Water Quality Report-2020

Is my water safe?

Wallula Water District safeguards its water supplies according to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), FDA, and Washington State regulations. The following information is a summary of the quality of your water during the year **2020**. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to EPA, FDA, and WA State standards.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

What is the source of my water?

Your water comes from **three (3) ground water sources** under the **Wallula Water District** system ID #926006:

- **Well No. 1**, 285 feet deep, located at the Wallula School House.
- **Well No. 2**, 130 feet deep, located near the Wallula Cemetery *(used only as an emergency backup system).*
- **Well No. 3,** 407 feet deep, located in the well house.

Currently, **Wallula** water is blended from Wells 1 and 3. Water from the wells is first pumped into a holding tank. The water is then pumped on demand, using a booster pump system to provide pressure, to the consumer. **In most contaminant assessments, the water provided by the Wallula Water District meets EPA and Washington State regulations without treatment.**

Do I need to take special precautions?

*Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-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/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)**.*

Why are there *possible* 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. Contaminants that *may be* present in source water include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses, parasites, 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, and farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, 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.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

How can I get involved?

Wallula Water District meetings are held once a month, typically on the **second Monday of each month**, at the **Wallula School House at 6:30 p.m**. We encourage everyone in the community to attend these meetings.

EPA Information Hotline: 1-800-426-4791
EPA website: www.epa.gov
WA Department of Health website: www.doh.wa.gov

Reminder – Water rate policies are set by careful examination of several different factors. Prevent overage charges by maintaining your plumbing systems. Use automatic timers for irrigating your lawn. Conserve water whenever possible (see tips on the following page.) Strict policies prevent The Wallula Water district from dismissing overage charges when the quota has been exceeded.

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

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

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

ND: not detectable at testing limit

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

ppq: parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/L)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

For additional information please contact:

Dave Glessner **Phone: 406-531-9013**

Or

Dennis Anderson **Phone: 509-386-8751**
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Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference!

- ✓ Take short showers: a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water; a bath uses up to 50 gallons!
- ✓ Shut off water while brushing teeth, washing hair, and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- ✓ Use a water-efficient showerhead: inexpensive, easy to install, and save up to 750 gallons a month.
- ✓ Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when full: save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- ✓ Water plants only when necessary.
- ✓ Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. *To check your toilet for a leak*, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If color seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing or replacing it with a more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- ✓ Adjust sprinklers so only the lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- ✓ Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely.

Water Quality Data Table

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

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10.4	5.0	NA		2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.89	NA		2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	0	10	1.7	NA		2020	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Barium(ppb)	0	2000	46	NA		2016	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese(ppb)	0	50	3	NA		2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride(ppm)	0	250	21.3	NA		2016	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate(ppm)	0	250	26.8	NA		2016	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Sodium(ppm)	0	NA	45.3	NA		2016	No	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness(ppm)	0	NA	90.1	NA		2016	No	Naturally occurring
Turbidity(NTU)	0	1	0.17	NA		2016	No	Soil runoff, Bacteria, organic material, suspended particles
Gross alpha	0	15	6.15	NA		2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross beta	0	50	15.6	NA		2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits