



2019 Water Quality Report

Ontario Water System ID: 4100587

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Your Water is Safe to Drink

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. If you have any questions about this report or about your water utility, please contact us at Public Works Shop, 1551 NW 9th Street, Ontario, OR 97914, phone # (541) 889-8572.

Special Population Advisory

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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/Center for Disease Control guidelines on how to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791.

Drinking Water Sources

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

Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment was completed in 2003 and is available for review at the Ontario Water Treatment Plant.

Contaminants in 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 EPA's 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- *Pesticides & herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential use.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which are naturally occurring.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also can come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Water Quality Monitoring

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. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Public Participation Opportunities

City council meetings are held once each month in the Council Chambers of Ontario City Hall, 444 SW 4th Street, at 7:00 p.m. Call the City Recorder for the schedule of meetings.

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, and anthracite that remove even smaller particles. A small amount of chlorine is used to kill bacteria and other microorganisms that may be in the water before water is stored and distributed to homes and businesses in the community.

Results of Cryptosporidium monitoring

We tested our sources of drinking water, as well as our treated tap water, for the presence of Cryptosporidium. Although detected in the source water, **we did not find any in the treated water that goes to your tap.** Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite that is found in surface water throughout the U.S., and occasionally found in ground waters. Although Cryptosporidium can be removed by filtration, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Unfortunately, current test methods do not enable us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals are able to overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing severe, life-threatening illnesses. Immuno-compromised individuals are encouraged to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to prevent infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested for it to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

Lead-Specific Information

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 Ontario 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 two 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 is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Water Quality Data

The table in this report, which can be found on the following page, lists all the drinking water contaminants we detected during the 2019 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2019. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is 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:

AL - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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.
MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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, or the highest level of a disinfectant

allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
MRDLG - Maximum residual disinfectant level goal, or 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.
Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/L) - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
RAA - Running Annual Average.
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.
TT - Treatment Technique - Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Substance	MCLG [MRDLG]	MCL [MRDL] MRL ^c	Our Water	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead and Copper							
Copper (ppm) action level at consumer taps	1.3 (AL)	1.3	0.28	0 sites exceeded the AL	2018	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.05	NA	2019	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	1.3	NA	2019	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.6	NA	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	1.2	NA	2019	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)	NA	NA	45	NA	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Turbidity							
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT = 1 NTU	0.36 NTU	NA	2019	No	Soil runoff
		TT=95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	99.9 %				
Radioactive Contaminants							
Uranium (µg/L)	0	30	2.6	NA	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products							
(There is convincing evidence that that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)							
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	1.0 (RAA)	0.44 – 1.5	2019	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	22 (LRAA)	8 – 42	2019	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	59 (LRAA)	20 – 81 ^a	2019	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

^a One TTHM sample during October 2019 (SCRI) had a result of 81 ppb. However, the system did not incur an MCL violation because the location running annual average (LRAA) results for this site were at or below the MCL of 80 ppb.

Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4)^b

Inorganic Contaminants							
Haloacetic Acid Group (HAABr) (ppb)	NA	NA	19	11 – 27	2019		Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acid Group (HAA9) (ppb)	NA	NA	42	19 – 68	2019		Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Manganese (ppb)	NA	0.4	1.8	1 - 2	2019		Naturally-occurring element; commercially available in combination with other elements and minerals; used in steel production, fertilizer, batteries and fireworks; drinking water and wastewater treatment chemical; essential nutrient

^b Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. A MCL for these for these substances have not been established by either state or federal regulations, nor has mandatory health effects language. ^cMRL - Minimum Reporting Limit