

Oregon Health Authority  
971-673-0405

EPA Safe Drinking Hotline  
800-426-4791

City of Ashland  
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ashland.or.us

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The City of Ashland provides exceptional water, and 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.

#### 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.

#### 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 (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 (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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

# 2013

## Water Quality Report

City of Ashland, Oregon



# 2013 Water Quality Test Results

The City of Ashland's commitment to water quality excellence has carried us beyond state and federal drinking water standards to the leading edge of water treatment technology.

Since 1929, Ashland's water has come from a protected watershed to insure water quality. No herbicides have ever been permitted, and no recreational vehicles are permitted within the immediate reservoir area of the watershed.

Water is collected in Reeder Reservoir before being piped to the water treatment plant. Once particulates and harmful micro organisms are removed, the water is directed to the City's distribution system.

In 2013, 40.3 million gallons were pumped from the Talent Irrigation District (TID) up to the water treatment plant.

## Glossary:

**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.

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

**Action Level.** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

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

**(MFL)** Million fibers per liter

**(PPM)** Parts per million

**(PPB)** Parts per billion

## LEAD AND COPPER

Variable	90th PERCENTILE VALUES	# OF SAMPLES EXCEEDING ACTION LEVELS	ACTION LEVEL	MCLG*	SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
<b>Copper</b> (ppm*)	0.6470	0 of 31 samples collected.	Exceeds Action Level if more than 10% of homes tested have copper levels greater than 1.3 ppm.	1.3 ppm. Treatment Technique required.	Corrosion of plumbing systems.
<b>Lead</b> (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 2012 AND DUE IN 2021.

Variable	ASHLAND'S DETECTED LEVEL	MCL*	MCLG*	SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
<b>NitrAtes</b> (ppm*)	ND	10.0	None	Naturally present in the environment. Also from septic tanks, fertilizers.

## CONTROL OF DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON (TOC)

VARIABLE	ASHLAND'S DETECTED LEVEL	MAX. CONTAMINANT LEVEL	MAX. CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL	SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
<b>TOC Raw</b> (ppm*)	Average: 2.2 (Range: 1.5-3.4)	Treatment Technique	None	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Raw TID TOC</b> (ppm*)	Average: 1.5	Treatment Technique	None	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Toc Finished</b> (ppm*)	Average: 1.3 (Range: 0.8-1.6)	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 & HAA's.

## TURBIDITY AND ASBESTOS

Variable	MAX. AMOUNT DETECTED	ASHLAND'S DETECTED LEVEL	MCL*	MCLG*	SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
<b>Turbidity</b> (NTU*)	0.67	0.02 (Range 0.02-0.67) 99% of samples within limits.	0.30	N/A	Soil erosion and stream sediments.
<b>Asbestos</b> (MFL)	ND		7.00	7.000	Asbestos decay in cement water mains.

Turbidity is measured in NTU's (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): a measure of the clarity of water. 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. On 10-11-13 the drinking water plant installed a circulation pump into the clearwell. Start up of the pump raised sediment and for a few minutes the turbidity exceeded the state limit of .3 Ntu. No violation occurred.

## SECONDARY TESTING

Variable	ASHLAND'S DETECTED LEVEL	MCL*	MCLG*	SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
<b>Sodium</b> (ppm*)	8.8	No limit	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits and treatment additive for disinfection.
<b>Raw TID Sodium</b> (ppm*)	2.9	No limit	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits and treatment additive for disinfection.

## DISINFECTION AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (DBP)

Variable	ASHLAND'S DETECTED LEVEL	MCL*	MCLG*	SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
<b>Chlorine Residual</b> (ppm*)	Average: 0.56 (Range: 0.06-0.94)	4.0	N/A	Treatment additive for disinfection.
<b>Total Trihalomethanes</b> (ppm*)	Average: 0.0394 (Range: 0.0269-0.0622)	0.080	N/A	By-products of chlorination used in water treatment.
<b>Haloacetic Acids</b> (ppm*)	Average: 0.0341 (Range: 0.0206-0.0577)	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 cancer.