

Your drinking water comes from ground water

The City of Union presents this report to inform their water consumers of the quality of the drinking water supply.

The City is committed to supplying their water consumers with a safe and sufficient supply. The City's water is ground water derived from two deep wells that are tapped into a basalt aquifer. The two wells have the potential to produce four million gallons per day. During the high usage period from July through August the demand rarely exceeds 1.5 million gallons per day. Because of the nature of the aquifer, the water reaches the surface at 65°F.

The City's water supply and system are continually monitored in compliance with State and Federal laws. There are 105 different contaminants that the city tests for in the drinking water. This report will list only those contaminants that have been detected from the water samples. The samples are analyzed by laboratories certified by the State of Oregon.

Sources of drinking water: both tap water and bottled water originate as "surface water" from rivers and lakes or as "ground water" from springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. Water picks up wastes from both human and animal activities. Surface water is usually filtered and disinfected to remove bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. Ground water is usually filtered naturally.

Contaminants that may be present include:

Microbial contaminants such as bacteria, viruses, and protozoa are very small living creatures that may be natural and harmless or harmful if originating from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations or wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants such as heavy metals can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.

Pesticides and herbicides may come from agriculture and residential uses.

Radioactive contaminants are naturally occurring.

Organic chemical contaminants are usually man-made (synthetic) and vaporize easily (volatile). Petroleum products and degreasers are examples of gas station and dry cleaner waste transported by storm water and sewers.

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).

EPA ensures that tap water is safe to drink by writing regulations that limits both natural and man-made contaminants. We follow both state and federal regulations. Interstate bottled water is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

HEALTH TIP

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. Our system 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 & steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

If you have any questions or in emergencies, please call:
Paul Phillips 541-562-5197