

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024



Presented By
City of Wasco Water Department

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

PWS ID#: 1510021



Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The source of Wasco's drinking water is the Kern County Subbasin. Groundwater is pumped to the surface by a system of 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 is composed of six active groundwater wells and approximately 94 miles of distribution lines.

Community Participation

The city council meets every first and third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 746 Eighth Street. The public is welcome to attend.

Important Health Information

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 parts per million (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.

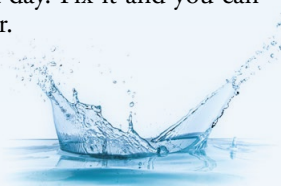
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater.

Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.



Think Before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit <https://bit.ly/3leRyXy>.

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 Public Works Director of Water Utilities, Alberto Martinez, at (661) 758-7271.



Substances That Could Be in Water

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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law 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. 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.

Lead in Home Plumbing

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. City of Wasco Water Department is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure it is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling does not remove lead from water.

Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead or galvanized service line requiring replacement, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead and wish to have your water tested, contact City of Wasco Water Department at (661) 758-7271. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. For access to the inventory or more information about any lead sampling that has been done please contact Cesar Montes at (661) 758-7271.

Violation Information

The SWRCB has recently begun regulating 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP) and set the maximum contaminant level (MCL) at 0.005 part per billion (ppb). This is a new requirement for drinking water standards. The city will continue to sample for 1,2,3-TCP monthly to monitor the levels and report to the state.

To mitigate this concern, the City of Wasco is aggressively working toward drilling four new water wells throughout the city to continue to provide clean drinking water. Levels of 1,2,3-TCP will gradually improve over time as new wells are constructed. We anticipate completely resolving the problem within four years. Your patience regarding this matter is appreciated. Currently the city is identifying sites to drill new wells and will treat Well 12 at the well site.

Some people who drink water containing 1,2,3-TCP in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.



Test Results


Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)		YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE	
1,2,3-Trichloropropane [1,2,3-TCP] (ppt)		2024	5	0.7	53	ND–110	Yes	Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories; leaching from hazardous waste sites; cleaning and maintenance solvent, paint and varnish remover and degreasing agent; by-product from production of other compounds and pesticides	
Chlorine (ppm)		2024	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4 (as Cl2)]	0.72	0.20–1.76	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment	
Dibromochloropropane [DBCP] (ppt)		2024	200	3	52	ND–340	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	
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)		2024	10	20	4.4	3–7.8	No	Erosion of natural deposits; transformation of naturally occurring trivalent chromium to hexavalent chromium by natural processes and human activities such as discharges from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities	
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)		2024	10	10	7.9	0.45–21	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits	
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes] (ppb)		2024	80	NA	5.5	3.6–7.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)		YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	0.3	0.017	NA	0/55	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	
SECONDARY SUBSTANCES									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)		YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE	
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)		2024	1,600	NS	272	149–595	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence	
UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES ¹									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)		YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED		RANGE LOW-HIGH		TYPICAL SOURCE		
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)		2024	0.3		ND–0.60		By-product of drinking water disinfection		
Bromoform (ppb)		2024	4.8		2.2–7.4		By-product of drinking water disinfection		
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)		2024	1.11		0.92–1.3		By-product of drinking water disinfection		

¹ Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the U.S. EPA and SWRCB determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.



¹ Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the U.S. EPA and SWRCB determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.



BY THE NUMBERS



3.4 BILLION

The daily volume in gallons of water recycled and reused in the U.S., reducing waste and conserving resources.



28%

The percent reduction in per capita water use in the U.S. since 1980, thanks to efficiency improvements.



99.99%

The percent effectiveness of modern water treatment plants in removing harmful bacteria and viruses from drinking water.



1.2 MILLION

The length in miles of drinking water pipes in the U.S. delivering clean water to millions of homes and businesses daily.



1.7 MILLION

The number of jobs supported by the U.S. water sector.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

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.

NA: Not applicable.

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

NS: No standard.

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

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).

µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter): A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

Why save water?

Although 80% of the Earth's surface is water, only 1% is suitable for drinking. The rest is either salt water or is permanently frozen, and we can't drink it, wash with it, or use it to water plants.