

Water Consumer Confidence Report 2023

Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Is my water safe?

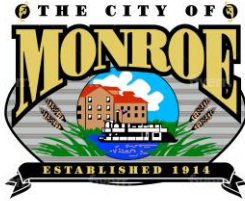
We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. Last year, we conducted tests for over 26 contaminants. We only detected 3 of those contaminants and of those we detected, found only 1 at a level higher than the EPA allows for one test at one location. There were no violations for contaminants in 2023.

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). The City participates in bi-monthly testing for Cryptosporidium from May 1 through the end of October. Since the testing program started in 2018, the City has not detected any level of Cryptosporidium in the source water.

Where does my water come from?

The City of Monroe's water source is surface water from the Long Tom River. Surface water is subject to seasonal changes in water quality. Storm events increase river turbidity, which in turn increases the complexity involved in delivering a high-quality drinking water. Summer months' algal blooms will occasionally cause taste and odor problems, such as a musty smell in the water. It does not present a health hazard; however, it can temporarily affect the aesthetic quality of the water. The management and staff at the water treatment plant are engaged in activities to deliver the best possible drinking water to its community, and we appreciate the opportunity to serve the citizens.



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Source water assessment and its availability

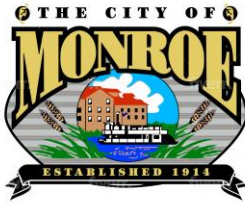
All states must conduct a Source Water Assessment or SWA. The purpose of the assessment is to provide water systems with the information they need to develop a strategy to protect their drinking water resource if they choose. The respective Drinking Water Programs of the Departments of Human Resources and Environmental Quality have completed the assessment of our system. The primary water source is the Long Tom River. While the river has its origins in the coastal range of western Oregon, the water is retained at Fern Ridge reservoir upstream from Monroe and winds through farmland before reaching Monroe. Potential water quality issues addressed in the assessment report include annual drawdown releases from Fern Ridge and runoff contaminants from livestock, pesticides, and fuel spills. A copy of the report is on file at City Hall. The last SWA was updated in 2018.

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 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. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated by filtration and disinfection. Filtration, through a membrane filtration system, removes particles suspended in the source water. Particles typically include clays and silts, natural organic matter, iron and manganese, and microorganisms. Your water is also treated



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by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectants to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

Water Conservation Tips

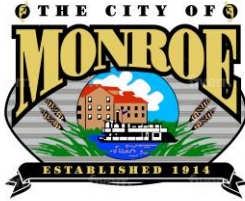
Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 333 gallons of water per day or 82 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and ensuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below, please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system



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- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

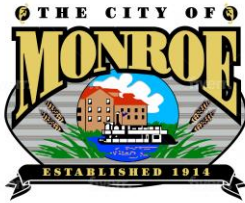
Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Significant Deficiencies

During the August 2022 State survey of the Water Treatment Plant, several deficiencies were noted. The major deficiency was a required engineering review of the membrane automatic testing process that ensures the integrity of the membrane filters. This is due to a membrane filter change in 2019 that involved a new model of membrane during replacement. This review and subsequent programming were completed in February 2023. In 2020, the City entered into a Bilateral agreement with the State to correct repeated violations of the MCL for trihalomethanes and halo acetic acids that form when chlorine disinfectant is used with the river water that has high organic content. While the City is in the process of adding additional treatment equipment at the water plant, there will be additional mixing equipment installed in the water reservoir in 2024 to reduce disinfectant byproducts and allow more water storage. In addition, City staff are more aggressively flushing the water distribution system and closely watching chlorine levels throughout the City. An additional fire hydrant and water blow-off valve were installed at the N 8th sample location to better flush the water lines at that location. These efforts have resulted in no contaminant violations during 2023.



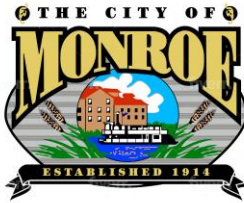
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Additional Information for Lead

The City is required to test for lead every-other year at 10 sites within the City. The last testing was done in 2022 and 8 were non-detect and 2 were well below the EPA limits. The next testing cycle is the summer of 2024. If lead is 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 Monroe is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. The City water distribution system does not contain any lead pipes or fittings. 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 at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. 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 vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.



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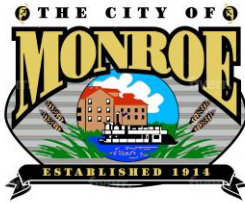
Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	NA	.0059	.0388	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	NA	49.2	92.8	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	.11	NA	NA	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Violations and Exceedances
<p>TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]</p> <p>Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Violations are determined by an average of all samples over a rolling twelve-month period collected at S 5th Street and at N 8th Street. Only one test out of four at the N 8th street location exceeded the MC during 2023 and there were no system violations. The average of all samples during 2023 resulted in 60 ppb, which is lower than the MCL of 80 ppb. The single exceedance was determined to be a result of the City's inability to flush the water pipes for that location, which is over 1000 feet of water pipe serving only a few homes. A fire hydrant and separate blow-off valve were installed in the summer of 2023 to permit adequate flushing and there have been no subsequent exceedances at the N 8th street location.</p>

Undetected Contaminants

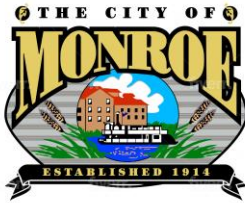
The following contaminants were monitored for, **but not detected**, in your water.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Violation	Typical Source
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb)	3	5	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories



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Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Violation	Typical Source
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7	7	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	70	70	ND	No	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Chlorobenzene (monochlorobenzene) (ppb)	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories
Dichloromethane (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	700	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Styrene (ppb)	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; Leaching from landfills
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum factories
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	ND	No	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories
Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
o-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	600	600	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
p-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	75	75	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories



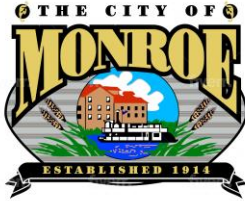
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Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt	ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	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.
MCL	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

How Can I get Involved?

We want our valued customers to be informed concerning your water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our City Council Work Sessions that are held on the second Monday of each month or the Public Works Advisory Committee (scheduled can be found on the City website at <https://ci.monroe.or.us>). The meetings are generally held at the Monroe Community Center, 605 Main St, Monroe, Oregon and start at 6:00 p.m. All residents are most welcome to attend!



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