ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2019

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。

此份有关你的食水报告,
内有重要资料和讯息,请找
他人为你翻译及解释清楚。

Presented By
Walnut Valley Water District

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

PWS ID#: 1910234

Our Mission Continues

We are pleased to present our annual water quality report. This report covers all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2019. We are dedicated to water quality and safety, ensuring that our drinking water meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the highest quality drinking water to your home and business. We remain vigilant in our goals of source water protection, water use efficiency, conservation, and community education - while meeting the water supply needs of the communities we serve.

Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water. We can be reached at (909) 595-7554 or cservice@wvwd.com.

Where Does My Water Come From?

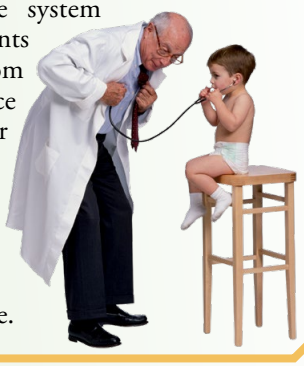
Our District is dependent on surface water that is imported into Southern California by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). MWD imports and treats surface water transported through two major conveyance systems: the 242-mile-long Colorado River Aqueduct and the 444-mile-long State Water Project (SWP). Water transported via the Colorado River Aqueduct originates in the Colorado River basin states, and water transported by the State Water Project conveyance system originates in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. MWD treats this water at their Weymouth Filtration plant in the City of La Verne. The water is then purchased by the District through our designated wholesale water agency, Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD). The District also receives water from the SWP that is treated by TVMWD at their Miramar Water Treatment Plant in the City of Claremont.

> We remain vigilant in delivering the highest quality drinking water.

Important Health Information

Certain communities may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, those with cancer, those who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. Please seek advice from your healthcare provider for further information. Detailed information and guidelines from the EPA are available through the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 and www.water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.



Substances That Could Be in Water

The sources of drinking water for both tap water and bottled water, includes 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.

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. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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.

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 storm-water 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 storm-water runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants–including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and which can also come from gas stations, urban storm-water 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.

The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the drinking water poses a health risk.

How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed and secure container. It is important to store water in a clean container, bacteria housed in a container may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water can be stored for up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration helps slow the bacterial growth.

Community Participation

The District's Board Meetings are typically scheduled, unless otherwise noticed, for 5 p.m. on the third Monday of each month, in the Board room of the District's headquarters located at 271 South Brea Canyon Road, Walnut. The Board Meetings are open to the public. Anyone who is interested in the operations and business of the District is encouraged to attend.

CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT	
Hours	Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Phone	(909) 595-7554
Website	www.wvwd.com

Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and saving money on your monthly water bill through efficient use of water in your household. 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 for each use.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. A slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix a leak 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 can save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-based appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moves, you have a leak.

Count on Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plants and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have an understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water;
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions;
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results;
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry;
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels;
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies; and
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So, the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions related to your drinking water, please call our Customer Service department at (909) 595-7554, or e-mail us at cservice@wvwd.com.

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 are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

				Walnut Valley Water District		The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromate (ppb)	2019	10	0.1	NA	NA	1.9	ND–8.1	No	By-product of drinking water ozonation
Chloramines (ppm)	2019	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4 (as Cl2)]	2.08	1.79–2.35	2.4	0.5–2.9	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2019	5	(0)	NA	NA	ND	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2019	2.0	1	NA	NA	0.7	0.6–0.9	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Beta Particle Activity[1] (pCi/L)	2019	50	(0)	NA	NA	ND	NA	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2019	10	10	NA	NA	0.5	NA	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Strontium-90 (pCi/L)	2019	8	0.35	NA	NA	ND	NA	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Sum of Five Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2019	60	NA	14.65	5.77–21.80	6.0	ND–9	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Toluene (ppb)	2019	150	150	NA	NA	0.6	NA	No	Discharge from petroleum and chemical factories; underground gas tank leaks
Tritium (pCi/L)	2019	20,000	400	NA	NA	ND	NA	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2019	80	NA	26.6	14–45.9	27	14–31	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity (NTU)	2019	TT	NA	0.2	NA	0.04	NA	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (pCi/L)	2019	20	0.43	NA	NA	ND	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Tap Water Samples Collected for Copper and Lead Analyses from Sample Sites throughout the Community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2018	1.3	0.3	0.099	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2018	15	0.2	4	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharge from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Three Valleys Municipal Water District (Miramar Plant Effluent) AMOUNT DETECTED	Three Valleys Municipal Water District (Miramar Plant Effluent) RANGE LOW-HIGH	Three Valleys Municipal Water District (Groundwater) AMOUNT DETECTED	Three Valleys Municipal Water District (Groundwater) RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromate (ppb)	2019	10	0.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water ozonation
Chloramines (ppm)	2019	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4 (as Cl2)]	2.61	NA	NR	NA	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2019	5	(0)	ND (2015)	NA	0.148 (2016)	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2019	2.0	1	ND	NA	0.5	0.41–0.59	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Beta Particle Activity[1] (pCi/L)	2019	50	(0)	1.79	NA	NR	NA	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2019	10	10	ND	NA	2.56	1.6–3.5	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Strontium-90 (pCi/L)	2019	8	0.35	0.13	NA	NR	NA	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Sum of Five Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2019	60	NA	20.24	11.6–39	NR	NA	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Toluene (ppb)	2019	150	150	ND	NA	ND	NA	No	Discharge from petroleum and chemical factories; underground gas tank leaks
Tritium (pCi/L)	2019	20,000	400	377	NA	NR	NA	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2019	80	NA	49.47	39.1–69.2	NR	NA	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity (NTU)	2019	TT	NA	0.076	NA	0.20	NA	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (pCi/L)	2019	20	0.43	ND (2018)	NA	2.4 (2017)	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Walnut Valley Water District AMOUNT DETECTED	Walnut Valley Water District RANGE LOW-HIGH	The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California AMOUNT DETECTED	The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2019	200	600	NA	NA	122 RAA	ND–110	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2019	500	NS	NA	NA	50	46–55	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (Units)	2019	15	NS	2	NA	ND	ND–1	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	2019	300	NS	NA	NA	243	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Odor–Threshold (TON)	2019	3	NS	NA	NA	1	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2019	1,600	NS	NA	NA	469	435–503	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2019	500	NS	NA	NA	73	65–81	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2019	1,000	NS	NA	NA	266	244–289	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Three Valleys Municipal Water District (Miramar Plant Effluent) AMOUNT DETECTED	Three Valleys Municipal Water District (Miramar Plant Effluent) RANGE LOW-HIGH	Three Valleys Municipal Water District (Groundwater) AMOUNT DETECTED	Three Valleys Municipal Water District (Groundwater) RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2019	200	600	ND	ND–100	ND	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2019	500	NS	74	NA	8.3	6.8–9.8	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (Units)	2019	15	NS	1	NA	ND	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	2019	300	NS	ND	NA	ND	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Odor–Threshold (TON)	2019	3	NS	1	NA	1	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2019	1,600	NS	370	300–440	395	380–410	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2019	500	NS	32	NA	28	25–31	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2019	1,000	NS	250	NA	220	210–230	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES [2]

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	Walnut Valley Water District AMOUNT DETECTED	Walnut Valley Water District RANGE LOW-HIGH	The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California AMOUNT DETECTED	The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alkalinity (ppm)	2019	NA	NA	68	67–70	Runoff/leaching of natural deposits; carbonate, bicarbonate, hydroxide, and occasionally borate, silicate, and phosphate
Boron (ppb)	2019	NA	NA	120	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Calcium Carbonate Precipitation Potential [CCPP] [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2019	NA	NA	2.6	1.1–7.3	Elemental balance in water; affected by temperature, other factors
Calcium (ppm)	2019	NA	NA	25	23–27	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Chlorate (ppb)	2019	NA	NA	42	NA	By-product of drinking water chlorination; industrial processes
Corrosivity [as Aggressiveness Index]	2019	NA	NA	12.1	12.1–12.2	Elemental balance in water; affected by temperature, other factors
Corrosivity [as Saturation Index]	2019	NA	NA	0.36	0.34–0.38	Elemental balance in water; affected by temperature, other factors
Hardness, Total [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2019	NA	NA	108	101–116	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; sum of polyvalent cations, generally magnesium and calcium present in the water
Foaming Agents–Methylene Blue Active Substances [MBAS] (ppb)	2019	NA	NA	ND	NA	Municipal and industrial waste discharge
Magnesium (ppm)	2019	NA	NA	12	11–12	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppt)	2019	NA	NA	2.6	2.5–2.6	Industrial chemical factory discharges; runoff/leaching from landfills; used in fire-retarding foams and various industrial processes
pH (Units)	2019	NA	NA	8.5	NA	Naturally occurring
Potassium (ppm)	2019	NA	NA	2.4	2.2–2.7	Salt present in the water; naturally occurring
Sodium (ppm)	2019	NA	NA	50	46–54	Salt present in the water; naturally occurring
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ppm)	2019	NA	NA	2.4	1.7–2.6	Various natural and man-made sources; TOC is a precursor for the formation of disinfection by-products

UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES [2]

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	Three Valleys Municipal Water District (Miramar Plant Effluent) AMOUNT DETECTED	Three Valleys Municipal Water District (Miramar Plant Effluent) RANGE LOW-HIGH	Three Valleys Municipal Water District (Groundwater) AMOUNT DETECTED	Three Valleys Municipal Water District (Groundwater) RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alkalinity (ppm)	2019	68.5	60–77	155 (2018)	150–160	Runoff/leaching of natural deposits; carbonate, bicarbonate, hydroxide, and occasionally borate, silicate, and phosphate
Boron (ppb)	2019	140	120–160	150 (2018)	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Calcium Carbonate Precipitation Potential [CCPP] [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2019	NR	NA	NR	NA	Elemental balance in water; affected by temperature, other factors
Calcium (ppm)	2019	17	15–19	51.5 (2018)	51–52	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Chlorate (ppb)	2019	ND	NA	NR	NA	By-product of drinking water chlorination; industrial processes
Corrosivity [as Aggressiveness Index]	2019	11.46	NA	NR	NA	Elemental balance in water; affected by temperature, other factors
Corrosivity [as Saturation Index]	2019	-0.33	NA	NR	NA	Elemental balance in water; affected by temperature, other factors
Hardness, Total [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2019	95	NA	165 (2018)	160–170	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; sum of polyvalent cations, generally magnesium and calcium present in the water
Foaming Agents–Methylene Blue Active Substances [MBAS] (ppb)	2019	0.11	NA	ND	NA	Municipal and industrial waste discharge
Magnesium (ppm)	2019	11	NA	8.05 (2018)	1.5–8.6	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppt)	2019	NA	NA	NA	NA	Industrial chemical factory discharges; runoff/leaching from landfills; used in fire-retarding foams and various industrial processes
pH (Units)	2019	8.58	NA	8.1	7.9–8.2	Naturally occurring
Potassium (ppm)	2019	1.8	NA	1.4	NA	Salt present in the water; naturally occurring
Sodium (ppm)	2019	49	NA	17.5	13–22	Salt present in the water; naturally occurring
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ppm)	2019	1.12	1.07–1.16	ND	NA	Various natural and man-made sources; TOC is a precursor for the formation of disinfection by-products

[1] The State Water Resources Control Board considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

[2] Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

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.

NR: Not regulated.

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).

RAA: Running Annual Average; highest RAA is the highest of all Running Annual Averages calculated as an average of all the samples collected within a 12-month period

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.

Source Water Assessment

The Colorado River Watershed Sanitary Survey was last completed in December 2016 (next will be completed by December 31, 2021) and the State Water Project Watershed Sanitary Survey was last completed in June 2017 (next will be completed by June 30, 2022). Colorado River supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to recreation, urban and storm-water runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. State Water Project supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to urban and storm-water runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting MWD at (213) 217-6000.

Drinking Water & COVID-19

WVWD is committed to providing clean, safe and reliable drinking water to customers throughout our service area. Coronavirus (COVID-19) has no impact on the quality or supply of the drinking water supplied to your community. Your tap water is safe to drink and meets all state and federal standards.

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

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 (back-pressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (back-siphonage).

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 when 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.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA (https://goo.gl/TFAMKc) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) websites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues related to water resources, water conservation, and public health. Also, the Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management has a website (https://goo.gl/kGepu4) that provides complete and current information on water issues in California, including valuable information about our watershed.