City of St. Helens Water Department
1999 Water Quality Report

Water Quality

The City of St. Helens Water Department is providing this summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the past year. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that utilities issue an annual "Consumer Confidence" report to customers in addition to other notices that may be required by law. This report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent.

City of St. Helens Water Department is committed to providing you with the safest and most reliable water supply. Informed customers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water.

We are required by the Oregon State Health Division to take 10 routine water samples monthly from designated areas throughout the city, testing for contaminants in the drinking water.

In 1999 the City of St. Helens Water Department's Drinking Water met or surpassed all federal and state drinking water standards.

We have been continuing to upgrade and improve our water quality and service by installing new water mains and having a leak detection survey done to help reduce water loss.

Our backflow program helps prevent any potentially contaminated water from entering the City's water supply by having industrial, commercial or residential buildings install an approved backflow assembly.

Water Source

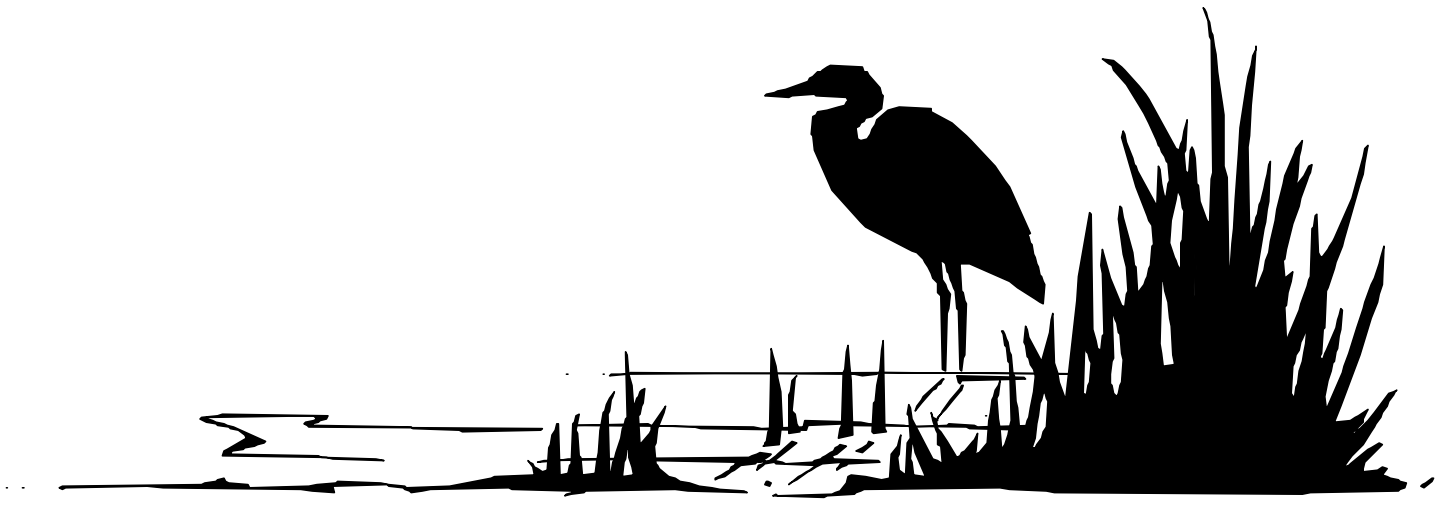
The City of St. Helens is supplied by ground water and ground water under the influence of surface water. These locations are monitored and inspected daily.

The St. Helens Water Department supplies the city with water from two Collector Wells located in Columbia City and one Ground Well located near Scappoose Bay Marina. Well #2 is located at the corner of "E" Street and Strand Street on the bank of the Columbia River. Well #1 is located 1/2 mile to the north.

Currently a third Collector Well is being constructed 1/2 mile south of Well #2 at the end of "K" Street in Columbia City and should be on line by the summer of 2000. This will help meet the needs for water distribution, fire suppression and water quality as the city continues to grow.

Collector Well #3 is projected to produce 5 million gallons of water per day. On average, the city uses 2 to 3 million gallons of water per day.

You can contact St. Helens City Hall at 397-6272 for information about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions about your drinking water.



This report is based upon the most recent tests conducted in 1999 by the City of St. Helens Water Department. Terms used in the Water Quality Table and in other parts of this report are defined here.

- **Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL**: 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.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG**: 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.
- **Treatment Technique or TT**: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

Key to Table

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

Contaminant	Date Tested	Violation	Detected Level	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Major Sources
Inorganic Contaminants							
Nitrate	2/26/99	NO	3.40	ppm	10	10	Fertilizer runoff; Leaching; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	2/26/99	NO	120.00	ppm	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring
Sulfate	2/26/99	NO	9.00	ppm	n/a	5.00	Naturally occurring
Copper	2/26/99	NO	0.02	ppm	1.3	0.01	Naturally occurring; corrosion
Barium	2/26/99	NO	0.20	ppm	2.0	0.10	Erosion of natural deposits

Water Quality Table Footnotes

All contaminants tested were below the Maximum Contaminant Level and none were in violation.

Mandatory Testing

The contaminants we monitor for are listed below. Only the five listed in the table above had detectable levels.

Microbiological Contaminants
Total Coliform Bacteria
Fecal Coliform
Turbidity
Radioactive Contaminants
Beta/photon emitters
Alpha emitters
Combined Radium
Inorganic Contaminants
Antimony
Arsenic
Barium
Beryllium
Cadmium
Chromium
Copper
Cyanide
Fluoride
Lead
Mercury (inorganic)
Nickel
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)
Nitrite (as Nitrogen)
Selenium
Sodium
Sulfate
Thallium
Synthetic Organic Contaminants
2,4D
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)
Alachlor
Atrazine
Benzo(a)pyrene (PAH)
Carbofuran
Chlordane
Dalapon
Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate
Dibromochloropropane
Dinoseb
Diquat
Endothall
Endrin
Ethylene dibromide
Glyphosate
Heptachlor
Heptachlor epoxide
Hexachlorobenzene
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene
Lindane
Methoxychlor
Oxamyl (Vydate)
PCBs (Polychlorinated)
Pentachlorophenol
Picloram
Simazene
Toxaphene
Volatile Organic Contaminants
Benzene
Carbon Tetrachloride
Chlorobenzene
o-Dichlorobenzene
p-Dichlorobenzene
1,2 – Dichloroethane
1,1 – Dichloroethylene
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene
Dichloromethane
1,2, - Dichloropropane
Ethylbenzene
Styrene
Tetrachloroethylene
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene
1,1,1 – Trichloroethane
1,1,2 – Trichloroethane
Thrichloroethylene
Toluene
Vinyl Chloride
Xylenes

Additional Health Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (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 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 storm 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, stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products 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.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800)426-4791.

More Information

CITY HALL – Hours 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Mon. – Fri. Phone 397-6272

WATER DEPARTMENT – Hours 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Mon. – Fri. Phone 397-3532

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY PHONE – 397-1521

REMEMBER -Water meters are City property and should not be tampered with. If you have a water or sewer emergency (such as a broke pipe or leak), call the Water Department or the After Hours Emergency number. Someone is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

WATER SERVICE INFORMATION – A deposit of $30.00 will be required of consumers within the City limits and a deposit of $40.00 will be required of customers outside the City limits of St. Helens before water service will be furnished. All users of City water inside or outside the City of St. Helens shall pay $2.30 per month service charge for each water service meter in addition to the rate paid for water use.

SENIOR CITIZEN SUBSIDY – The monthly water service subsidy shall be up to a maximum of $7.85 (1362 cu. ft.) for a home ***within*** the City limits that is occupied and either owned or rented by an individual over 65 years of age. An applicant for such a subsidy shall apply to the City Hall office and provide proof of age.

DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS – Upon failure to pay water charges due within the first ten days of a month, by the ***15th*** day of the month, the account shall be delinquent and a late charge of ***$5.00*** shall be added and by the ***25th*** day of the month, the account shall be assessed a ***$20.00*** delinquent fee and water service to the customer may be turned off.

RESTORATION CHARGE – A customer shall pay for restoration of water service when service has been ***disconnected*** because of non-payment. The customer shall then pay the sum of ***$20.00*** for re-connection fee.

If you have questions or need more information contact the City of St. Helens Water Department at 397-3532.

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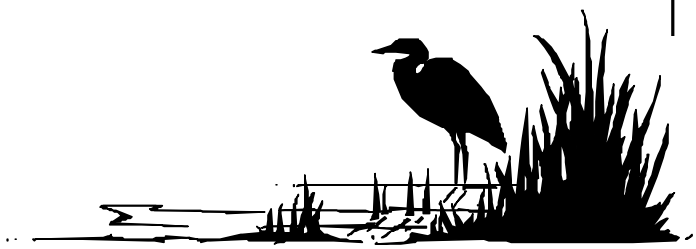

City of St. Helens Water Department
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