

Water Quality Report 2024

City of Klamath Falls



The City of Klamath Falls Provides
Exceptional water for you!



Water is truly an essential part of each of our lives. We rely on water daily for a wide range of uses from growing crops to aiding in industrial processes. None of these uses is more important than our need for high quality water that we can safely drink. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to service the needs of all of our water users. If you would like additional information we encourage you to call us at 541-883-5388.

The information in this annual report is for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2024. The City of Klamath Falls routinely monitors for over 125 regulated and unregulated contaminants in all sources of your drinking water. As a result of this monitoring Klamath Falls' water meets and exceeds Federal and State drinking water standards.

Where Does Our Water Come From?

City of Klamath Falls' water source comes from groundwater supplied by 11 wells with depths that range from 300ft to 1000ft. This makes Klamath Falls' water system unique in that only 1% of all groundwater supplied water systems across the nation serve more than 10,000 people. We provide water to nearly 40,000 customers. As our groundwater tends to be free of impurities and contaminants we only treat the water with a single common additive, chlorine. Chlorine is injected into the water and acts as a safety net against disease causing bacteria and viruses. Although only a small amount of natural fluoride is present in our groundwater, the City of Klamath Falls does not inject additional sodium fluoride into our drinking water.

Your Views Are Welcomed

The City of Klamath Falls Water Division operations are governed by the City Council, five elected members and the Mayor.

The Council meets the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the City Administration Building, 500 Klamath Avenue. The Public is welcome to attend.

We Care About You And Your Family's Health

With all of the information in the news these days stemming from the reports of lead contamination in the nation's drinking water supply, the City of Klamath Falls believes it is important for you to understand there are multiple factors that contribute to the corrosive action of the water on materials containing lead in the water distribution system. Some of those factors include low pH, low alkalinity, temperature, hardness and high conductivity. Over 30 years of water quality monitoring and analysis of the City's groundwater sources indicate our drinking water ranks very low in these variables which may contribute to lead contamination caused by the solubility of lead from pipes or pipe materials into the drinking water. Over the past 20+ years the overwhelming majority of tap water samples collected and tested from high risk locations, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency indicated no detectable amount of lead contamination in the drinking water. It is also important to know the most recent water samples collected at the sources or wells and tested for lead contamination indicated there is no detectable amount of lead in the source water. City of Klamath Falls water system records confirm we do not have lead service lines within the water system. Through our research for selecting the "at tap" sample locations, as required by the Lead and Copper Rule, we have found no evidence of lead service lines within customer's piping throughout the service area.

While water quality regulations and monitoring guidelines have become more stringent our City water consistently exceeds all state and federal health standards. However it is always a good practice to let water run from the tap for 15 to 30 seconds or more before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water has gone unused for 6 hours or more.

Be assured we continue to take the necessary steps to protect you and your family being consistently vigilant in monitoring our drinking water quality.

Customers are still able to request a paper copy and can do so by calling Utility Billing at 541-883-5301.

Water Quality Results for 2024

While the vast majority of substances monitored are not found within our water, the table below includes information that tends to be of the most interest to our customers. If you desire further information, a complete summary of test results is available at the billing office or can be acquired by calling 541-883-5388.

Results of Microbiological Analysis

Substance	Unit Description	Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)*	Range Detected or Overall Results	Source of Substance	Violation?
Total Coliform Bacteria	positive samples/month		Coliform bacteria may be present in no more than 5% of monthly samples	Zero positive samples	Naturally present in the environment	No
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	positive samples/month		The standard is exceeded if a routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive.	Zero positive samples	Human and animal fecal waste	No

Results of Lead and Copper Sampling from Residential Water Taps

Copper	ppm*	0	AL: 90% of the homes tested must have copper levels less than 1.35 ppm*.	90th percentile value = 0.027ppm* No sample exceeded the action level.	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	No
Lead	ppm*	0	AL: 90% of the homes tested must have lead levels less than 0.0150 ppm*.	90th percentile value = 0.000 ppm* No sample exceeded the action level.	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	No

Additional Samples Taken at Each Water Source

Substance or Variable	MCL	Balsam Well	Conger Wellfield	Debbie Well	Fremont Well	Hilyard Well	Homedale Well	Wocus Well
Chlorine	4.0 MRDL	0.20	0.25	0.20	0.20	0.23	0.23	0.26
Ph	<6.5/>8.5**	7.8	8.1	8.2	7.7	8.2	7.6	8.0
Hardness as Calcium Bicarbonate	250	130.0	50.0	66.0	74.0	76.0	140.0	66.0
Iron	0.3	0.115	N/D	N/D	0.156	N/D	N/D	N/D
Fluoride	4	0.209	0.307	0.223	0.212	0.311	0.344	N/D
Lead	0.015	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D
Arsenic	0.01	0.00271	0.00334	0.00259	N/D	0.00348	0.00771	0.00713
Nitrate	10.0	3.540	N/D	N/D	0.122	0.619	0.872	0.336

Results of Disinfection By-Products Analysis

Substance	MCL	Source of Substance	1450 Homedale Rd	Lynnewood Booster
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	0.08	Compounds formed from the reaction of disinfectant with organic and inorganic compounds during the disinfection process	N/D	N/D
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)	0.06	Compounds formed from the reaction of disinfectant with organic and inorganic compounds during the disinfection process	N/D	N/D

Additional Monitoring

As part of an on-going evaluation program the EPA has required us to monitor some additional contaminants/chemicals. Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants/chemicals will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science.

Substance	MCL	Location	Reported Level	Range	Source of Substance
perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) (mg/L)	0.000004	Balsam Well	0.0000095	Low: 0.0000047 High: 0.0000095	A persistent PFAS chemical with various sources, including industrial processes like metal plating and firefighting foam production. It can also be found in consumer products like stain-resistant fabrics and non-stick cookware.

City of Klamath Falls regularly monitors water quality as required by the EPA and Oregon Drinking Water Program. While this report shows the results of our testing, additional information may be requested. Recently the City performed the required UCMR5 testing. The results of that test are shown above; however full testing reports can be available upon request. Please contact the Water Division at 541 883-5388 if you have additional questions.

Raw water (untreated sample) from each well was analyzed monthly throughout the year. No pathogens were detected.

** These guidelines are secondary standards, not MCLs. They are generally based on aesthetic effects rather than health concerns. All measurements are in parts per million (ppm*) unless otherwise stated.

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS: ppm (Parts per million), **ppb** (Parts per Billion), **mg/L** (milligrams per liter)

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

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level – The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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 allow for a margin of safety.

ND: Not Detected

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Message from the EPA

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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. EPA/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 (1-800-426-4791).

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. The City of Klamath Falls 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 drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Many communities in Southern Oregon are wrestling with the challenge of supporting growth and its associated demand for safe drinking water without depleting aquifers. The City of Klamath Falls makes a conscientious effort to promote water conservation within our community. Water conservation is an important tool for reducing water demand and limiting water use should be an everyday practice for people and businesses in our region. Water efficiency measures can lead to significant reductions in water costs. Many online guides are available which describe ways that residents and businesses can conserve water. In many instances, water is wasted by old habits, like leaving the water running when we brush our teeth and using old appliances like toilets which were built before conservation standards took effect. Water conservation may require changing old habits and re-thinking the way we do things. The single conservation measure that can have the biggest impact saving water and money is to fix all leaks.

What types of contaminants are tested and regulated?

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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Below are some leak facts that may surprise you:

- A 1/8-inch hole in a metal pipe at 40 pounds per square inch (psi) leaks 2,500 gallon of water in 24 hours.
- A leak the size of a pinhead can waste up to 360,000 gallons per year, enough to fill 12,000 bathtubs.
- A dripping faucet or hose bib can lose up to 180 gallons a month or 2,160 gallons per year.
- About one in every 318 homes or buildings has a leak.

- A leaking toilet can use 90,000 gallons of water in 30 days.
- A typical toilet leak at today's rates can add \$500, \$1000 or more to a single water bill.

Water conservation becomes even more important through the very dry conditions we have experienced here in the Klamath Basin over the past years. Check for leaks around your home today.



City of Klamath Falls

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