West Slope Water District

2024 Drinking Water Quality Report

WEST SLOPE WATER DISTRICT

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Introduction

Serving the West Slope Neighborhood Since 1922

We strive to make the District's Water Quality Report both informative and comfortable to read. We believe you should know important information about your drinking water, as well as your water district who delivers it to your home. We hope you spend a few minutes looking at this report.

The report is for you, our customers, so we welcome suggestions on how to improve the report for next year. Information we would like you learn about include:

- The water quality tests conducted in 2023
- The source of your drinking water
- A summary of projects completed in 2023 and early 2024
- A summary of a project the District is currently working on
- How you can reach District staff if you have more questions

Between West Slope Water District and the Portland Water Bureau, over 200 regulated and unregulated contaminants were tested for in your drinking water in 2023. This report contains all of the contaminants that were detected and confirmed through laboratory results. The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) requires all water systems in the US including this District to compile this report and make it available to the public for review. We at West Slope Water District think it is a good idea to inform our customers about their water whether it is required or not.

Message from the General Manager

Meeting the Challenge of the Changing Times and Customer Needs

At times throughout my career, I have heard both elected officials and even some staff at other water utilities declare with glee, "We've done a great job here at XYZ Water System … we haven't raised our water rates in 25 years!" When I hear that statement, I cringe (you should, too) because nothing costs the same today as it did 25 years ago. Water rates increase with the cost of living, the cost of materials and labor for projects, and with the need to replace and/or upgrade the water system's infrastructure. Failing to make investments in a water utility through increased water rates is not something to be proud of or prideful about for sure and is a disservice to the customer.

But we find ourselves at a crossroads of sorts in our current society today. On one side, public utilities like West Slope Water District are finding that there is a need for many capital improvement projects to replace aging infrastructure over the next three to four decades and add treatment (e.g. Portland's Bull Run Water Treatment Plant). In today's market, capital improvement projects cost a lot of money … a lot more than they did 25 years ago. On the other side, many customers are struggling to make ends meet with the rising cost of groceries, transportation, health care, housing, education, and taxes. How can most families afford rising utility bills on top of all of their other expenses in this inflationary time? Our goal is to keep the District in the excellent shape it is in for decades to come while making sure our customer water rates are equitable and affordable for all customers.

So, in response, West Slope is working with consultants to develop a new tiered water rate that would take effect in mid-2025 in recognition that low monthly volumes of water (e.g. winter time use) should be billed at lower rate than higher monthly volumes of water (full summer time irrigation season). Many West Slope customers keep their monthly water use low all year long for conservation or personal financial reasons, and the District wants to help meet those customers needs. Late this summer and into early fall, West Slope will release what we are calling "Water Rate 101" sessions to help customers understand what we are doing to try to help our customers (and why) and give our customers the insight to better manage their own water bill. Watch for inserts in your water bill, information in our July newsletter, and on our website for information on how to attend these sessions live, virtually, or later on YouTube. We believe it is in everyone's best interest to keep our customers informed of what we are doing to make the West Slope Water District water system the best it can be for generations at an affordable cost.

This is our staff who work to make sure you have the best drinking water every day 24/7. I know I am biased, but they are the most helpful, dedicated, talented, collaborative, and hard-working water professionals in the drinking water business.

Call us, email us, or stop by our office and get to know us and let us know YOU. We want to know you in order to better serve you!

Best wishes,

Michael W. Grimm, P.E.,
General Manager, West Slope Water District

West Slope Water District – ESTABLISHED 1922

The West Slope Water District maintains just under 3,300 metered customer accounts serving nearly 10,500 people. The District boundaries are roughly US Hwy 26 on the north, OR Hwy 217 on the west, SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy on the south, and SW Scholls Ferry Road on the east. The District has no water source of its own but instead relies on a wholesale water purchase contract with the Portland Water Bureau for the District's water supply. Portland's water enters the West Slope Water District through the District's two concrete Sylvan Hill reservoirs. The District maintains 48 miles of water mains over a 4-square mile area with three main pressure zones. The water mains range in diameter from 2 inches to 18 inches.

Bull Run

THE CITY OF PORTLAND'S BULL RUN WATERSHED, is a unique, protected (closed to public access) surface water supply located within the Mount Hood National Forest roughly 26 miles from Portland. The watershed is carefully managed to sustain and supply clean drinking water to a quarter of Oregon's population including West Slope. The Bull Run Watershed is a sub-basin watershed in the Sandy River basin that is separate from Mt. Hood and the Hoodland communities found along US Hwy 26. No recreational, residential or commercial uses occur within the watershed. The Portland Water Bureau carefully monitors water quality and quantity in the watershed. The Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Program regularly inspects the watershed and the related treatment and distribution facilities.

The Bull Run Watershed is carefully managed to sustain and supply clean drinking water to a quarter of Oregon's population, including West Slope.

The Portland Water Bureau and the U.S. Forest Service carefully manage the watershed to sustain and supply clean drinking water. On average, the Bull Run watershed receives over 135 inches of precipitation (rain and snow) annually, that flows into the Bull Run River and then into two reservoirs that store nearly 10 billion gallons of drinking water.

Source water assessments are completed to identify contaminants of concern for drinking water. For the Bull Run Watershed, the contaminants of concern are naturally occurring microbes such as *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium*, fecal coliform bacteria and total coliform bacteria. These organisms are found in virtually all freshwater ecosystems and may be present in the Bull Run Watershed at very low levels. The Portland Water Bureau currently treats the water for these organisms except for *Cryptosporidium*.

Portland's source water assessment is available at portland.gov/water/resources/source-water-assessment or by calling 503-823-7525.

Drinking Water Sources

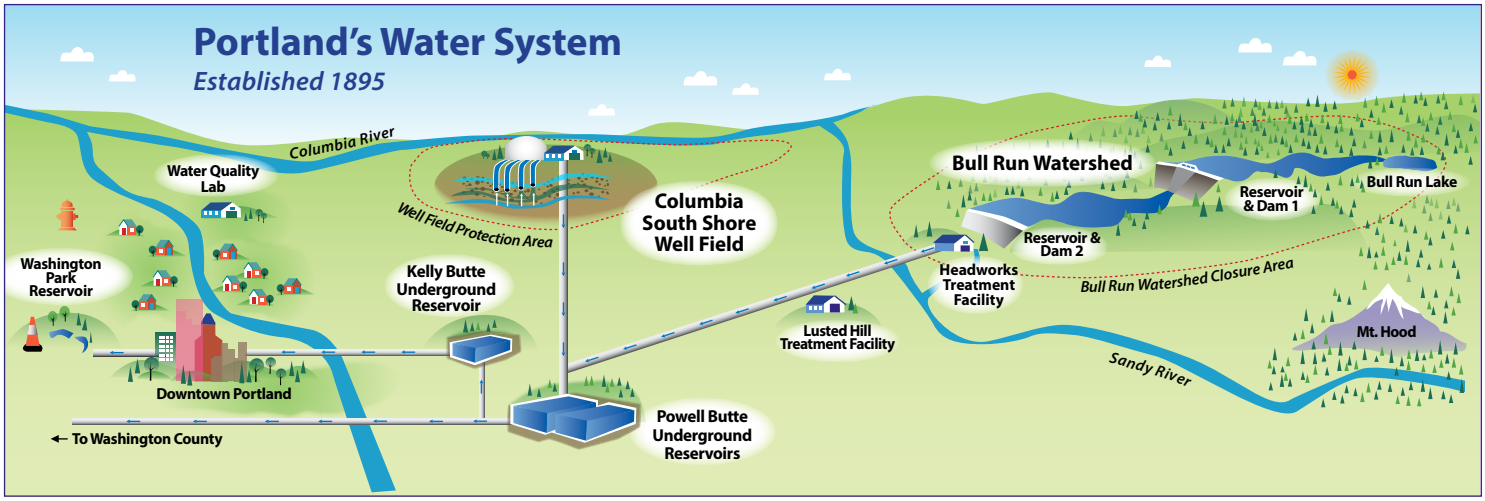
THE BULL RUN WATERSHED is an unfiltered drinking water source. However, the Portland Water Bureau is working to install drinking water filtration by September 2027. For more information about filtration and *Cryptosporidium*, see **"Portland's Water Filtration Treatment Plant Project"** on Page 5. Currently, the Portland Water Bureau is employing a three-step water treatment process:

1) **Disinfection Using Chlorine:** Chlorine disinfects against organisms, such as bacteria and viruses, that could otherwise make people sick.
2) **Disinfection Using Ammonia:** Ammonia stabilizes chlorine to form a longer-lasting disinfectant residuals called chloramines.
3) **Corrosion Control Treatment:** Sodium carbonate and carbon dioxide are added to Bull Run water and sodium hydroxide is added to groundwater to reduce the corrosion of metals such as lead.

THE COLUMBIA SOUTH SHORE WELL FIELD, Portland's groundwater supply, provides drinking water from 25 active wells located in three different aquifers. The well field is between the Portland International Airport and Blue Lake Park. Portland uses the well field for two purposes: to supplement the Bull Run supply in the summer, and to temporarily replace the Bull Run supply during turbidity events, maintenance activities, and emergencies.

The Columbia South Shore Well Field is beneath homes and businesses with a variety of potential contaminant sources. The deep aquifers that are the primary sources of water supply have natural geologic protection from pollutants present at the land surface. Portland, Gresham, and Fairview work together to protect the well field. The cities' Groundwater Protection Programs work with residents and businesses in the well field to ensure that pollutants from this urban area do not impact the groundwater source.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GROUNDWATER PROTECTION and find upcoming groundwater education events, visit portland.gov/water/groundwater.



Portland's Water Filtration Treatment Plant Project

SINCE 2017, the Portland Water Bureau's engineering staff and consulting design engineers have been working to design and build a new Bull Run Water Treatment Facility to treat for microbial contaminants like *Cryptosporidium*. In 2020, the project team submitted two years of testing data confirming the best filtration method to build. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has approved the City's water filtration plant design. The final water treatment facility design was completed in 2022, land use approvals granted in 2023, and construction will begin in 2024.

The desired outcomes of the new Bull Run Water Treatment Facility include:

- Filtration will remove *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial pathogens from the water
- Disinfection will continue to control the spread of microorganisms in the water
- Corrosion control treatment process installed at the treatment facility will continue to lower lead levels at customers' taps
- Even with the treatment facility, the Bull Run Watershed will remain highly protected

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the new treatment facility, visit **portland.gov/BullRunTreatment**

The Portland Water Bureau does not currently treat for *Cryptosporidium*, but the City is required to do so under state and federal drinking water regulations. Portland is working to have the filtration treatment system fully operational by September 30, 2027 under a compliance agreement with OHA. Meanwhile, the Portland Water Bureau is implementing interim measures such as watershed protection and additional raw water monitoring for *Cryptosporidium* to protect public health. Consultation with public health officials continues to conclude that the general public does not need to take any additional precautionary measures.

Exposure to *Cryptosporidium* can cause cryptosporidiosis, a serious illness. Symptoms can include diarrhea, vomiting, fever, and stomach pain. People with healthy immune systems recover without medical treatment. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people with severely weakened immune systems are at risk for more serious disease. Symptoms may be more severe and could lead to a serious life-threatening illness. Examples of people with weakened immune systems include those with AIDS, those with inherited diseases that affect the immune system, and cancer and transplant patients who are taking certain immunosuppressive drugs.

The Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that a small percentage of the population could experience gastrointestinal illness from *Cryptosporidium* and advises that customers who are immuno-compromised and receive their drinking water from the Bull Run Watershed consult with their health care professional about the safety of drinking the tap water.

Monitoring for *Cryptosporidium*

Number of Samples		Concentration Detected (oocysts/L)	
Total Tested	Positive for *Cryptosporidium*	Minimum	Maximum
217	59	Not Detected	0.2

Special Notice 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 people and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

GUIDELINES from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.**

Contaminants Detected in 2023

Regulated Contaminant		Detected in Your Drinking Water		EPA Standard		Sources of Contaminant
		Minimum	Maximum	MCL or TT	MCLG	
Untreated Source Water – Monitored by the City of Portland						
Turbidity (NTU)		0.23	3.69	5	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Giardia (#/L)		Not Detected	0.08	TT	N/A	Animal wastes
Treated Drinking Water – Monitored by the City of Portland						
Metals and nutrients at the entry points – Monitored by the City of Portland						
Arsenic (ppb)		<0.50	0.90	10	0	Found in natural deposits
Barium (ppm)		0.00082	0.01000	2	2	Found in natural deposits
Copper (ppm)		<0.00050	0.00078	1.3	1.3	Found in natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)		<0.025	0.13	4	4	Found in natural deposits
Nitrate – Nitrogen (ppm)		0.02	0.11	10	10	Found in natural deposits
Nitrite – Nitrogen (ppm)		<0.005	0.007	1	1	Found in natural deposits; animal wastes
Total Nitrate + nitrite (as Nitrogen) (ppm)		0.020	0.078	10	10	Found in natural deposits; animal wastes
Microbial contaminants in the distribution system – Monitored by West Slope Water District						
Total Coliform Bacteria (% positive per month)		0%	0%	N/A	N/A	Found throughout the environment
Fecal Coliform Bacteria						
(% positive per month)		0%	0%	N/A	N/A	Found throughout the environment
Disinfection residual and byproducts in the distribution system – Monitored by West Slope Water District						
Total Chlorine Residual (ppm)	Running annual average	1.63	1.78 (MRDL)	4 (MRDL)	4 (MRDLG)	Chlorine used to disinfect water
	Range of single results at all sites	1.25	2.1	N/A	N/A	
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Running annual average at any one site	21.9	25.5	60	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
	Range of single results at all sites	20.3	30.9	N/A	N/A	
Total Trihalo-methanes (ppb)	Running annual average at any one site	27.6	28.2	80	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
	Range of single results at all sites	24.4	32.0	N/A	N/A	

Unregulated Contaminants	Detected in Portland's Treated Water			Sources of Contaminant
	Minimum	Average	Maximum	
Radon (pCi/L)	<12	167	333	Found in natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	11	11.5	12	
Manganese (ppb)	2.5	15.8	33.7	

About these Contaminants

Arsenic, barium, copper fluoride, and manganese
These metals are elements found in the earth's crust. They can dissolve into water that is in contact with natural deposits. At the levels found in your drinking water, they are unlikely to lead to negative health effects.

Fecal coliform bacteria
As part of The City of Portland's compliance with the filtration avoidance criteria of the Surface Water Treatment Rule, water is tested for fecal coliform bacteria before disinfectant is added. The presence of fecal coliform bacteria in source water indicates that water may be contaminated with animal wastes. This is measured in percent of samples with more than 20 colonies in 100 milliliters of water during any six-month period. The City of Portland uses chlorine to control these bacteria.

Giardia
Wildlife in the watershed may be hosts to *Giardia*, a microorganism that can cause gastro-intestinal illness. The treatment technique (TT) is to remove 99.9 percent of *Giardia* cysts. The City of Portland uses chlorine to control *Giardia*.

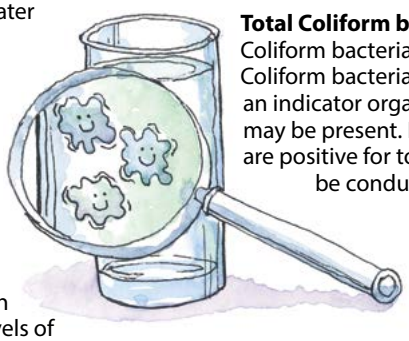
Haloacetic acids and total trihalomethanes
Disinfection byproducts form when chlorine interacts with naturally-occurring organic material in the water. High levels of disinfection byproducts can cause health problems in people. The City of Portland adds ammonia to form a more stable disinfectant, which helps minimize disinfection byproducts.

Nitrate (as Nitrogen)
Nitrate, measured as nitrogen, can lead to bacterial and algal growth in the water. At levels that exceed the standard, nitrate can contribute to health problems. At the levels found in your drinking water, nitrate is unlikely to lead to negative health effects.

Radon
Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that cannot be seen, tasted, or smelled. Radon can be detected at very low levels in the Bull Run water supply and at varying levels in Portland's groundwater source supply. Based on the historical levels of radon in groundwater combined with the limited amount of groundwater used, District customers are unlikely to have negative health effects from radon in water. Find more information about radon from the EPA at **epa.gov/radon**.

Sodium
There is currently no drinking water standard for sodium. At the levels found in drinking water, it is unlikely to lead to negative health effects.

Total chlorine residual
Total chlorine residual is a measure of free chlorine and combined chlorine and ammonia in West Slope Water District's distribution system. Low levels of chlorine remaining in the water are necessary to maintain disinfection through the entire distribution system so the West Slope Water District water is safe from bacteria and other microorganisms. At levels found in West Slope water, chlorine is unlikely to result in any negative health effects.



Total Coliform bacteria
Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment. Coliform bacteria do not make people sick. They are used as an indicator organism that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. If more than 5 percent of samples in a month are positive for total coliform bacteria, an investigation must be conducted to identify and correct any possible causes. The City of Portland adds chlorine as a disinfectant to control these bacteria. West Slope Water District staff routinely collect 10 water samples monthly for coliform bacteria analysis.

Turbidity
Turbidity is the cloudiness of a water sample. In City of Portland's Bull Run water source, increased turbidity usually comes from large storms, which suspend organic material in Bull Run water. Increased turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide an environment for microorganisms to grow. Since the City of Portland does not yet filter Bull Run water at this time, the treatment technique (TT) is that turbidity cannot exceed 5 NTU more than 2 times in 12 months. When turbidity rises in the Bull Run source, the City of Portland switches to its Columbia South Shore Well Field source.

Definitions

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level
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: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
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.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
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: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal
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.

N/A: Not applicable
Some contaminants do not have a health-based level or goal defined by the EPA.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
The unit for measuring the turbidity, or cloudiness, of a water sample.

ppm: parts per million
Water providers use ppm to describe a small amount of a substance within the water. In time measurement, one part per million is about 32 seconds out of one year.

ppb: parts per billion
Water providers use ppb to describe a very small amount of a substance within the water. In time measurement, one part per billion is about 3 seconds out of 100 years.

pCi/L: picocuries per liter
Picocurie is a measurement of radioactivity.

TT: Treatment Technique
A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Unregulated contaminant
A substance in drinking water that does not have a limit set by EPA but may have one set in the future.

Monitoring for Lead and Copper

Routine testing at homes with higher risk of lead in water

TWICE EACH YEAR, the West Slope Water District participates with the Portland Water Bureau to monitor for lead and copper in tap water from a sample group of more than 100 homes. These are homes where the plumbing is known to contain lead solder and represent a worst-case scenario for lead in water. Called the Joint Monitoring Plan (JMP), samples are collected after the water has been standing in the household plumbing for more than 6 hours. A Lead and Copper Rule exceedance for lead occurs when the 90th percentile of samples collected exceeds the lead action level of 15 parts per billion. In the Fall 2021 round of testing 90th percentile of all samples collected in the JMP was 21 which exceeded the lead action level of 15 parts per billion meaning Portland and the other water utilities participating in the JMP including West Slope Water District were not in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule. None of the homes sampled in the West Slope Water District exceeded the lead action level, however.

The Portland Water Bureau offers free lead-in-water tests to anyone in the JMP service area including West Slope Water District customers through the **LeadLine (See Page 10 for information on how to get your own free lead test kit)**. Lead testing kits from the LeadLine allow customers to test the lead content in drinking water in their home at no additional cost to West Slope customers.

Lead and Copper Testing Results from High-Risk Residential Water Taps in West Slope Water District

Regulated Contaminant	Detected in Residential Water Taps		EPA Standard		Sources of Contaminant
	Highest Level From 2023 Data[1]	Homes Exceeding Action Level2	Action Level[2]	MCLG[3]	
Lead (ppb)3	7.2	0 out of 2 (0.0%)	15	0	Corrosion of household and commercial building plumbing systems
Copper (ppm)3	0.171	0 out of 2 (0.0%)	1.3	1.3	

Lead and Copper Testing Results from High-Risk Residential Water Taps in the JMP

Regulated Contaminant	Detected in Residential Water Taps		EPA Standard		Sources of Contaminant
	Highest Level From 2023 Data[1]	Homes Exceeding Action Level2	Action Level[2]	MCLG[3]	
Lead (ppb)3	7.7	3 out of 113 (2.6%)	15	0	Corrosion of household and commercial building plumbing systems
Copper (ppm)3	0.168	0 out of 113 (0%)	1.3	1.3	

[1] 90th Percentile: 90 percent of the sample results were less than the values shown.
[2] Action Level definition: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or requirements of which a water system must follow.
[3] See Pages 8-10 for definitions.

Additional Thoughts About Lead in Drinking Water

West Slope Water District cares about the health of the families in our community and is committed to help you limit your exposure to lead in drinking water. If present, lead at elevated levels can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the Action Level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but the District cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in homes or buildings. Lead is rarely found in the source water that comes from the City of Portland, and there are no known lead service lines in the West Slope water system. In the Metro region, lead enters drinking water from the corrosion (wearing away) of household plumbing materials containing lead. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe — commonly used in homes built or plumbed between 1970 and 1985 — and brass components and faucets installed before 2014. The City of Portland treats our water to reduce lead levels at your tap. Sodium carbonate and carbon dioxide are added to Bull Run water to increase the pH and alkalinity and sodium hydroxide is added to groundwater to increase pH, which protects water from any lead in plumbing materials.

When your water has been sitting for several hours, such as overnight or while away at work or school, 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 drinking water, you can request a free lead-in-water test from the LeadLine at 503-988-4000 or leadline.org. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline** — 800-426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater/lead.

IN THE PORTLAND METRO REGION, ***the most common sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint, household dust, soil, and plumbing materials. Lead is also found in other household objects such as toys, cosmetics (Sindoor, Kumkum, tikka, roli, and kohl), turmeric purchased overseas, some foreign pottery, and antique furniture.***

Lead-based paint

Soil

Toys

Protecting Public Health

West Slope Water District is a participating member of the City of Portland's Lead Hazard Reduction Program and takes a comprehensive approach to reducing exposure to lead. Through this program the City of Portland provides on behalf of the West Slope Water District, the following strategic tasks:

- **Corrosion Control Treatment** This treatment reduces corrosion of lead in plumbing by increasing the pH and the amount of alkalinity in the drinking water.
- **Lead-in-Water Testing** Anyone in the service area can test their water for lead at no additional charge to the customer through the City of Portland's water testing laboratory. The District and the City of Portland target outreach to households most at-risk from lead in water (houses built between 1970 and 1985).
- **Education, Outreach and Testing** agencies and organizations receive grant funds to help people reduce their exposure to all sources of lead.
- **Home Lead Hazard Reduction** The Portland Housing Bureau's Lead Hazard Control Program, with support from the Portland Water Bureau, removes lead paint hazards in homes.

Reduce your exposure to all sources of lead

CONTACT THE LEADLINE

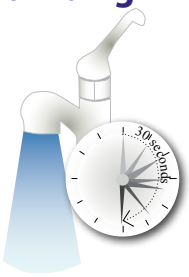
ONLINE leadline.org

OR CALL 503-988-4000

You can get:

- Free lead-in-water testing
- Free childhood blood lead testing
- Free lead reduction services

Easy Steps . . . To Reduce Possible Exposure to Lead from Household Plumbing



- **RUN YOUR WATER TO FLUSH THE LEAD OUT.** If no one has used your water in several hours, run the tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes or until the water becomes colder before using the water for drinking or cooking. Running the tap flushes water that could contain lead.
- **USE COLD, FRESH WATER FOR COOKING, DRINKING, AND PREPARING BABY FORMULA.** Lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap for cooking, drinking, or to make baby formula.
- **DO NOT BOIL WATER TO REMOVE LEAD.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **TEST YOUR WATER FOR LEAD.** Contact the **LeadLine** to find out how to get a FREE lead-in-water test.

- **TEST YOUR CHILD FOR LEAD.** Ask your doctor or contact the **LeadLine** to find out how to have your child tested for lead. A blood lead level test is the only way to know if your child is being exposed to lead.
- **CONSIDER USING A FILTER.** Check to make sure it reduces lead — not all filters do. To protect your water quality, follow the manufacturer's instructions for maintaining and replacing your filter. To find out more about water filter performance standards: nsf.org or 800-NSF-8010.
- **CLEAN YOUR FAUCET AERATORS EVERY FEW MONTHS.** Faucet aerators can trap particles from household plumbing and the particles may contain lead. Every few months, unscrew and rinse your aerators.
- **CONSIDER REPLACING OLD FIXTURES.** Since 2014, all pipes, fittings and fixtures are required to contain less than 0.25% lead.

What the EPA Says Can Be Found in Drinking Water

Across the United States, 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems and require monitoring for these contaminants. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants in drinking water sources may include: **microbial contaminants,** such as viruses, bacteria, and protozoa from wildlife; **inorganic contaminants,** such as naturally-occurring salts and metals; **pesticides and herbicides,** which may come from farming, urban stormwater runoff, or home and business use; **organic chemical contaminants**, such as byproducts from industrial processes or the result of chlorine combining with naturally-occurring organic matter; and **radioactive contaminants**, such as naturally-occurring radon.

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 at 800-426-4791 or at epa.gov/safewater.

Frequently Asked Questions About Water Quality

Has my water been tested for PFA?
Yes, and tests are still currently underway at the time of this writing. The City of Portland has been testing for PFAs (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in the water their water sources, and West Slope Water District has been testing PFAs in drinking water as it is delivered to the District from Portland. Fortunately, neither Portland nor West Slope have detected any PFAs in our drinking water. West Slope Water District shares the growing public concern over PFAs and is taking steps to monitor and protect our drinking water from PFAs. Monitoring for PFAs will continue in 2024 as part of the Unregulated Contaminant Rule #5 (UCMR5). When all testing under UCMR5 has been completed in 2024, the results will be posted on the District's website.

Is my water filtered?
No. Neither of the City of Portland's source waters are currently filtered before it is purchased by the District. In response to a series of low-level detections of *Cryptosporidium* since 2017, the City of Portland is designing and planning construction of a filtration plant to treat for *Cryptosporidium*. Bull Run water will be filtered by September 30, 2027.

Does my water have any added fluoride?
No. Fluoride naturally occurs in the City of Portland's source water at very low levels. You may want to ask your dentist or doctor about supplemental fluoride for preventing tooth decay. This is especially important for young children.

Is my water soft or hard?
Bull Run water — Portland's main water supply — is very soft. It typically has a total hardness of 3–8 parts per million (ppm), or ¼ to ½ a grain of hardness per gallon. Portland's groundwater supply is moderately hard: about 80 ppm, or about 5 grains per gallon.

What is the pH of my water?
The pH of West Slope's drinking water typically ranges between 8.0 and 9.0, usually measuring at 8.5.

How can I get my water tested for lead?
For free lead-in-water testing, contact the LeadLine at leadline.org or 503-988-4000. For other testing, you can pay a private laboratory to test your tap water. Not all labs are accredited to test for all contaminants. For information about accredited labs, contact the Oregon Health Authority at ORELAP.Info@state.or.us or 503-693-4100.

What causes temporary discolored water?
Since the City of Portland's water is not filtered, sediment and organic material from the Bull Run Watershed is present in Portland's water supply and is periodically passed on to the West Slope Water District. This can sometimes be seen in the District when construction, hydrant use, firefighting, or water main breaks stir up the sediment that has settled at the bottom of the water mains. It can also be seen in the fall as a harmless tea-colored tint. Another source of discolored water are older pipes in buildings. These pipes can add rust to water when no one has used the water for several hours. Find out more at portlandoregon.gov/water/discoloredwater.

Have any water quality or pressure issues or concerns?

If you turned on your faucet and the water was discolored, or the flow was less than normal, would you know what to do?

For all water quality or service questions at your home, please call the West Slope Water District at 503-292-2777. For additional information, you may also obtain a copy of the **City of Portland's Customer Guide to Water Quality and Pressure** for maintenance and troubleshooting tips, online at: portlandoregon.gov/water/guide or call the Portland Water Bureau at 503-823-7525 to request a paper copy.

Contact us!

However you reach us, we look forward to hearing from you!

Please visit our website for more information about your water and the District. **www.wswd.org**

CALL us at **503-292-2777** to talk with us about your specific issues or if you have a question for us. You can also use that number to alert us to an emergency.

OR EMAIL us at customer.service@wswd.org