

## 2020 Water Quality Report

The City of Centralia is proud to report that of the more than 100 possible contaminants we regularly test for at our water supply sources, we have not exceeded any State or Federal limits. The City of Centralia will notify you immediately if there is ever any reason for concern about our water.

### WATER SOURCES

Last year the City of Centralia provided water for its customers from the Tennis Court and the Port District well fields. In 2020 City wells delivered 739 million gallons of water to approximately 7,150 service connections through more than 136 miles of pipe.

Centralia's water is classified as groundwater, meaning it comes from drilled wells. Underground water can be susceptible to contamination from above ground activities that might leak contaminants through the ground to the aquifer. It's everyone's responsibility to protect our drinking water. To help protect groundwater, dispose of used oil, gas, pesticides, insecticides, etc. properly. Don't pour them on the ground or into sinks or toilets. Contact our local Hazo - Hut for hazardous waste information and recycling at (360) 740-1221.

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### HEALTH INFORMATION

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants in drinking water does not necessarily indicate that the drinking water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency hotline at 1-800-424-4372 (Region 10 - Pacific Northwest) or going to the EPA Region 10 (Pacific Northwest) website.

It is important to remember that some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 from their health care providers about drinking water. 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in groundwater before treatment include: Microbial contaminants, from broken sewer lines, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming. Pesticides and herbicides from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses. Radioactive contaminants which are naturally occurring. 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.

The primary treatment methods for water supplied to Centralia consumers are air stripping, chlorination, and fluoridation. Air stripping is described on page 2. Chlorine is used to disinfect the water supply. The level of chlorine in the water at any one time is between 0.2 and 1.2 parts per million (ppm). The EPA has established that the Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) of chlorine added to drinking water as 4 ppm and the Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) also as 4 ppm. Fluoride is added to aid in the prevention of tooth decay. Fluoride levels are maintained at values between 0.5 and 0.9 ppm. The EPA has established the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) for fluoride added to the water as 4 ppm.

## **LEAD AND COPPER**

The Tennis Court and Port District well fields were designed to help Centralia comply with Lead and Copper regulations and to lower corrosion by increasing the pH of the water through air stripping. Air stripping is a treatment process where large volumes of air are forced through the water to remove dissolved gases and volatile substances. Since the Tennis Court and Port District well air strippers have been on line, the pH of our water has increased from approximately 6.7 to 7.7.

Based upon our test results, pH adjustment has been effective in reducing lead and copper levels in our drinking water to levels that are well below the Federal/State maximum contamination level. Even so, we are required to provide the following notice from the Environmental Protection Agency about the health effects of lead and copper.

“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. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively 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 personal doctor.”

As a result of the City’s excellent water quality, the Department of Health has reduced our sample schedule to thirty samples once every three years. Thirty samples were collected and analyzed in 2020; all the samples were below the action levels for lead and copper (see water quality monitoring results on page 3).



## **WATER CONSERVATION**

The Water Department continued to take an active role in water conservation in 2020. We repaired 101 leaks, of which 27 were main breaks and 74 service lines. Also, 20 service lines were replaced. These repairs, when added up, saved millions of gallons of lost water in 2020. The Water Department has a radio read meter system that has a customer leak detection function built in. This system notifies us of possible leaks on the customer side of the meter that will save the customer money when it is repaired.

Collection of data is a major part of water conservation efforts. The Water Department records information on water production, consumption, and sales of water as well as water used to clean reservoirs, control dust, fight fires, and flush the water system. The Water Department also has information available on how customers can reduce the amount of water they use.



## **BACKFLOW PREVENTION**

What is backflow? Backflow occurs when potentially contaminated water (or other substances) enters into the public water system or consumers’ drinking water through cross-connection to a private well or other unprotected source such as a yard sprinkler system.

Washington Administrative Code 246-290-490 requires water purveyors to implement a cross-connection control program. City of Centralia adopted Ordinance No. 1786 in March of 2004 to protect its drinking water from cross-connections by requiring backflow prevention devices under certain specific conditions.

**ALL INSTALLERS OF BACKFLOW ASSEMBLIES (THIS INCLUDES PLUMBING CONTRACTORS, LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS OR PRIVATE CITIZENS) MUST OBTAIN A PLUMBING PERMIT FROM THE BUILDING INSPECTOR AT CITY HALL. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN THE WATER BEING SHUT OFF TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF CENTRALIA RESIDENTS.**

If you have any questions, or would like help identifying potential backflow hazards, please contact the staff at the Centralia Public Works Water Department, (360) 330-7512.

## WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS FOR 2020

This table shows some of the results of water quality monitoring by the City of Centralia. **TEST RESULTS SHOW THAT YOUR WATER MEETS OR SURPASSES ALL FEDERAL AND STATE STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC DRINKING WATER.** The water quality information presented in the table is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown was collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the table. Not all of the specific contaminant groups such as volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), inorganic chemicals (IOCs), or synthetic organic chemicals (SOCs) are required to be monitored every year. The Washington State Department of Health has reduced the monitoring requirements for these groups because previous testing has shown that our sources meet all applicable EPA and Department of Health standards. Volatile organic chemicals were tested for in 2020 and all were non-detectable. Inorganic chemicals were tested for in 2020 and all were in compliance with Department of Health standards. A complete list of contaminant information can be obtained by calling Centralia Public Works at (360) 330-7512.

Contaminant	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Maximum Test Results	Sample Range	Compliance	Major Sources of Contamination
<b>Radium 228 (2015)*</b>	pCi/L	5	0	ND	N/A	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Arsenic (2019)*</b>	ppb	10	10	<0.001	N/A	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from industrial or agricultural uses
<b>Copper (2020)*</b>	ppm	(AL) 1.3	1.3	<0.077	<0.02-0.077	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
<b>Lead (2020)*</b>	ppb	(AL) 0.015	0	<0.0013	<0.001-0.0013	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
<b>Nitrate (2020)*</b>	ppm	10	10	4.83	2.28-4.83	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2020)*</b>	ppm	80	N/A	2.28	1.34-9.51	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (2020)*</b>	ppb	60	N/A	ND	ND-1.31	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards.

**AL** (action level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

**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 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, allowing an adequate margin of safety.

**mg/L** (milligrams per liter):

**MRDL** (maximum residual disinfectant level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant (chlorine) 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.

**pCi/L** (Pico Curies per liter): A measure of radioactivity. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

**ppb** (parts per billion)/ $\mu\text{g/L}$  (micrograms per liter): Equivalent to 1/2 of a dissolved aspirin tablet in approximately 50,000 gallons of water.

**ppm** (parts per million)/ $\text{mg/L}$  (milligrams per liter): Equivalent to 1/2 of a dissolved aspirin tablet in approximately 50 gallons of water.

**N/A** (Not applicable or not available)

**ND** (Not detectable)

**<** (Indicates less than)

\* (Date of most recent sampling)



The City of Centralia's Department of Health System  
ID number is 12200D

If you have any questions regarding this report or  
need more information,  
please contact Centralia Public Works:

Phone: (360) 330-7512

Fax: (360) 330-7516

Mail: 1100 North Tower Avenue  
Centralia, Washington 98531

Additional Information:

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791

Department of Health  
Southwest Operations (360) 236-3030

Para obtener una versión en español, visite una de  
nuestras ubicaciones:

500 N Perla,  
Torre 1100 N

o en el sitio web de nuestra ciudad @  
[www.cityofcentralia.com](http://www.cityofcentralia.com)