

# 2015 Ontario Water Quality Report

## Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence 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 information because informed customers are our best allies.

## Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer and 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?

The City of Ontario draws its water from the Snake River and 5 groundwater wells. The wells are treated the same as the surface water.

## Source water assessment and its availability:

A source water assessment was completed in 2003 and is available for review at the Ontario Water Treatment Plant.

## 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 storm water 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 agricul-

ture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; 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 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?

City council meetings are held the first and third Monday of each month.

## Description of Water Treatment Process:

Your water is treated in a "treatment train" (a series of processes applied in a sequence) that includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Coagulation removes dirt and other particles suspended in the source water by adding chemicals (coagulants) to form tiny sticky particles called "floc," which attract the dirt particles. Flocculation (the formation of larger flocs from smaller flocs) is achieved using gentle, constant mixing. The heavy particles settle naturally out of the water in a sedimentation basin. The clear water then moves to the filtration process where the water passes through sand, gravel, charcoal or other filters that remove even smaller particles. A small amount of chlorine is used to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water before water is stored and distributed to homes and businesses in the community.

## 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. Ontario Water Treatment Plant 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 at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Monitoring and Reporting Violation:

In 2015, as in years past, your tap water met all but one of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The City failed to complete the required sampling for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) on time. Therefore we were in violation of monitoring and reporting requirements. These samples are required to be collected each quarter. Because we did not collect the required samples during the month of July 2015, we did not know whether the contaminants were present in your drinking water and we are unable to tell whether your health was at risk during this time. We resumed sampling in October 2015 and were in compliance on October 16, 2016. It is more responsible, less expensive and easier to keep contaminants out of our rivers, lakes, and canals than it is to remove them. Excessive or improper use of pesticides/herbicides, improper disposal of used oil and anti-freeze, and littering are just a few activities that may lead to pollution in our drinking water supply. If you have any questions about this report or any issues concerning your water utility, please call **Jerry Elliott** (541) 889-8011 or by writing to: **City of Ontario Water Treatment Facility, 1900 SE 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ontario, OR 97914**

You can view all of this information at Oregon Health Authority's Drinking Water Services website: <https://yourwater.oregon.gov/inventory.php?pwsno=00587>

## 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 on the next page.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de la agua que bebe. Por favor lea este informe, comuníquese con alguien que pueda traducir la información, o para recibir información en español favor de ir a **PUBLIC WORKS SHOP, 1551 NW 9th St., Ontario, OR 97914 ph(541-889-8572)**

### Additional Monitoring:

As part of an on-going evaluation program the EPA has required us to monitor some additional contaminants/chemicals. Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants/chemicals will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science.

Name	Reported Level	Range	
		Low	High
chlorate (ppb)	123	110	130
chromium (total chromium) (ppb)	0.8	0.7	0.9
chromium-6 (hexavalent chromium) (ppb)	0.7	0.6	0.7
molybdenum (ppb)	4	3.6	4.2
strontium (ppb)	303	280	340
vanadium (ppb)	4	3.6	4.3

### Table Definitions and Unit Descriptions

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

**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.

**NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units.** Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

**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.

**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:** 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.

**NA: Not Applicable.**

**ND: Not Detected.**

**ppb Parts per billion, also as micrograms per liter, ug/L:** One part per billion is equal to one penny in ten million dollars.

**ppm Parts per million, also as milligrams per liter, mg/L:** One part per million is equal to one penny in ten thousand dollars.

**TT Treatment Technique:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**ug/L:** Number of micrograms of substance in 1 liter of water.

**Positive samples per month:** Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive.

**LRAA Locational Running Annual Average:** The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	4	0.9	0.7	1.42	2015	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	45 LRAA	21	59	2015	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	14 LRAA	ND	20	2015	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1.7	NA	NA	2015	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.05	NA	NA	2011	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	2	NA	NA	2011	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.6	NA	NA	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	1.7	NA	NA	2011	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	1	NA	NA	2015	No	Naturally present in the environment.
Turbidity (NTU)*	NA	TT	97.81	NA	NA	2015	No	Soil runoff.
		0.3						
* 97.81% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.6. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the State.								
Radioactive Contaminants								
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	1.1	NA	NA	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
Inorganic Contaminants								
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1.6	2014	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.21	2014	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	