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## What kind of contaminants might be found in drinking 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 surfaces 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 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 result from urban storm 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 gasoline stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.

• **Radioactive contaminants**, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas productions and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious 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 Whittier 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 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at: <https://www.epa.gov/lead>.

USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. As noted below, the City of Whittier's source water does not include surface water; therefore, monitoring for cryptosporidium is not applicable to the City of Whittier.

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

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 United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The information that follows represents only a fraction of the activity in which the City of Whittier engages to provide you, the consumer, a high level of confidence in the water that you drink. We, along with our State-certified laboratories, routinely scrutinize our water supplies for the entire range of elements that have the potential to degrade the quality of your water.

supply of high quality drinking water.

remain dedicated to providing you with a safe and reliable supply of high quality drinking water.



## Dear Customer,

## Water Conservation Tips

Water Conservation has become a new way of life. Water Conservation habits that are developed when there is ample snowpack will help sustain the water supply through growth and dry years. We suggest the continuation of the following water conservation habits:

Water between  
6 p.m. and 10 a.m.



Adjust watering frequency according to the weather and season. Try to set sprinkler systems for multiples short cycles for each station and allow 30 to 60 minutes for the water to soak into the soil between cycles

Check and repair leaking pipes, hoses, sprinklers, and toilets



Install water-saving shower heads and toilets

Use a broom to clean driveways and sidewalks



## Cross Connections and You

Did you know common hazards in and around your house can contaminate your drinking water as well as your neighbors?

These hazards are known as cross-connections, and can result in contaminated water back-flowing into your home's drinking supply without you even knowing.

### TWO COMMON CROSS-CONNECTIONS ARE:

Any hose is a cross-connection when left submerged in a swimming pool, laundry sink, or car wash bucket.

To protect your water from these cross connections, make sure to have air vacuum breakers installed on each of your hose bibs.

These simple devices are inexpensive and can be purchased from your local hardware store. They are easy to install; you just screw them on.

Your in-ground irrigation system is also a cross connection so make sure to do the following:

1. Confirm your irrigation system has a back flow assembly device, if not, get one installed.
2. Test the backflow prevention device annually.
3. Turn in your results to the City of Whittier Water Department.

If you have any questions, please contact the Cross Connection Specialist at 562-567-9551.

This report is intended to provide information for all water users. If received by an absentee landlord, a business or school, please share the information with tenants, employees or students. We will be happy to make additional copies of this report available for review by the public upon request.

If you would like additional information regarding water quality, please call Mr. Raymond Cordero, at (562) 567-9566.

Our City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located in City Hall at 13230 Penn Street. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

此份有關你的食水報告,內有重要資料和訊息,請找他人為你翻譯及解釋清楚。

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para mas información ó traducción , favor de contactar a Mr. Raymond Cordero. Telefono: (562) 567-9566.

Sincerely,

Kyle Cason, PE, Director of Public Works



CITY OF WHITTIER 2019

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT





What is in your drinking water?

The chart in this report shows the average and range of concentrations of the constituents tested in your drinking water during year 2019 or from the most recent tests. The State allows the City of Whittier to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants in groundwater do not change frequently. Some of our data, although representative, are more than one year old. The chart lists all the contaminants detected in your drinking water that have Federal and State drinking water standards. Detected unregulated contaminants of interest are also included.

Whittier Water Service



Drinking water source assessment

In accordance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, an assessment of the drinking water sources for the City of Whittier was completed in December 2002. The assessment concluded that the City of Whittier’s sources are considered vulnerable to the following activities or facilities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: research laboratory, known VOC contamination plumes, and parking lots/mall. In addition, the sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities or facilities not associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: research laboratories and parks. A copy of the complete assessment is available at the City of Whittier Public Works counter at 13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California 90602. You may request a summary of the assessment to be sent to you by contacting Customer Service at (562) 567-9530.

CITY OF WHITTIER 2019 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY TABLE

CONSTITUENT AND (UNITS)	MCL or [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) or [MRDLG]	DLR	GROUNDWATER SOURCES		MCL Violations?	Most Recent Sampling Date	TYPICAL ORIGINS
				Results (a)	Range (Min-Max)			
PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Health-Related Standards								
ORGANIC CHEMICALS								
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (µg/l)	5	0.06	0.5	<0.5	ND - 3.1	No	Monthly	Discharge from industrial activities
Trichloroethylene (TCE) (µg/l)	5	1.7	0.5	<0.5	ND - 0.56	No	2019	Discharge from industrial activities
DISINFECTANT AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS (b)								
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (µg/l)	80	NA	1	42	22 - 53	No	Quarterly	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic acids (five) (HAA5) (µg/l)	60	NA	1 - 2	5.5	3 - 6.7	No	Quarterly	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine Residual (mg/l)	[4]	[4]	NA	0.77	0.21 - 1.42	No	Weekly	Drinking water disinfectant
INORGANIC CHEMICALS								
Copper (mg/l) (c)	AL = 1.3	0.3	0.05	0.57	1 / 30 Samples Exceeded the AL	No	2019	Corrosion of household plumbing system
Fluoride (mg/l)	2	1	0.1	0.22	0.17 - 0.28	No	2019	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (µg/l) (c)	AL = 15	0.2	5	<5	0 / 30 Samples Exceeded the AL	No	2019	Corrosion of household plumbing system
Nitrate as N (mg/l)	10	10	0.4	2.7	1.6 - 3.7	No	2019	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use
BACTERIOLOGICAL								
Coliform Bacteria (d)	5.0%	(0)	NA	1.6%	--	No	Weekly	Naturally present in the environment
RADIOACTIVE CHEMICALS								
Gross Alpha (pCi/l)	15	(0)	3	<3	ND - 11.4	No	2018	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/l)	20	0.43	1	1.7	1.2 - 2.3	No	2019	Erosion of natural deposits
SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Aesthetic Standards, Not Health-Related								
Chloride (mg/l)	500	NA	NA	100	91 - 120	No	2018	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese (µg/l)	50	NA	20	<20	ND - 23	No	2019	Erosion of natural deposits
Odor (TON)	3	NA	1	1.2	1 - 2	No	2018	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600	NA	NA	930	850 - 990	No	2018	Substances that form ions in water
Sulfate (mg/l)	500	NA	0.5	120	100 - 140	No	2018	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/l)	1,000	NA	NA	510	470 - 570	No	2019	Erosion of natural deposits
ADDITIONAL CHEMICALS OF INTEREST/UNREGULATED								
Alkalinity, total as CaCO3 (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	170	150 - 180	NA	2018	Erosion of natural deposits
Calcium (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	84	75 - 91	NA	2018	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness, total as CaCO3 (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	270	250 - 290	NA	2018	Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	16	13 - 17	NA	2018	Erosion of natural deposits
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (ng/l)	NA	NA	NA	4.4	ND - 9.3	NA	2019	Discharge from industrial activities
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid (ng/l)	NA	NA	NA	0.9	ND - 3.7	NA	2019	Discharge from industrial activities
Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (ng/l)	NA	NA	NA	1.5	ND - 4.3	NA	2019	Discharge from industrial activities
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (ng/l)	NA	NA	NA	2.2	ND - 8.9	NA	2019	Discharge from industrial activities
Perfluorononanoic Acid (ng/l)	NA	NA	NA	0.88	ND - 2.4	NA	2019	Discharge from industrial activities
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (ng/l)	NL = 6.5	NA	NA	22	13 - 29	NA	2019	Discharge from industrial activities
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (ng/l)	NL = 5.1	NA	NA	7.4	ND - 13	NA	2019	Discharge from industrial activities
pH (pH units)	NA	NA	NA	7.7	7.3 - 7.9	NA	2018	Hydrogen ion concentration
Sodium (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	74	64 - 87	NA	2018	Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED CHEMICALS REQUIRING MONITORING				
CONSTITUENT AND (UNITS)	NL	Results	Range (Min-Max)	Most Recent Sampling Date
AT ENTRY POINT TO THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM				
Bromide (µg/l)	NA	190	80 - 200	2019
Manganese (µg/l) (e)	SMCL=50	6.4	6.4	2019
Total Organic Carbon (mg/l)	NA	<1	ND - 1.1	2019
IN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM				
Haloacetic acids (HAA5) (µg/l)	NA	5.5	3.1 - 7.7	2019
Haloacetic acids (HAA6Br) (µg/l)	NA	12	6.3 - 17	2019
Haloacetic acids (HAA9) (µg/l)	NA	13	7.5 - 19	2019

NOTES

NOTES

AL = Action Level

DLR = Detection Limit for Purposes of Reporting

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

SMCL= Secondary MCL

mg/l = parts per million or milligrams per liter

ng/l = parts per trillion or nanograms per liter

< = Average is less than the DLR

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

NA = No Applicable Limit

ND = Not Detected at DLR

NL = Notification Level

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

pCi/l = picoCuries per liter

PHG = Public Health Goal

TON = Threshold Odor Number

µg/l = parts per billion or micrograms per liter

µmho/cm = micromhos per centimeter

- (a) The results reported in the table are average concentrations of the constituents detected in your drinking water during year 2019 or from the most recent tests, except for Coliform Bacteria, Chlorine Residual, TTHM, HAA5, Lead, and Copper which are described below.
- (b) Samples were collected in the distribution system. For Chlorine Residual, TTHM, and HAA5, the running annual average is reported as "Results" while the maximum and minimum of the individual results are reported as "Range."
- (c) Concentrations were measured at the tap every 3 years. The 90th percentile concentration is reported in the table. None of the thirty sampling locations for Lead exceeded the Action Level; one of the thirty sampling locations for Copper exceeded the Action Level. The samples were collected in 2019. In 2019, no school submitted a request to be sampled for lead.
- (d) Over eight hundred (800) Coliform Bacteria samples were collected in the distribution system in 2019. One of 63 samples was positive for Coliform Bacteria in April 2019 (1.6%), and one of 78 samples was positive for Coliform Bacteria in July 2019 (1.3%). The result in the chart is the highest percentage of Coliform-positive samples out of all samples collected in any month the detection was made. Coliform Bacteria are used as an indicator that if present, indicates other potentially harmful microorganisms may be present. No more than 5.0% of the monthly samples may be Coliform-positive; therefore, the MCL was not violated in 2019.
- (e) Manganese was included as part of the unregulated chemicals requiring monitoring.