

# *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report* For the operating year of 2023

**Red Mountain Water**  
**Mailing Address: PO Box 4766, Pasco WA 99302**  
**Public Water System # 60917**

## **Spanish (Espanol)**

**Este informe contiene informacion importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.**

## **What is this report?**

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Paul Christensen at the office number: (509) 492-4050 or by mobile phone (509) 460-1202.

## **Is my water safe?**

Last year, we conducted **21 Coliform** test samples within the system, and **1 Nitrate** test sample at the well site. Seventeen (17) Coliform tests showed absence of coliform. The four (4) positive samples were retested, resulting in an absence of coliform. It was determined the positive samples were due to our Testing Technique. The Nitrate sample was below allowable levels set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality and includes information on sampling over the past five years. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. **We're pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.** If you desire a complete report of all water sample testing, please give me a call and a report will be mailed to you.

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

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/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 Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

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

Our water source is groundwater from four wells, paired into two well fields. This allows for a primary pumping well and a standby well to be used in an emergency. Water is pumped into the distribution system and reservoir. The reservoir serves to provide water at times of high usage and to maintain regulated pressure within the system.

## **Source water assessment and its availability**

The state performed an assessment of our source water. A source water assessment identifies potential sources of contamination to the water we use for your drinking water. The assessment concluded that our water source is most susceptible to contamination from fruit orchards, irrigation ponds and residential septic systems. Please call us at 509-492-4050 if you would like more information about the assessment.

## **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 (800-426-4791).

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.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Health and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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

**Additional information for Lead: (Environmental Protection Agency - EPA)**

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. Oasis Water 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 or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. See table below for Oasis Water Lead and Copper monitoring report.

**Additional information for Nitrate:**

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider. See table below for Oasis Water nitrate monitoring report.

**Water Quality Data Table**

The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The tables below list all the drinking water contaminants we detected and how they relate to the reporting standards. The EPA or the state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change, but the information is still relevant to this reporting period. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report.

We take a coliform sample monthly that is tested by the Benton Franklin Health Department.

A Water Quality Monitoring Schedule is set by the Washington State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water. **The following table shows that Red Mountain Water had no violations in 2023.** Test results for this year’s required tests are as follows:

**Microbiological Contaminants**

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Date Sampled	Level Detected	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	1	Zero	Monthly	4 Positive of 21 samples	No	Naturally present in the environment
Health Effects:	E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.					
Fecal coliform and E.coli	TT	TT		Zero	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Health Effects:	Fecal indicators are microbes whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term health effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.					

**Radioactive Contaminants** (Nest Sample 2026)

Contaminant	MCL in pCi/L	MCLG	Sample Date	Sample Location	RMW Sample	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Gross Alpha	15	N/A zero	9/2020	SO 6	<3.00	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	5	N/A zero	9/2020	SO 6	<1.000	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Health Effects – Alpha Radiation	Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.						
Health Effects – Radium 226 and 228	Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.						

**Inorganic Contaminants** (Nest Sample 2024)

Contaminant	AL (in mg/L)	AL in CCR units	MCLG	Sample Date	RMW (90th%)*	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
<b>Lead</b>	This contaminant is converted to CCR units by multiplying mg/L results by 1000						
Lead – lead at consumers tap (ppm)	0.015	15	0	10/2021	ND	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
	Sites Sampled = 5 Number exceeding AL = Zero						
Health Effects	Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development						

Contaminant	AL in mg/L		MCLG	Sample Date	RMW (90th%)*	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
<b>Copper</b>							
Copper – copper at consumers tap	1.3		1.3	10/2021	0.00658	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
	Sites Sampled = 5 Number exceeding AL = Zero						
	Health Effects Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress.						

**\*Lead and Copper 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile:** Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. When five homes are sampled, it is the home with the highest test level.

Contaminant	MCL in mg/L	SRL	Trigger	MCLG	Sample Date	Sample Location	RMW Sample	Violation
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	10.0	0.500	5.0	10.0	12/2023	SO 6	<0.50	No
	Major Sources in Drinking Water Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits							
	Health Effects Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.							

### Data Table Key: Unit Descriptions

<b>mg/L</b>	mg/L: number of milligrams of substance in one liter of water
<b>ppm</b>	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter
<b>ppb</b>	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter
<b>ppt</b>	ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
<b>pCi/L</b>	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
<b>ug/L</b>	ug/L: micrograms per liter
<b>NA</b>	NA: not applicable
<b>ND</b>	ND: not detected
<b>NR</b>	NR: monitoring not required, but recommended
<b>AL</b>	AL (Federal Action Level) EPA maximum contaminant level
<b>SRL</b>	SRL: State Reporting Level: The minimum reporting level established by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH)
<b>Trigger</b>	Trigger Level: DOH drinking water response level. Systems with compounds detected at concentrations in excess of this level may be required to take additional samples or monitor more frequently.
<b>CCR units</b>	Consumer Confidence Report, multiplier applied to reporting units for convenience of comparison.

### Important Drinking Water Definitions

MCL	<b>Maximum Contaminant Level:</b> The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MCLG	<b>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:</b> 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.
TT	<b>Treatment Technique:</b> A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	<b>Action Level:</b> The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MRDL	<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level:</b> 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	<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal:</b> 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.
SMCL	<b>Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level:</b> These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of water and are not health based.

**We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children’s future.**

**All connections to your irrigation system must have an approved assembly device to prevent backflow into the drinking water system. If you have questions about approved back flow prevention devices, please call us for more information.**

Report prepared by:

Paul Christensen, Owner/System Operator

Office Phone: 509-492-4050

Cell Phone: 509-460-1202