

Drinking Water Quality Report 2013

City of The Dalles



Starvation Creek, watercolor by Bonnie White

Continuing Our Commitment

Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report. This issue covers all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2013.

As in years past, we are committed to delivering the highest quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and planning for the future, while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users.

Our Goal

Safe water in abundant supply, for today and for future generations.



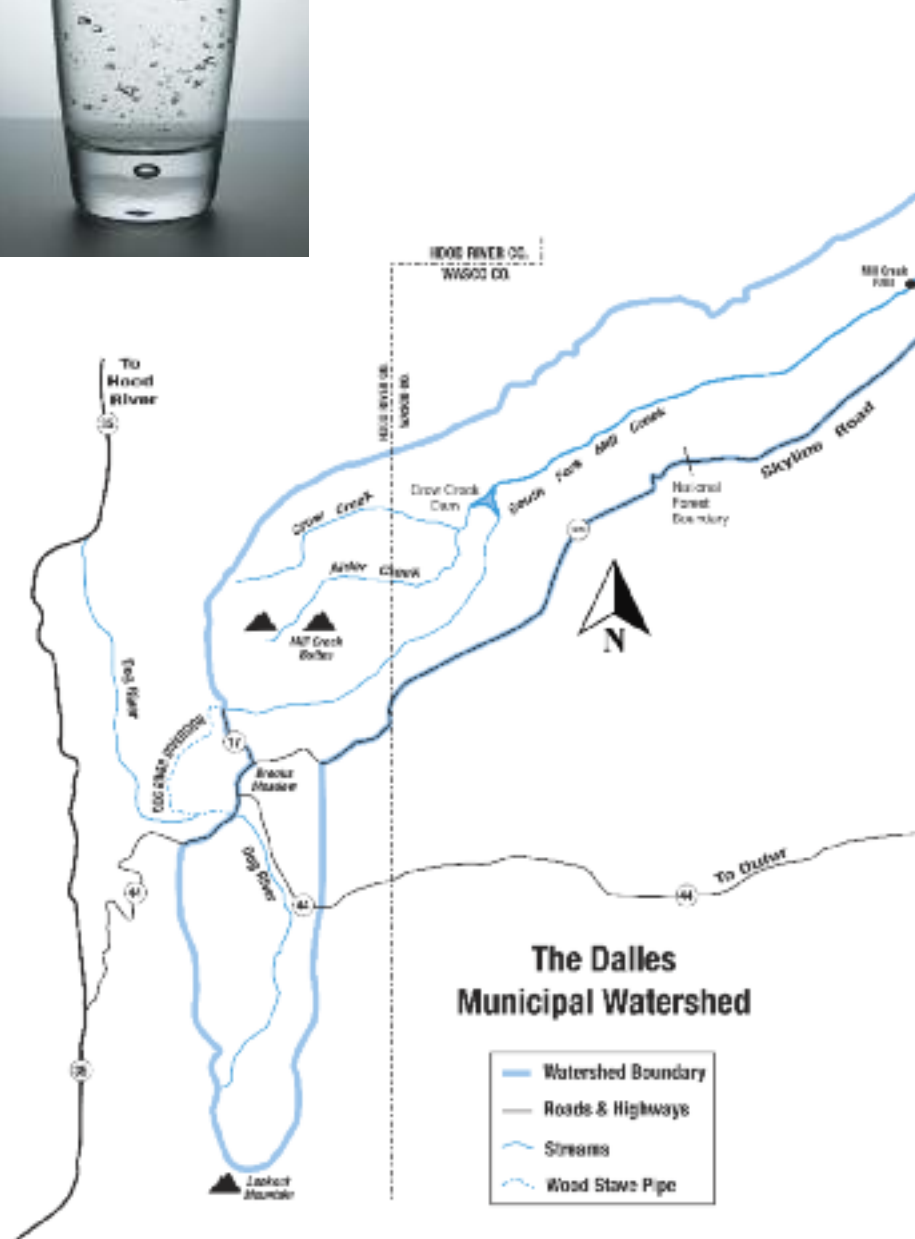


Drinking Water Come From?



Your drinking water is primarily treated surface water from The Dalles Municipal Watershed, with groundwater from one or more of the City's three wells supplementing the surface supply during the summer months. The Municipal Watershed is a 22,000 acre drainage basin southwest of The Dalles which collects water in the form of rainfall and snow melt into a single receiving stream and lake. This protected area collects water from the subdrainages of Dog River, Alder Creek, Crow Creek and the South Fork of Mill Creek for impoundment and storage by Crow Creek Dam. Built in 1967, the dam provides storage for 267 million gallons of water and allows controlled release to the Wicks

Water Treatment Plant located eight miles downstream from the dam. During the months of May through September, well water is used to supplement the treated surface water as needed. All three of the City wells draw water from the aquifer known as The Dalles Pool. Well and surface water mix in varying proportions in the distribution system and reservoirs. Two wells feed into the Garrison Reservoir - Jordan Well and Marks Well. Lone Pine Well feeds into the Intermediate and Columbia View Hts Reservoirs to serve the east side of town as far west as Morton Street. The dividing lines for the service areas are not distinct but vary depending on water pressure and usage.



During 2013
City of The Dalles provided
1,154,300,000 gallons of water
13% wells / 87% surface water



Summary

What's in our drinking water?

During 2013, our water was tested by state-certified laboratories for many possible contaminants, including bacteria, turbidity, inorganic and organic chemicals, and disinfection byproducts. Only the materials that were *actually detected* are listed in the tables below. All of the others were *not detected*. **All substances detected were present at levels considered safe by the US Environmental Protection Agency.**



City of The Dalles consistently delivers water that meets and surpasses all federal and state drinking water regulations.

Turbidity and Other Regulated Chemicals

Substance	Units	Ideal Maximum (MCLG)	This much is allowed (MCL)	This much was found	Complies? (Is it OK?)	Major Sources Listed by EPA
Turbidity	NTU	NA	TT 95% under 0.3	0.07 - 0.14 100% comply	Yes	Particulate matter from soil runoff
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.0056 - 0.0730	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.18 - 0.74	Yes	Added to strengthen teeth; also, erosion of natural deposits

Byproducts of Drinking Water Chlorination *Four locations are sampled quarterly*

Substance	Units	Ideal Maximum (MCLG)	Highest Running Annual Average allowed (MCL)	This much was found (Individual tests)	Highest 12-month Running Average	Complies? (Is it OK?)
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	NA	80	10.5 - 26.8	18	Yes
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	NA	60	5.1 - 28.3	22	Yes

Disinfection Byproducts are substances formed when water is chlorinated to protect consumers from disease-producing organisms. The challenge is to apply enough chlorine to kill microorganisms while keeping the byproducts formed as low as possible.

Unregulated Contaminants

Substance	Units	Ideal Maximum (MCLG)	This much is allowed (MCL)	This much was found	Major Sources Listed by EPA
Bromodichloromethane	ppb	0	No individual MCL	Surface 0.93	Byproduct of chlorinating water
Chloroform	ppb	NA	No individual MCL	Surface 6.82	Byproduct of chlorinating water
Sodium	ppm	NA	No individual MCL	Surface 6.4 Wells 19.6 - 44.6	Erosion of natural deposits

Lead and Copper Sampling *Sampled in August 2012*

Substance	Units	Ideal Maximum (MCLG)	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	Homes exceeding the Action Level	Complies? (Is it OK?)	Source of Contaminant
Lead	ppb	0	15	0	0 of 30 (0%)	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.09	0 of 30 (0%)	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing

The 90th percentile is the highest result found in 90% of the samples when they are listed in order from lowest to highest results. EPA requires testing for lead and copper at customers' taps most likely to contain these substances based on when the house was built. Because of the quality shown by these results, the City has been allowed to reduce testing to 30 samples every three years.



Key to Technical Terms

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 allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available water treatment technology.

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

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

Health Information



What's NOT in Our Water?

During 2013, 321 samples were taken during weekly sampling of the distribution system for coliform bacteria testing. All were negative for Total Coliforms (naturally present in the environment) and *E. coli* (from human and animal fecal waste).

The City's surface water and three well sources also undergo testing for the following contaminants, which were not detected except as noted in the table on page 3.

- Synthetic Organic Chemicals, including pesticides, with none detected.
- Volatile Organic Chemicals, including the disinfection byproducts in the table.
- Inorganic Chemicals, with only fluoride, barium and sodium detected as noted in the table.

Flush Tap for Best Water Quality

Since 1992 the City has done extensive testing for lead at customers' taps that are most likely to contain lead based on when the house was built. Because of the water quality shown by these results, the City has been allowed to reduce testing to 30 samples every three years. City water is made less corrosive by adding polyphosphate to produce a protective coating in the pipes. However, if you are concerned about lead from the plumbing materials in your home, please refer to the EPA recommendations below.

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. City of The Dalles 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 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Substances That Could Be in Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) can be surface water, such as rivers, lakes, streams and reservoirs, or groundwater, including 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. Substances that may be present in source water include: Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria; Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals; Pesticides and herbicides; Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals; and Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or a result of human activity.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA issues regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. US Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or by visiting www.epa.gov/safewater.

Important Health Information

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/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 (800) 426-4791.



Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact Karen Skiles at the Public Works Department.

By phone: 541.506.2005

By email: cityinfo@ci.the-dalles.or.us

Source Water Assessment

The City's water sources have been evaluated for susceptibility to contamination. For information contact the Public Works Department at (541) 296-5401.

Opportunities for public participation:

The Dalles City Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers at 313 Court Street. Check The Dalles Chronicle for meeting dates and agendas.

Parts per million (ppm)

One part of a contaminant is present for every million parts of water.

Parts per billion (ppb)

One part of a contaminant is present for every billion parts of water.

Not Applicable (NA)

EPA has not established MCL Goals for these substances

Nephelometric

Turbidity Unit (NTU)
Standard unit to measure water clarity.

Turbidity

Cloudiness of water, measured to evaluate filtration effectiveness.

TIPS For the Home How many times a day do you turn on the tap in your home?

Between the bathroom, kitchen and laundry, chances are there's a lot of water flowing through the pipes in your home – and plenty of opportunities to waste it. With just a little effort, you can save thousands of gallons of water every year.

Think before you flush.

The toilet is not a trash can. Avoid unnecessary flushing of trash and paper products and you'll not only save big on your water bill, but also help prevent the cost and mess of clogs in your pipes and the city sewer mains.



Go low-flow.

You can save thousands of gallons each year by replacing old toilets with ultra-low-flow toilets that use 1.6 gallons or less per flush. A high-efficiency washing machine reduces water use from 40 gallons to 28 gallons per load. Think how much water you will save in a year!

Fill 'er up.

Running the dishwasher or washing machine when they are only half full uses just as much water as full loads.



Sing in the rain.

A full bathtub requires about 70 gallons of water, while taking a five-minute shower under a low-flow showerhead uses 10 to 25 gallons.

Turn it down.

The average bathroom faucet runs at the rate of about 2 gallons per minute. Try running water at less than full flow. Turn the water off while you brush your teeth.

Locate the master valve.

Every home, apartment and business has a master valve that controls water service. Locate your master valve so you can turn it off in an emergency.

Dry up the drip!

Check all your faucets, toilets and appliances for water leaks and fix them. A leaky faucet that fills an 8-ounce container in less than 30 minutes could waste as much as 1,225 gallons of water each year.



TIPS For Outdoor Use Wondering about watering?

Many customers use three to four times more water in the summer months as compared with their winter water use due to outdoor irrigation. With these tips landscapes can be maintained in a healthy condition with less water.

Get to the root of the matter.

Promote deep root growth by watering less often for longer periods. Lawns and plants with deep roots require less water and are more resistant to drought and disease. Sandy soil and slopes will need shorter periods. Work organic material into soil to help it retain moisture.

Soak, don't spray.

Get water on the root zone of plants by installing drip irrigation or using soaker hoses. If using sprinklers that send out small drops or mist, most of the water can evaporate before reaching the ground.

Make the beds.

Add a 2- to 3-inch layer of mulch, such as compost or bark chips, around flowers, shrubs and trees to help the soil retain moisture, discourage the growth of weeds and provide nutrients.



Do some math.

Measure water applied to your lawn to see how long it takes to apply about 1½ inches per week. According to the Wasco County Master Gardeners, a 10' x 10' section of grass can be maintained in a healthy condition with about 2000 gallons of water in a season. (Contact the Public Works Department office for details.)



Sidewalks don't need water.

Use a broom, not a hose, to clean sidewalks and driveways. It saves water and it's good exercise. Avoid using sprinklers on isolated strips that are hard to water efficiently.



Make it shine.

Use a bucket of soapy water and a hose with a shutoff nozzle to wash your car. Better yet, use a commercial car wash that recycles water.



Let it grow.

Set lawnmower blades to 1½ -2 inches high and keep them sharp to cut grass cleanly. Longer grass loses less water to evaporation.





City of The Dalles

Public Works Department
1215 West 1st Street
The Dalles, OR 97058
www.thedalles.com

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A message about the importance of this Water Quality Report:

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.
Tradúscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.



Partnership for Safe Water

City of The Dalles has been a member of the Partnership for Safe Water since 1997. Members of this nationwide partnership, which includes six drinking water organizations and about 230 water utilities throughout the United States, seek water system excellence by optimizing operations rather than relying solely on significant capital improvements. The Wicks Water Treatment Plant has achieved the Director's Award each year for 13 years for meeting goals for continuous improvement and producing high quality drinking water.

What phone number do I call for help with water issues?

Contact the Public Works Department –

(541) 506-2001 (7am - 4pm)

- Emergency water shutoff
- Water quality, low pressure, leak investigation
- Assistance with meter insulation
- Backflow prevention assembly installation/testing

Contact the Finance Department at City Hall –

(541) 506-2031 (8am - 5pm)

- Billing questions
- Questions about initiating water/sewer service
- Request to discontinue water/sewer service
- Leak concerns related to high water bills

For after hours water emergencies:

Contact the On Call Service person at (541) 980-7703.

To sign up for service –

Customers must go in person to City Hall at 313 Court Street between 9 am and 4:30 pm.