

## WATER SOURCE INFORMATION

The City of Orting relies on multiple groundwater sources to meet its water supply needs. To protect these life-sustaining groundwater supplies, the U.S. EPA and the Washington State Department of Health require public water utilities to develop a wellhead protection program as a part of their comprehensive water plans. The wellhead protection program equips local utilities with a proactive program for preventing groundwater contamination.

Susceptibility assessments, which determines the susceptibility of each source to contamination, is a vital element of any successful plan. The susceptibility rating is *moderate* for Wells #1 and Well #2, *low* for Wells #3 and #4, and *high* for Wingate and Harman Springs.

The two springs are located outside the City limits. Springwater is chlorinated at each source for disinfection, serving customers south of City limits. This spring water eventually mixes with well water to serve customers within City limits. Water at Wells #1, #3, and #4 is chlorinated to protect against microbial contaminants and filtered to remove iron and manganese before entering the water main. Similarly, water at Well #2 is chlorinated for disinfection, then treated with *Calciquest* to isolate the manganese.



*Annual*

# WATER QUALITY REPORT

**For reporting year 2023**

**Orting Water Department** is proud to present its Water Quality Report for reporting year **2023**. We've enclosed important info on water quality test results, health information and facts about your water. Orting serves high quality water to over 9,700 people in the City of Orting and some residents south of City limits. Since the early 1900s, we've worked with professionals to plan, develop, and operate a complex system that provides clean, safe, great-tasting water. Orting Water Department is a public agency funded by water rates and new tap services.

## IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune 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 for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider.

EPA/CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, (800) 426-4791.

**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) or by visiting <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants>.



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- ◆ **Meter Upgrades** — Replacing old manual read meters to radio read meters for better efficiency & use of staff time
- ◆ **Well #1** — Draining and cleaning of reservoir, replaced filtration media with new media
- ◆ **Well #1**—Installed new chlorine analyzer
- ◆ **Well #3**—Installed new chlorine analyzer pumps
- ◆ **SCADA** upgrade for utility security
- ◆ **Installed** new LED lighting at all water source facilities

### Tips on Water Conservation:

- Use a water efficient flushing toilet (1.6 gallons per flush or less)
- Find and repair leaks quickly
- Convert to water saving faucets
- Turn off water while shaving, brushing your teeth, or doing dishes
- Avoid wasting running water as much as possible
- Use an energy efficient washing machine
- Water plants during the coolest part of the day
- Clean driveways and sidewalks with a broom instead of a hose



## USING THE WATER METER TO CHECK FOR WATER LEAKS

1. Turn off all water using devices (taps, dishwasher, sprinklers, evaporative cooler, washing machines, etc.) inside and outside your home.
2. Find your water meter. It is most often in front of your house near the sidewalk.
3. Remove the meter box lid. Some meter box lids have a 'flip lid' in the center. If so, open this instead of removing the entire lid. Be careful when lifting the box lid, to prevent injury to yourself or damage to the meter or meter lid.
4. Verify that your meter's serial number matches the number on your billing statement.
5. Lift the meter cap lid to reveal the dial on the meter face. This dial monitors water use. Your meter is usually read in thousands of gallons, which is generally indicated by the white dials. If the triangle (flow indicator) or needle moves while all water devices inside and outside the home are shutoff, water is flowing through the meter and you have a leak. While some leaks, such as a dripping faucet, are easy to see, many are hidden. A leaky toilet is one of the biggest water leaks found inside a home.

**Meters may vary.** Some flow indicators are located on the center of the dial hand. The CIP meter upgrades are changing from manual read meters to radio read with digital screens. This help ensure accuracy for each water user and reduces possible reading errors by staff. During the change out, you may experience a minor interruption to service.

# SAMPLING RESULTS

During the past several years, we've taken hundreds of water samples to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows sample results ranging from 2019 through 2023. Although all of the substances listed are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), we inform you because we want you to know exactly what substances were present in our water, and how much.

Contaminant	Violation	Level Detected	Unit Measure	MCL/g	MCL	Potential Source
<b>Inorganics</b>						
<b>Arsenic</b> (12/18/19) Reduced Monitoring	No	< 0.0010	PPB/Range <0.001	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits: runoff from orchards, runoff from glass and electronics production waste.
<b>Iron</b> (09/19/2022)	No	< 0.10	mg/L	0.1	0.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits,
<b>Copper</b> (07/20/21 -08/19/21)	No	90th Percentile (0.35)	PPM / Range <0.02 - 5.000	1.3	AL= 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, leachate from wood preservatives.
<b>Lead</b> (07/20/21—08/19/21)	No	90th Percentile (0.01)	PPB/Range < 0.001 - 0.0058	0	AL= 0.0400	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Nitrate</b> (08/02/23) Only 2023 required sample	No	0.43	PPM/Range < 0.2 - 1.50	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>						
<b>Total Trihalomethanes</b> (12/10/2022) (TT)	No	3.26	Ug/L Range 0 - 50	0	80	Disinfection Byproduct
<b>Halo acetic Acid</b> (12/16/22) (TT)	No	8.80	PPB/Range 0 - 1.0	0	60	Disinfection Byproduct
<b>Chlorine Residual</b> 1/2/22—12/31/22 (TT)	No	0.7	PPM/Range 0.4—0.8	4/MRDLG	4.0 MRDL	Added Disinfectant
<b>Other Required Test Results</b>			<b>Monitoring Waivers</b> —The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has reduced the monitoring requirements for Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC's) & Volatile Organics (VOCs) for all City of Orting water sources because the sources are not at risk of contamination. The last sample collected for VOCs were reported on August 16, 2016 and was found to meet all applicable EPA and DOH standards. All of the test results were non-detect meeting DOH standards .			
Gross Alpha = 0.69 - (MCL—15) / (12/24/22)						
Radium 228 = 0.33 - (MCL—5) / (02/09/23)						
<b>Reduced Monitoring Contaminants:</b> Pesticides & Herbicides Not Detected - VOCs meet State Standards - SOCs Not Detected						

**Definitions:** PPM=Parts Per Million: One part contaminant per million parts water / PPB=Parts Per Billion: One parts per billion, one part contaminant per billion parts water / **AL=Action Level:** The concentrations of a contaminant / **MCL=Maximum Contaminant Level:** The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water / **MCLG=Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health / **MFL=Million Fibers per Liter:** Samples with values higher than (7) MFL are above the EPA MCL and must be reported / **Trigger Level:** Department of Health drinking water response level / **MRDL=Maximum Residual Disinfectant:** There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants / **MRDLG=Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal:** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. **TT=Treatment Technique:** A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.

# INFORMATION ON WATER QUALITY

## Regulated Test Levels

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 minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage plants, septic systems, agricultural and livestock operations, and wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which may be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoffs, industrial or domestic discharges, oil and gas productions, mining or farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides** may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture and residential applications.

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, can also come from fuel stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring.

## Arsenic

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set drinking water standards for arsenic to reduce the risk of health effects from long-term exposure to low levels of arsenic in drinking water. Your drinking water currently meets EPA's revised drinking water standards for low levels of arsenic. The EPA's standards balance the current understanding of arsenic's possible health risks against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The EPA continues to research the health effects for low levels of arsenic. This mineral is known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and linked to other health risks such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

## Copper

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in exceeding the action level over a relative short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their physician.

## Lead

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 Orting is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of material used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential 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 for lead in drinking water, test methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotlines (800) 426-4791 or at: <http://www.epa/gpv/safewater/lead>.

**Lead continued...** New in 2023. As part of our effort to identify and reduce lead piping, the City has inventoried its water service lines, classifying them as either non-lead, lead, galvanized, or unknown. To view this inventory, please visit the City's website at <https://www.cityoforting.org/government/public-works/water-department> and click the Lead Service Line Inventory link, in the Resources section.

**To Report a problem**

Public Works Dept. 360-893-9039  
Emergency After-Hours 253-377-0262

**GET INVOLVED** by attending City Council and Committee Meetings. Learn about city business, events and activities, and speak with your Councilmembers. Scheduled meetings and agendas are posted online at <https://www.cityoforting.org/government/city-council/council-committees>.

You may also watch meetings by accessing the agenda packets online where a Zoom meeting invite is included.

**Cross-connections** that could contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment or systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, farms, factories, and irrigation systems) or near auxiliary water supplies & water sources of questionable quality.

Community water supplies are continually jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as **backflow prevention assemblies**, are installed and maintained. The City of Orting encourages all landowners with farms and wells, as well as homeowners with irrigation sprinkler systems, to call Orting Public Works for more information. (360) 893-2219, x139.

Please read about Washington State law requirements in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-290-490 and Orting Municipal Code (OMC) 9-1E-6.

**Typical Residential Cross-Connections**

- ◆ **Hose Bibs**
- ◆ **Lawn Irrigation**
- ◆ **Jacuzzis**
- ◆ **Swimming Pools**

