

# City of Wheeler 2021 Consumer Confidence Report

## **Is my water safe?**

The City of Wheeler public water met all US. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Oregon State drinking water health standards in 2021. The City of Wheeler and the City of Manzanita share our well water source on the Upper Nehalem River. The City of Wheeler monitors its distribution system daily to insure quality water reaches its customers safely.

## **Where does my water come from?**

Our groundwater wells are located on Foss Road near the Nehalem River. This groundwater is naturally filtered and meets both Federal and State requirement for clarity.

## **Source Water Assessment**

A "Source Water Assessment" has been completed by the Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Health Drinking Water Division. These published assessments are available from the City of Manzanita Water Department, which operates the well system.

## **Are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

As water travels over land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases, contaminants such as radioactive particles and substances from animal/human activity. These may include:

- Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife activity.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as naturally occurring salts and metals, storm or industrial runoff, **wastewater** discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, 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 can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining.

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit certain contaminants in water provided by public systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations also establish the same limits for contaminants in bottled water, insuring the same protection for public health.

## **Do I need to take special precautions?**

Some people may be more affected by drinking water contaminants, such as immune-compromised persons, those undergoing chemotherapy, or are recovering from an organ transplant, people with HIV/AIDS, or other immune system disorders; particularly among the elderly and infants.

These should be advised about drinking water by their health care providers. EPA Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines are available to lessen the risk of infection by microbial contaminants such as cryptosporidium and giardia from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791. (This Information is required by the EPA and OHD to be included in this report.)

**Additional Information for Lead as a contaminant:**

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 cannot control the used of materials in household plumbing which may contain lead. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize exposure to lead 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, particularly in older fixtures, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on led in drinking water, testing methods, and steps to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791, or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead). (This contact information is required by the EPA and OHD for this report.)

**Can I get involved?**

For more information contact Wheeler Public Works at (503)368-5767.

**Water System Safety requires a responsive BACKFLOW and CROSS-CONNECTION prevention program. Oregon State and Federal governments strictly regulate the quality of quality of water municipalities provide. The City of Wheeler maintains a current cross-connection program. Quality water can be compromised by water that has entered a homeowner’s plumbing system and then is drawn back into the public system in a back-flow event.**

**What is a Cross Connection?**

This is a direct or indirect connection of a drinking water line with a non-potable source, like a sprinkler system, a chemical sprayer connected to a hose, unprotected booster pumps, and temporary fill hoses left draped into hot tubs, wash tubs, etc.

**Why be concerned?**

Cross connections are inadvertently made each day in the United States by homeowners, landscapers, and others who are unaware of the potential harm. Chapter 0222-061-0700 of the Oregon Administrative Rules governs public water systems. There are installations which require a certified double check valve to be installed and inspected annually. A report is required by the Oregon Drinking Water Program.

**How does the City handle possible cross connections?**

The City provides inspections and information to prevent contaminated water from being drawn into the City system. This can occur when pressure drops during a break or repair event. New meters have been installed which detect and record the smallest reverse flow. These are recorded automatically. Check valves can be installed to mitigate this potential source of

contamination. Homeowners are responsible to keep drinking water lines free from cross connections.

Regulations: If a potential or known hazard exists, the property owner shall install an approved backflow device, which shall be tested in accordance with state and local regulations. The City maintains records on each backflow prevention devices connected to the City water and enforces federal, state and local regulations regarding such devices and satisfies requirements with a Backflow Prevention program.

Water Conservation tips? Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) or <http://www.wrd.wtate.or.us/OWRD/WaterConservation.shtml> or call the City of Wheeler at (503) 368-5767.

### WATER QUALITY Terms and Definitions

Terms	Definitions
ppm or mg/L	Parts per million or milligrams per liter (same quantity)
Ppb / ug/L	Parts per billion or micrograms per liter
MFL	Million fibers per Liter (asbestos concentration)
NA	not applicable
ND	not detected
NR	Monitoring not required, but recommended
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected requirement
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the level feasible for testing using the best available treatment technology
TT	Treatment technique: A required process intended to reduce a contaminant level in drinking water.
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which triggers treatment or requirements to be followed
Variances and Exemptions	State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or treatment technique under certain conditions
MRDLG	Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health
MRDL	Maximum residual disinfectant level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
MNR	Monitored, not regulated
MPL	Maximum permissible level

### Water Quality Data Table (Test Results)

Contaminants	MCLG/MRDL G	MCL/TT/MRDL	Wheeler	Range	Violation	Test Date	Common Source
TTHMs: Total Trihalomethanes	NA	.06 mg/l	.0024 mg/l	NA	No	10/26/21	Possible byproduct of Chlorination
HAAS: Haloacetic Acids	NA	.08 mg/l	.0010 mg/l ND	NA	No	10/28/19 10/26/21	Possible byproduct of Chlorination
Asbestos (MFL)	7 MFL	7 MFL	ND	NA	No	12/18/19	Transite water mains
Nitrate (as nitrogen)	NA	10 gm/l	ND	NA	No	12/31/19	Fertilizer, sewage, natural deposits
Uranium	NA	.03 ppm	ND	NA	No	10/17/18	Natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	NA	Various	ND	NA	No	10/17/18	Man-made for industrial/commercial uses like PCBs, dioxin
Lead at faucets	NA	.015 mg/l	.004 mg/l		No	9/25/20	Corrosion/natural
Copper	.061	1.3 mg/l	.145 mg/l		No	9/25/20	Corrosion/ natural deposits

For more information please contact:

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