



Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

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 CA014898-1

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In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health. 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial Contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;
- Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or can result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;
- Pesticides and Herbicides**, that 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, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems;
- Radioactive Contaminants**, that can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (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.

Substances That Could Be in Water

We've Come a Long Way

Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering the period between January 1 and December 31, 2016. In a matter of only a few decades, drinking water has become exponentially safer and more reliable than at any other point in human history. Our exceptional staff continues to work hard every day—at any hour—to deliver the highest-quality drinking water without interruption. Although the challenges ahead are many, we feel that by relentlessly investing in customer outreach and education, new treatment technologies, system upgrades, and training, the payoff will be reliable, high-quality tap water delivered to you and your family.

Important Health Information

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 ppm may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



Where Does My Water Come From?

The source of Wasco's drinking water is the Kern County Subbasin from which water is pumped to the surface by a system of groundwater wells. The aquifer is replenished through natural runoff from the Sierra Nevada Mountains, as well as through seepage from the many irrigation canals that import water into the area from other regions of the State. The City of Wasco owns and operates your domestic water supply and distribution systems. The water system comprises six (6) active ground water wells and approximately 80 miles of water distribution lines.

Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not themselves pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen and disinfectant levels, and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at such times. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use, and avoid using hot water, to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants.) 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/lead.



Community Participation

The City Council meets every first and third Tuesday of the month, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at the Council Chambers, 746 8th Street, Wasco, California. The public is welcome to attend.

QUESTIONS?

Please remember that we are always available to assist you should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water. For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call the Water Superintendent, Jeff Tackett, at (661) 758-7270.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of contaminants on a very strict sampling schedule. The information below represents only those substances that were detected; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels. The State recommends monitoring for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the 3rd stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR3 benefits the environment and public health by providing the EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water, in order to determine if the EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Contact us for more information on this program.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE		
Arsenic (ppb)	2016	10	0.004	2.3	2.0-2.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes		
Barium (ppm)	2016	1	2	0.05	0.04-0.07	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits		
Dibromochloropropane [DBCP] (ppt)	2016	200	1.7	27	10-50	No	Banned nematocide that may still be present in soils due to runoff/leaching from former use on soybeans, cotton, vineyards, tomatoes, and tree fruit		
Fecal coliform and <i>E. coli</i> (# positive samples)	2016		(0)	0	NA	No	Human and animal fecal waste		a routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i> positive
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2011	15	(0)	0.63	ND-4.43	No	Erosion of natural deposits		
Haloaetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2016	60	NA	1.7	ND-4.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection		
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2014	10	0.02	3.8	3.1-4.5	No	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits		
Nitrate [as nitrate] (ppm)	2015	45	45	36	28-44	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewages; erosion of natural deposits		
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2016	10	10	7.9	4.6-10	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewages; erosion of natural deposits		
Total Chlorine Residual (ppm)	2016	[4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[4 (as Cl ₂)]	0.68	0.02-1.25	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment		
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2016	80	NA	7.0	ND-27	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection		
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community.									
SECONDARY SUBSTANCES									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	PHG (MCLG) [SMCL]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE			
Iron (ppb)	2016	300	NS	58.3	0-230	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes		
Sulfate (ppm)	2016	500	NS	28	21-33	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes		
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2016	1,000	NS	210	170-240	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits		
UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE					
1,2,3-Trichloropropane (ppm)	2016	85	27-260	TCP detections in the Central Valley of California are being attributed to past use of soil fumigants to battle nematodes					
Hardness (ppm)	2016	83.2	72-100	Generally found in ground and surface water					
Sodium (ppm)	2016	35	32-40	Generally found in ground and surface water					
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2016	324	265-453	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence					

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) was completed in 2002 and is now available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office during regular office hours.



Source Water Assessment



What type of container is best for storing water?

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or BPA-free plastics such as polyethylene are the safest choices. To be on the safe side, do not use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing "7, PC" (code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum with BPA-free liners.

How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, 1 gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for 3 days. Humans can survive without food for 1 month, but can survive only 1 week without water.

How long can I store drinking water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria before it was filled with tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

How long does it take a water supplier to produce one glass of drinking water?

It could take up to 45 minutes to produce a single glass of drinking water.

Definitions

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

LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average): The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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 (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

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 are set by the U.S. EPA.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NS: No standard

P/C/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment

PHG (Public Health Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California EPA.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).