



## City of Wapato Department of Public Works 2016 WATER QUALITY REPORT

The City of Wapato has continued to provide customers with convenient access to clean and safe drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal requirements. Water is the one commodity we cannot live without, and we at the City of Wapato take pride in safeguarding this valuable resource. Please stay informed on the quality of your drinking water by reading this report.



### **Dedicated to Your Drinking Water**

John Macias is Wapato's Lead Water Operator with 20 years of service to the City. John is a Washington State certified Water Distribution Manager Level 2 and a Cross Connection Specialist. Torin Delvo has served the City for 8 years, and is a State certified Water Distribution Manager Level 2 and a Cross Connection Specialist. Mike Kennedy has served the City for 12 years, and he is a State certified Water Distribution Level 1. These gentlemen study hard and work diligently to maintain and operate the City's water system to meet State and Federal standards. Some of their responsibilities include collecting and testing water samples, reading meters, maintaining fire hydrants, operating and maintaining pumps and chlorinators, inspecting construction projects, locating water lines, repairing water facilities, and responding to customer requests. In 2016, our team replaced three fire hydrants and repaired dozens of fire hydrants. Because of our professional and dedicated team, people of Wapato can enjoy a clean, and reliable water system with desirable pressure.

### **Our Water Source and Treatment**

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 total capacity of 1.5 million gallons.

The water is immediately disinfected by the addition of chlorine, then pumped directly into the City's water distribution system. Because 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.

### **Water Use Efficiency 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 City-owned water distribution system. In 2016, we were able to achieve that goal. That means we were able to account for **more than 90%** of the water we produced. In order to maintain this percentage, we will need the ongoing support and help of our water customers. Thank you for doing your part by using water wisely. See the article below for some tips on how you can reduce water waste within your home.

**The following measures have been adopted in order to meet WUE goals:**

- Inspection of the water distribution system for hidden leaks or signs of theft; repair or replacement of leaky/broken water mains and service lines; immediate estimation of water lost when leaks are discovered
- Calibration and maintenance of water meters and the continued replacement of old meters with new radio-read meters
- Education of customers via the inclusion of conservation information in water bills and by promoting conservation at local public elementary schools

**Household leak detection - a SIMPLE way to save water and money**

To check for leaks in your home, you first need to determine whether you're wasting water. Then identify the source of the leak.

- Take a look at your water usage during a colder month, such as January or February. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, serious leaks are possible.
- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.
- Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl after 15 minutes, you have a leak. (Be sure to flush immediately after the experiment to avoid staining the tank.)
- Examine faucet gaskets and pipe fittings for any water on the outside of the pipe to check for surface leaks.

Regardless of the complexity, all leaks need to be repaired. Some leak repairs can be as simple as tightening a bolt or replacing a washer. Other leaks will require professional assistance. Unrepaired leaks waste water and money. Fixing your household leaks could save more than 10% on water bills. Check your entire household at least once a year.

## 2016 Drinking Water Data Table

The Environmental Protection Agency regulates the frequency of sampling for various contaminants. The data presented in this table is from testing conducted in 2016. It also includes any recent results within the last five years for analyses that were not required in the year 2016.

<u>Contaminant (units)</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Potential Sources of Contamination</u>
<b>Inorganic Contaminant – Primary</b>					
<b>Arsenic (ppb)</b>	0	10	1.4	December/2016	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
<b>Nitrate (ppm)</b>	0	10	0.14	February/2016	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>					
<b>HAA5 (ppb)</b>	0	60	15	July/2016	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>TTHM (ppb)</b>	0	80	5.6	July/2016	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Lead</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>90th Percentile</b>		
<b>Lead (ppb) 30 samples, none were over the AL</b>	0	15	7.6	June/2014	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

**The City of Wapato had no monitoring or reporting violations in 2016.**

### IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS & TERMS

**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: Laboratory analysis indicates the constituent is not present or not detectable using 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 Drinking Water 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 persons 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. 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 (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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at their web site: [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Public Participation Opportunity

Water customers are welcome to attend and participate in City Council meetings. Meetings are held at City Hall at 7 pm on the first and third Mondays of every month.



If you have any questions about your drinking water, please feel free to contact our Public Works Director Menglou Wang at (509) 877-3622. Other sources of information can be found below.

WA Department of Health: 509-456-3115  
EPA Hotline: 800-426-4791  
EPA website: [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

*This Report was prepared by City of Wapato Public Works Department Staff.*