CITY OF ASHLAND, OREGON

2011 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

THE CITY OF ASHLAND PROVIDES EXCEPTIONAL WATER FOR YOU!

The City of Ashland vigilantly safeguards its water supplies in order to continue providing safe drinking water for our residents and add to the livability of our great city. Once again, we are proud to report that last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards.

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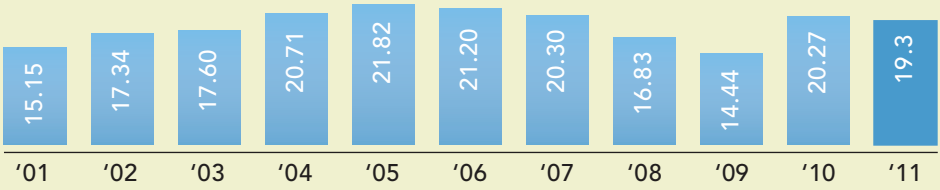
Other than the air we breathe, water is the single most important element in our lives— and is a limited resource. Remember to use only the water you need and keep looking for new ways to conserve water

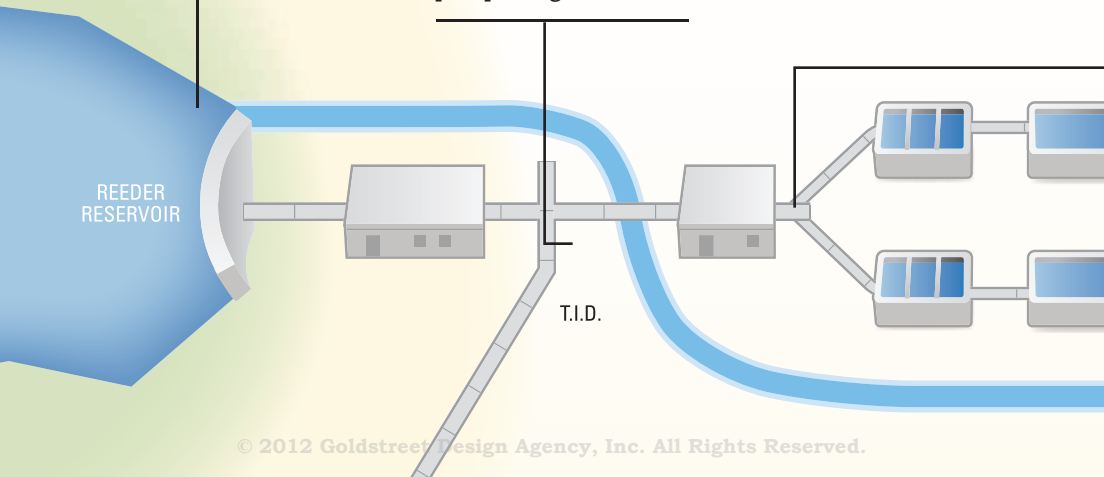
The average snowfall on Mt. Ashland is 263 inches with an average maximum depth of 120 inches. This is based on daily records kept by Mt. Ashland starting in 1983. In drought years such as 2001 and 2009, water can also be taken from the Talent Irrigation District (T.I.D.) canals, which are fed by Howard Prairie Reservoir and Hyatt Lake.

2001-2011 ASHLAND YEARLY RAINFALL
(in inches)



Water Collection
Water collected in Reeder Reservoir is piped to the treatment plant.

Talent Irrigation District Water (T.I.D.)
During times of drought or water short years, the City supplements Reeder Reservoir with T.I.D. water. The source is Howard Prairie and Hyatt lakes. In 2011 we pumped 0 gallons.



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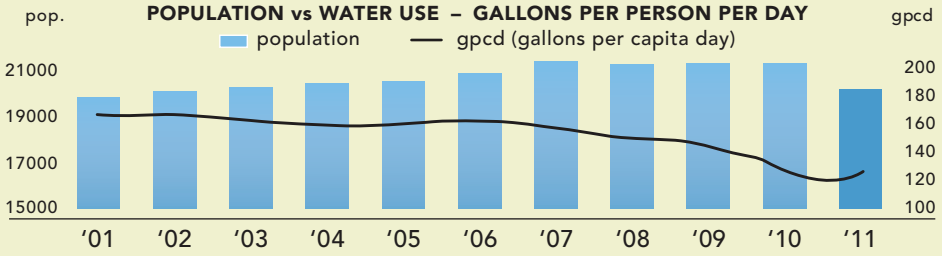
in and around your home. The City of Ashland has numerous water conservation programs. Call 541-552-2062 for more information.

Reeder Reservoir is small in comparison to summer water demands.

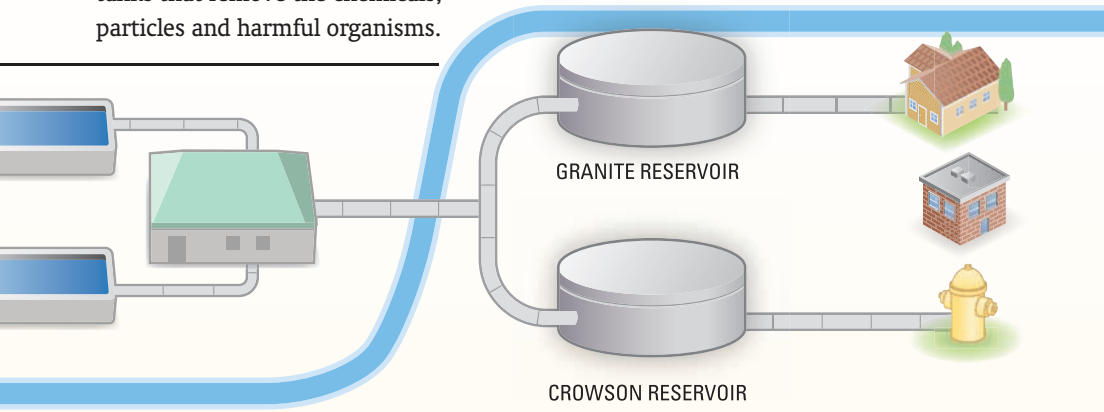
Inflow to the reservoir from the east and west forks of Ashland Creek cannot match this demand. The reservoir water will then begin to reduce in volume.

- Grow your garden
- Water your trees
- Just don't water the gutter please



Water Treatment
Aluminum sulfate, chlorine, and polymers are added to the water. These coagulating chemicals "stick" to impurities and harmful micro organisms. The particles attached to these chemicals are given time to grow by mixing in contact basins. This treated water then flows into filtration tanks that remove the chemicals, particles and harmful organisms.

Water Distribution
Clean water fills both 2.2 million gallon Crowson Reservior and 2.1 million gallon Granite Reservoir. Water is pumped to Alsing and Fallon Reservoirs at the east and west ends of town. From these four reservoirs, water enters the system that feeds Ashland's fire hydrants, homes and businesses.



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Water Quality Analysis Results

The US Environmental Protection Agency requires that water systems report annually on contaminants that have been detected in their water supplies. The City of Ashland monitors for over 100 contaminants, including coliform bacteria, micro

Variable	90th percentile values	# of samples exceeding action levels	Action Level	MCLG*	Source of contaminant
Copper (ppm*)	0.6470	0 of 31 samples collected.	Exceeds action level if more than 10% of homes tested have copper levels greater that 1.3ppm	1.3 ppm. Treatment technique required	Corrosion of plumbing systems
Lead (ppm*)	0.002	0 of 31 samples collected.	Exceeds Action Level if 10% of homes tested have lead levels greater than 0.015 ppm	None	Corrosion of plumbing systems

INORGANICS TEST WAS CONDUCTED IN 2004—NEXT DUE IN 2013.

Variable	Ashland's Detected Level	MCL*	MCLG*	Source of contaminant
Barium (ppm*)	0.0051	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrates (ppm*)	None	10.0	None	Naturally present in the environment. Also from septic tanks, fertilizers.

CONTROL OF DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON (TOC)

TOC Raw (ppm*)	Average: 2.7 Range: 1.8-4.5	Treatment technique	None	Naturally present in the environment.
TOC Finished (ppm*)	Average: 1.2 Range: 0.8-1.9	Treatment technique	None	Naturally present in the environment.

No health effects, however, TOC provides a medium for the formation of Disinfection By-Products (DBP) which may lead to adverse health effects as described under TTHM's and HAA's.

Variable	Maximum Amount Detected	Ashland's Detected Level	MCL*	MCLG*	Source Of Contaminant
Turbidity (NTU*)	0.083	Average 0.02 Range 0.02 - 0.83 99% of the samples within limits	0.30	N/A	Soil erosion and stream sediments

Turbidity is measured in NTUs (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): a measure of the clarity of water. On 6-21-11 the drinking water plant turbidity momentarily reached a 0.83 NTU due to treatment difficulties. The Plant was shut down and changes to the treatment processes were made. Due to the short duration of the high NTU, a few minutes, no violation occurred. Turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

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organisms, herbicides, organics, inorganics, and pesticides. We collect samples from the watershed, water plant, distribution system, and at customers' taps. Ashland's water supplies meet or surpass federal and state drinking water standards.

SECONDARY TESTING

Variable	Ashland's Detected Level	MCL*	MCLG*	Source of contaminant
Sodium (ppm*)	7.7	No limit	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits and treatment additive for disinfection

Some people who drink water containing asbestos in excess of 7.0 MFL over many years may have an increase of developing intestinal polyps. Asbestos is tested every 9 years. The next test is due in 2012.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (DBP)

Variable	Ashland's Detected Level	MCL*	MCLG*	Source of contaminant
Chlorine Residual (ppm*)	Average: 0.39 Range: 0.08-0.64	4.0	N/A	Treatment additive for disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppm*)	Average: 0.034 Range: 0.030- 0.041	0.080	N/A	By-products of chlorination used in water treatment
Haloacetic Acids (ppm*)	Average: 0.032 Range: 0.029- 0.040	0.060	N/A	By-products of chlorination used in water treatment

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG). The level of 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 MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.**Action Level.** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

Non-Detectable (ND). Not detected at an established minimum reporting level.

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

(ppm) Parts per million

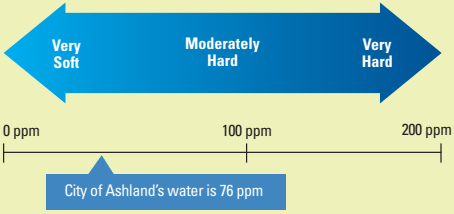
(ppb) Parts per billion

(NTU) Nephelometric Turbidity Units

(MFL) Million Fibers per Liter

MORE FACTS ABOUT ASHLAND'S WATER

Ashland water is very soft. It ranges from 30 to 50 ppm of calcium. Ashland's water has an average pH of 7.2—which is essentially neutral. Ashland does not add fluoride to the water. Parents of young children may want to consult with their dentist about the need for fluoride treatments to prevent tooth decay.



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Contact information and resources

Greg Hunter
Water Plant Supervisor
541-488-5345

Mike Morrison
Public Works Superintendent
541-488-5353

Mike Faught
Public Works Director
541-488-5587

Julie Smitherman
Water Conservation Specialist
541-552-2062

Oregon Health Authority
971-673-0405

EPA Safe Drinking Hotline
800-426-4791

Jackson County Health Department
541-774-8206

TTY Number (hearing impaired)
800-735-2900

Spanish
800-735-3896

Why Provide A Water Quality Report

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 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 stormwater 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 agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Therefore, the City of Ashland proudly produces a water quality report each year, so residents can learn about the health information of our water.

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Contact information and resources

City Council meetings
541-488-6002
1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Budget Committee
541-488-6002
Usually in April and May each year

Talent Irrigation District Board Meetings
541-535-1529

Forest Land Commission
541-552-2066
www.ashland.or.us

Message From The EPA

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 (1-800-426-4791). 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 (1-800-426-4791).

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 Ashland 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 drinking 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 http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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