

2023 Scotts Mills Annual Drinking Water Report



Once again we are proud to present our annual drinking water report covering all testing between January 1 and December 31, 2023. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible.

This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Knowing more about the water you drink will help you make more informed choices. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing you and your family with the highest quality drinking water possible.

We ask all our customers help protect your water source which is the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Update Your Contact Information

The City of Scotts Mills must have an up to date email address and phone number to contact you in the event of an emergency within Village should one occur.

This would be used in situations where it is important to reach all members such as; a boil water notice, line breaks where water is off, flooding or other emergencies.

This program will only be as successful as the phone numbers we have on file. It will be important for us to have phone numbers of those living in the City including owners and renters. Please check with the Invest West office to see if we have the correct numbers on file.

Our Sources of Water:

Scotts Mills has two (2) well:

Well:

The primary well is located on 6th Street. The standby well is located at the city park.

Our Reservoir: Has a 300,000-gallon capacity which is about a 4-day water supply.

Cross Connection Information

Hot tubs or Outside water features/ ponds: All homes with direct plumbing to a Hot tub, water feature or pond are required to install a backflow assembly at the water meter.

In-Ground Sprinkler or in-home fire sprinklers Systems: All homes with in-ground sprinkler systems or home fire sprinklers with non-potable piping must install and maintain an approved backflow protection assembly.

Backflow assemblies protect our drinking water against contamination from backflow and backsiphonage. If your home is not protected against cross connections, the first home to be contaminated will be your own!

Homeowners are responsible for protecting their home from cross connections. Please make sure your home meets the current plumbing codes.

What the EPA says about Drinking Water Contaminants

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 effect can be

obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater

Sources of Drinking Water:

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

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 results from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

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 storm water runoff, and septic systems

Pesticides & Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure tap water is SAFE to drink: EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Statement for Consumer Confidence Report:

The 1996 Amendments to the SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT require that all states

conduct **Source Water Assessments** for public water systems within their boundaries

Lead and Copper Testing

With the news of elevated levels of lead in schools in Portland and Beaverton many people have become aware of the potential for lead being in your drinking water. The City tests for lead and copper every 3 years as required by the Oregon Health Authority. We last tested in 2023. We are required to test from 5 different locations throughout the system. Lead was present in 3 of the 5 samples and the highest level was 0.0075 mg/L. The maximum allowed level of lead is 0.0155 mg/L. Copper was present in 4 of 5 locations and the highest level was 0.094mg/L. The maximum allowed level of copper is 1.3mg/L.

Lead Specific Information

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 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 concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing method and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Important Health Information for immuno-compromised persons:

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**

Routinely monitors for contaminants in our drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The chart located on page 3 shows the results of our monitoring for the period of 01-01-2021 to 12-31-2023. **The results of testing done are not shown if no contaminants were present in the water sample.** All water testing results can be found at the Oregon Health Authority's <https://yourwater.oregon.gov/inventory.php?pwsno=00797>

City of Scotts Mills

Water Quality Data Table

Contaminant	MCL/AL	H2O Sample	Date	Violation	Typical Source
Lead 90%	0.0155mg/l	0.0048mg /l	9/20/23 to 9/26/23	None	Corrosion of pipes
Copper 90%	1.30mg/l	0.067mg/l	9/20/23 to 9/26/23	None	Corrosion of pipes
TTHM	0.080mg/l	0.0042mg /L	9/18/23	None	Reaction of chlorine with organic matter in water
Nitrate	10mg/l	0.02 mg/l	11-21-2022	None	Runoff from fertilizer use: leaching from septic tanks. Sewage: erosion of natural deposits
TTHM	0.080mg/l	0.0049mg /l	08-13-2022	None	Reaction of chlorine with organic matter in water
TTHM	0.080mg/l	0.0049mg /l	8-13-2021	None	Reaction of chlorine with organic matter in water

Definitions of the Units of Measurement in the table Above:

If the MCL column is blank then a maximum contaminant level has not been set for that chemical

Action Level (AL)- The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in 20 years, or a single penny in \$10,000.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) – The level of a contaminate in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allows for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Pci/L picocuries per liter (measure of radiation)

Water Discoloration

What makes our water look yellow or brown, sometimes even muddy? Our well water has high iron content. There is no action level for iron. While high iron may be unhealthy for some populations; removing it or "softening the water" can add sodium. Sodium can also be unhealthy for some populations. As you will read below, the water is clear when it is pumped from the well. However, iron reacts with oxygen in the water to form yellow or even brownish red clouds. The water department has been flushing water lines more often when complaints arise, but that flushing can also stir up the brown deposits of iron settled down in the waterlines. Be sure to flush your water heater occasionally by using the drain valve at the bottom. Here is some public health information about iron:

Iron in Drinking Water

Iron can be a troublesome chemical in water supplies. Making up at least 5 percent of the earth's crust, iron is one of the earth's most plentiful resources. Rainwater as it infiltrates the soil and underlying geologic formations dissolves iron, causing it to seep into aquifers that serve as sources of groundwater for wells. Although present in drinking water, iron is seldom found at concentrations greater than 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) or 10 parts per million. However, as little as 0.3 mg/l can cause water to turn a reddish-brown color. Iron is mainly present in water in two forms: either the soluble ferrous iron or the insoluble ferric iron. Water containing ferrous iron is clear and colorless because the iron is completely dissolved. When exposed to air in the pressure tank or atmosphere, the water turns cloudy, and a reddish-brown substance begins to form. This sediment is the oxidized or ferric form of iron that will not dissolve in water. Health

Health

Iron is not hazardous to health, but it is considered a secondary or aesthetic contaminant. Essential for good health, iron helps transport oxygen in the blood. Most tap water in the United States supplies approximately 5 percent of the dietary requirement for iron.

Taste and Food

Dissolved ferrous iron gives water a disagreeable metallic taste. When the iron combines with tea,

coffee, and other beverages, it produces an inky, black appearance and a harsh, unacceptable taste. Vegetables cooked in water containing excessive iron turn dark and look unappealing. Stains and Deposits Concentrations of iron as low as 0.3 mg/L will leave reddish brown stains on fixtures, tableware and laundry that are extremely hard to remove. When these deposits break loose from water piping, rusty water will flow through the faucet. Iron Bacteria When iron exists along with certain kinds of bacteria, a smelly biofilm can form. To survive, the bacteria use the iron, leaving behind a reddish brown or yellow slime that can clog plumbing and cause an offensive odor. This slime or sludge is noticeable in the toilet tank when the lid is removed. The organisms occur naturally in shallow soils and groundwater, and they may be introduced into a well or water system when it is constructed or repaired.

Organic Iron and Tannins

Iron can combine with different naturally occurring organic acids or tannins. Organic iron occurs when iron combines with an organic acid. Water with this type of iron is usually yellow or brown but may be colorless. As natural organics produced by vegetation, tannins can stain water a tea color. In coffee or tea, tannins produce a brown color and react with iron to form a black residue. Organic iron and tannins are more frequently found in shallow wells, or wells under the influence of surface water.

If you have **WATER Questions During:
EMERGENCY & NON-BUSINESS Hours Call:
503.873.5435 or 503.949.8428**
Email: info@merrillwater.com

**To update your contact information please call
503.873.5435**