass in an area in need of water. Use a hose nozzle and turn off the water while you wash.
- Weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light, and water.
- For hanging baskets, planters and pots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give your plants a drink of water and help eliminate water overflow.
- Using compost when you plant adds water-holding organic matter to the soil.
- Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.

### Backflow Prevention Reminder

Remember: Water can flow backwards and draw contaminants into the public water system. It is important for residents installing irrigation systems, booster pumps, boilers, or any other apparatus on their plumbing system to conform with the uniform plumbing code, which can require the installation of a backflow prevention assembly. Backflow prevention assemblies are designed to prevent water from flowing backwards to stop potential contamination, keeping ourselves and our water system out of harms way. Before installing a backflow prevention assembly, please contact John Macias at (509) 985-7815.

### Public Participation Opportunity

*Water District customers are welcome to attend City Council meetings.*

When: First & third Monday of each month.

Time: 6:00pm Where: 205 E 3rd St, Wapato, WA 98951

For more information, contact Jeff Schumacker at

(509) 877-3031 or (509) 853-8013



[www.wapato-city.org](http://www.wapato-city.org)

# 2019 WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates the frequency of sampling for various contaminants. The data presented in this table is from testing conducted in 2019. The table may also include any other results within the last five years for analyses that were not required in the year 2019.

Contaminants (units)	MCLG	MCL	Range Low-High or Result	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Nitrate (ppm)	0	10	0.05 - 0.21	May - Dec 2019	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.14 - 0.32	Dec 2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	1.4 - 1.5	Dec 2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
<b>Disinfectant By-Products</b>						
HAA5 [HaloaceticAcids] (ppb)	0	60	ND	Aug 2019	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total Trihalo-methanes] (ppb)	0	80	1.96 - 2.72	Aug 2019	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Lead</b>						
	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile			
Lead (ppb) 30 samples	0	15	0.3 - 1.4	Jun 2017	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

## DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

**Contaminant:** A word used to describe anything detected in the drinking water supply. This term is commonly used in the drinking water industry and should not necessarily invite concern, as all drinking water contains trace amounts of mineral and other substances.

**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:** 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.

**ND** (Not Detected): Lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present or not detectable with the best available technology.

**ppb:** Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter.

**ppm:** Parts per million, or milligrams per liter.

**Range:** The lowest (minimum) amount of contaminant detected and the highest (maximum) amount detected during a sample period.

**units:** Measurement value for each contaminant.

**90th Percentile:** Out of the 30 homes sampled, 27 were at or below this level.

## Important Health Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least trace amounts of some "contaminants". The presence of these do not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as those undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly people, and all infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency/Centers for Disease Control (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 at (800) 426-4791.

## The Effect of Lead in Drinking Water

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 Wapato 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 (800) 426-4791 or on their website [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



## Water Use Efficiency Program Update

The Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Rule was established by the Washington Department of Health to better manage the state's limited water resources. The Rule requires water systems to establish a program to ensure that water is used wisely and efficiently.

The City of Wapato has a responsibility to educate the public on conservation and to achieve and maintain a water loss percentage of 10% or less within the water distribution system. In 2019, we were able to account for approximately 74% of our water. To improve these results new billing software and new source meters have been obtained and implemented. These replacements will help better track WUE values.

Questions about drinking water or this report?



**Jeff Schumacker — Wapato Public Works Director**  
(509)877-3031 or (509)853-8013

**Washington Department of Health (509)456-3115**

**EPA Website [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)**

**EPA Hotline (800)426-4791**