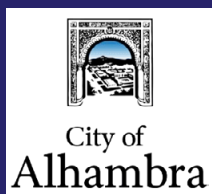


ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024



Presented By
City of Alhambra

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

此份有关你的食水报告，
内有重要资料和讯息，请找
他人替你翻译及解释清楚。

PWS ID#: CA1910001



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 sources 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 City of Alhambra (City) maintains approximately 18,000 service connections and provides approximately 83,000 customers with quality drinking water that meets or surpasses all state and federal drinking water standards. The City's main source of water (70%) comes from local groundwater from the main San Gabriel water basin. An additional source of water (30%) comes from a service connection with the Metropolitan Water District (MWD). The MWD water is surface water from the Colorado River and the State Water Project. This water is treated at the Weymouth treatment plant within the City of La Verne and transported via transmission main to the City of Alhambra.



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 bit.ly/3leRyXy.

Important Health Information

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 (800-426-4791) or epa.gov/safewater.



Water Conservation

Water conservation remains the most responsible way to reduce our demand for water and conserve our water supply. Water supply is greatly affected by regional drought, growth in population, and climate change. The need to conserve water is critical, as we all play a role in water usage. However, there are many effective ways we can help save water in and around our home. With these simple changes in our daily routines, we can reduce our water footprint and protect this valuable resource for future generations. The City of Alhambra is currently under Water Shortage Contingency Plans Level 2, Chapter 15.25.090 of the Alhambra Municipal Code. For more information, please visit cityofalhambra.org/615/Drought-Updates.

Fixtures With Green Stains

A green or blue-green stain on kitchen or bathroom fixtures is caused by tiny amounts of copper that dissolve in your home's copper plumbing system when the water sits unused overnight. Copper staining may be the result of a leaky faucet or a faulty toilet flush valve, so be sure your plumbing is in good working order.

Copper stains may also be caused by overly hot tap water. Generally speaking, you should maintain your water temperature at a maximum of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. You should consult the owner's manual for your heater or check with your plumber to determine your current heat setting. Lowering your water temperature will reduce the staining problem and save you money on your energy bill.

Also keep in mind that a tap that is used often throughout the day usually will not produce copper stains, so if you flush the tap for a minute or so before using the water for cooking or drinking, copper levels will be reduced.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact Environmental Compliance Specialist, Michael Thai, at (626) 570-3259.

Comprehensive Water Quality Monitoring

The department works diligently to ensure that your water complies with all state and federal drinking water standards. This is a comprehensive effort that includes monitoring and testing for many types of contaminants that may be present in source water (i.e., water before treatment), including:

- Microbials, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganics, such as salts and metals, that 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 that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production or may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive Contaminants that can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Primary drinking water standards set limits for substances in water that may be harmful to humans if consumed in excess. They include maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) and maximum residual disinfectant levels (MRDLs) for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.

Secondary drinking water standards deal with aesthetic qualities such as taste and odor that relate to consumer acceptance rather than health factors.

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. The City of Alhambra 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 the City of Alhambra Utilities Department at (626) 570-3259. 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. The lead service inventory may be viewed at cityofalhambra.org/714/Water-Service-Line-Inventory. Please contact us at (626) 570-3259 if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

Source Water Assessment

The City of Alhambra Utilities Department has conducted drinking water source assessments for its groundwater sources. The latest assessment was completed in April 2009. Sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: auto repair shops, sewer collection systems, dry cleaners, irrigated crops, leaking underground storage tanks, high-density housing, and historic dump and landfill sites. A summary of the assessment can be obtained by contacting the environmental compliance specialist at (626) 570-3259. For information on the MWD water source, please view their water quality report at www.mwdh2o.com/water-quality-and-treatment/.



Reduce Your Water Bill – Rebates with San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

For residents of Alhambra, the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District offers financial incentives to help you purchase water-saving appliances and fixtures. Not only will you be able to reduce your water bill, you will also be conserving more water to reduce the demand to our water supply. Rebates include the following:

- Up to \$35 per rain barrel or \$350 per cistern
- Up to \$85 for a water-efficient washing machine
- Up to \$80 for a weather-based irrigation controller or soil moisture sensor system
- Up to \$40 for a high-efficiency toilet
- Up to \$150 for a commercial waterless urinal
- Up to \$2 per nozzle (minimum 30) for rotating sprinkler nozzles
- Up to \$100 per flow monitor device

For more information, please call (855) 512-1221 or visit sgvmwd.com/water-conservation/#rebates.

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 them.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not 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 that time. 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.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. City Council Meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 111 South First Street.

FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)

You may not be aware of it, but every time you pour fat, oil, or grease (FOG) down your sink (e.g., bacon grease), you are contributing to a costly problem in the sewer collection system. FOG coats the inner walls of the plumbing in your house as well as the walls of underground piping throughout the community. Over time, these greasy materials build up and form blockages in pipes, which can lead to wastewater backing up into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains. These backups allow FOG to contaminate local waters, including drinking water. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public health hazard. FOG discharged into septic systems and drain fields can also cause malfunctions, resulting in more frequent tank pump-outs and other expenses.

Communities spend billions of dollars every year to unplug or replace grease-blocked pipes, repair pump stations, and clean up costly and illegal wastewater spills. Here are some tips that you and your family can follow to help maintain a well-run system:

- ✗ NEVER pour FOG down the house or storm drains.
- ✗ DO NOT dispose of food scraps by flushing them.
- ✗ DO NOT use the toilet as a wastebasket.
- ✗ NEVER flush any wipes including "flushable wipe" down the toilet.

ALWAYS:

- ✓ Scrape and collect FOG into a waste container such as an empty coffee can, and dispose of it with your garbage.
- ✓ Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with trash.
- ✓ Place a wastebasket in each bathroom for disposable diapers, creams and lotions, and personal hygiene products, including "flushable" wipes.



City of Alhambra Utilities Department Consumer Water Use Restrictions

(A) DO NOT use or allow the use of water from the City to hose or wash sidewalks, walkways, driveways, or parking areas to other paved surfaces.

(B) DO NOT use or allow the use of water from the City to fill or maintain levels in decorative fountains, ponds, lakes, and similar structures unless such structure is equipped with a water recycling system.

(C) No restaurant, hotel, café, or cafeteria, or other public place where food is sold, served, or offered for sale shall serve drinking water from the Department unless at the request of its customers.

(D) DO NOT allow water from the City to leak from any facility on their premises or on premises under your control or fail to promptly repair any such leak.

(E) DO NOT cause or allow the use of water from the City to run off any landscape areas into adjoining streets, sidewalks, parking lots, or alleys due to incorrectly directed or maintained sprinklers or excessive watering.

(F) DO NOT use a hose to wash cars, boats, trailers, buses, or other vehicles, or to wash building exteriors or other hard-surfaced areas without an operating spray nozzle.

(G) DO NOT use or allow the use of water from the City Water Department for landscape watering more often than every three days.

(H) DO NOT use or allow the use of water for landscape watering between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

(I) DO NOT use or allow the use of water from the City to refill a swimming pool, spa, or hot tub emptied after the commencement of a water shortage period.



(J) DO NOT irrigate ornamental turf on public street medians.

(K) DO NOT use or allow the use of water from the City Water Department for landscape watering activities within 48 hours after measurable precipitation.

(L) DO NOT irrigate nonfunctional turf at commercial, industrial, or institutional sites, unless the use of water is not prohibited by this section to the extent necessary to ensure the health of trees and other perennial nonturf plantings or to the extent necessary to address an immediate health and safety need. Nonfunctional turf is turf that is solely ornamental and not regularly used for human recreational purposes or for civic or community events. Nonfunctional turf does not include sports fields and turf that is regularly used for human recreational purposes or for civic or community events.

What's a Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air-conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to routine and non-routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection. For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Table Talk

Get the most out of the Testing Results data table with this simple suggestion. In less than a minute, you will know all there is to know about your water:

For each substance listed, compare the value in the Amount Detected column against the value in the MCL (or AL, SMCL) column. If the Amount Detected value is smaller, your water meets the health and safety standards set for the substance.

Other Table Information Worth Noting

Verify that there were no violations of the state and/or federal standards in the Violation column. If there was a violation, you will see a detailed description of the event in this report.

If there is an ND or a less-than symbol (<), that means that the substance was not detected (i.e., below the detectable limits of the testing equipment).

The Range column displays the lowest and highest sample readings. If there is an NA showing, that means only a single sample was taken to test for the substance (assuming there is a reported value in the Amount Detected column).

If there is sufficient evidence to indicate from where the substance originates, it will be listed under Typical Source.

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									
				Groundwater Source		Surface Water MWD-Weymouth Plant			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppm)	2024	1	0.6	ND	NA	0.093	ND-0.15	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Barium (ppm)	2024	1	2	ND	NA	0.124	NA	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Bromate (ppb)	2024	10	0.1	NA	NA	2.0	ND-9.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	2024	[4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[4 (as Cl ₂)]	1.45	0.01-3.59	2.5	1.6-3.0	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Coliform Assessment and/or Corrective Action Violations (percent positive samples)	2024	TT	NA	ND	ND-0.84	0.1	ND-0.3	No	NA
<i>E. coli</i> (State Revised Total Coliform Rule) (positive samples)	2024	0	(0)	0	NA	NA	NA	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	2.0	1	0.61	0.36-0.81	0.7	0.3-0.8	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2024	15	(0)	1.8	ND-7.36	ND	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2024	50	(0)	NA	NA	ND	ND-5	No	Decay of natural and human-made deposits
HAA5 [sum of 5 haloacetic acids] (ppb)	2024	60	NA	4.8	ND-11	6.2 ¹	ND-4.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2024	10	20	5.12	2.7-8	ND	NA	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	4.3	ND-6.7	ND	NA	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits

REGULATED SUBSTANCES									
				Groundwater Source		Surface Water MWD-Weymouth Plant			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Perchlorate (ppb)	2024	6	1	1.97	ND-3.4	ND	NA	No	Used in solid rocket propellant, fireworks, explosives, flares, matches; historic aerospace or other industrial operations
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2024	5	0.019	ND	NA	ND	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2024	80	NA	25.6	9.5-47	32	28-37	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Tetrachloroethylene [PCE] (ppb)	2024	5	0.06	0.3	ND-1.8	ND	NA	No	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, and auto shops (metal degreaser)
Trichloroethylene [TCE] (ppb)	2024	5	1.7	ND	ND-0.58	ND	NA	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Turbidity ² (NTU)	2024	TT	NA	NA	NA	0.06	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2024	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	NA	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (pCi/L)	2024	20	0.43	4.3	1.3-7.9	ND	ND-3	No	Erosion of natural deposits

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)	2024	1.3	0.3	0.31	ND-0.58	0/60	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2024	15	0.2	ND	ND-3.4	0/60	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES									
				Groundwater Source		Surface Water MWD-Weymouth Plant			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2024	200	600	ND	NA	93	ND-150	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2024	500	NS	30	14-59	106	96-116	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (units)	2024	15	NS	0.3	ND-15	1	1-1	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	2024	300	NS	26.1	ND-89	ND	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2024	50	NS	4.9	ND-32	ND	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor, Threshold (TON)	2024	3	NS	0.14	ND-2	ND	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2024	1,600	NS	541	380-800	996	912-1,080	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2024	500	NS	50	25-86	225	200-250	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2024	1,000	NS	348	250-510	632	573-690	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2024	5	NS	0.2	ND-4.3	ND	NA	No	Soil runoff

¹Please note this is the Local Running Annual Average result.

²Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

³Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the U.S. EPA and SWRCB determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES³

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	Groundwater Source		Surface Water MWD- Weymouth Plant		TYPICAL SOURCE
		AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	
Alkalinity (ppm)	2024	160	120–210	118	109–127	NA
Boron (ppb)	2024	NA	NA	140	140–140	NA
Calcium (ppm)	2024	50.8	31–78	68	59–76	NA
Chlorate (ppb)	2024	NA	NA	80	80–80	NA
Hardness, Total [as CaCO ₃] (ppm)	2024	202	110–314	272	241–303	NA
Lithium (ppb)	2024	ND	ND–24	40	32–47	NA
Magnesium (ppm)	2024	15.4	7.64–24.9	26	23–29	Naturally occurring
Perfluorooctanesulfonate Acid [PFOS] (ppt)	2024	ND	NA	ND	NA	NA
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppt)	2024	ND	NA	ND	NA	NA
pH (units)	2024	7.8	7.7–7.9	8.2	NA	Naturally occurring
Potassium (ppm)	2024	2.0	1.1–2.4	5.0	4.6–5.4	Naturally occurring
Sodium (ppm)	2024	33	26–42	105	93–117	NA

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.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/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 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).

TON (Threshold Odor Number): A measure of odor in water.

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

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

Tip Top Tap

The most common signs that your faucet or sink is affecting the quality of your drinking water are discolored water, sink or faucet stains, a buildup of particles, unusual odors or tastes, and a reduced flow of water. The solutions to these problems may be in your hands.

Kitchen Sink and Drain

Handwashing, soap scum buildup, and the handling of raw meats and vegetables can contaminate your sink. Clogged drains can lead to unclean sinks and backed-up water in which bacteria (i.e., pink or black slime growth) can grow and contaminate the sink area and faucet, causing a rotten egg odor. Disinfect and clean the sink and drain area regularly and flush with hot water.

Faucets, Screens, and Aerators

Chemicals and bacteria can splash and accumulate on the faucet screen and aerator, which are located on the tip of faucets and can collect particles like sediment and minerals, resulting in a decreased flow from the faucet. Clean and disinfect the aerators or screens on a regular basis.

Check with your plumber if you find particles in the faucet screen, as they could be pieces of plastic from the hot water heater dip tube. Faucet gaskets can break down and cause black, oily slime. If you find this slime, replace the faucet gasket with a higher-quality product. White scaling or hard deposits on faucets and showerheads may be caused by water with high levels of calcium carbonate. Clean these fixtures with vinegar or use water softening to reduce the calcium carbonate levels for the hot water system.

Water Filtration/Treatment Devices

A smell of rotten eggs can be a sign of bacteria on the filters or in the treatment system. The system can also become clogged over time, so regular filter replacement is important. (Remember to replace your refrigerator filter!)

Water Conservation Tips

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

- Automatic dishwashers use three to six 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.