

The Oregon Water Utilities-Ridgewater water system draws its drinking water from groundwater at an on-site well.



In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Oregon Health Authority prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health

Your drinking water is routinely monitored for these contaminants according to federal and state laws. This year's water quality table shows the results of drinking water tests for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Some contaminants are tested less than once per year; therefore, the most recent results are displayed in the table. As you can see from our most recent test results, OWU-Ridgewater drinking water meets all state and federal standards.

The sources of drinking water, both tap and bottled water, include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances, or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances.

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock, 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**, comes from agricultural, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic Chemical Contaminants**, synthetic and volatile organic chemicals are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum productions, and also from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic tanks.

**Radioactive Contaminants**, naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least some small amounts of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

If you have any questions about this report concerning your drinking water quality, please contact:

**Mr. Mackay Burcher at 541-850-5566**



## RIDGEWATER

2022

Water Quality /

Consumer Confidence Report



We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality / Consumer Confidence Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

We are committed to complying with the Oregon Health Authority requirements to supply the Oregon Water Utilities-Ridgewater users with safe drinking water. We work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community.

In this table you will find many terms you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions:

**MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level. The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is 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.

**MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The “Goal” is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.

**Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow

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. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) 426-4791.

In 2021, lead was tested at five residential taps in the OWU-Ridgewater system. Lead was not detected above the Action Level. Another round of lead testing will be conducted in 2022, and once every three years thereafter. 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. OWU-Ridgewater 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 two minutes before using water for drinking or

cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may 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 [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

### Coliform Bacteria Detection

Coliforms bacteria are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which

RIDGEWATER DRINKING WATER TESTED IN 2022						
Chemical	MCL	MCLG	Result	Meets Standard?	Most Recent Test	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	4	Yes	2022	Leaching from Natural Deposits
Barium (ppb)	2000	2000	5	Yes	2022	Leaching from Natural Deposits
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	23	n/a	2022	Leaching from Natural Deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	5	0	ND	Yes	2021	Leaching from Natural Deposits
ND = Not Detected; ppb = parts-per-billion; ppm = parts-per-million; n/a = not applicable; MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level; (MCLG) = federal MCL Goal; pCi/L = picocuries per liter						
BACTERIA LEVELS IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM						
Bacteria Type	Treatment Technique		Number of Positives	Meets Standard?	Typical Source Of Contaminant	
Total Coliform Bacteria	More than one positive sample in a month requires assessment and corrective action		8*	No	Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment.	
Bacteria Type	MCL		Number of Positives	Meets Standard?	Typical Source Of Contaminant	
E. coli	Positive in a total coliform or E. coli repeat sample or total coliform repeat positive following E. coli routine positive		0	Yes	E. coli is a specific species of coliform bacteria found in the intestines of warm-blooded animals and humans.	
Under the Revised Total Coliform Rule (2016), total coliform occurrence will continue to be investigated as a treatment technique, although it is no longer associated with an MCL. <b>A treatment technique is a required process to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.</b> Emphasis is now placed on the MCL for E. coli because it is a reliable indicator of fecal contamination. One monthly sample is collected in the distribution system and analyzed for total coliform and E. coli. *One sample in each of the months of August of 2022 and October of 2022, in the Ridgewater system, was positive for total coliform. Improvements were put in place to mitigate the coliform issues. Three repeat samples were collected in each of the events and they were all positive. A level I and Level II Assesments were conducted.						
LEAD AND COPPER ACTION LEVELS AT RESIDENTIAL TAPS						
Metal	Action Level (2)	MCLG	90th Percentile	Meets Standard?	Typical Source Of Contaminant	
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.06	Yes	Corrosion of Household Plumbing	
Lead (ppb)	15	0	0.4	Yes	Corrosion of Household Plumbing	
The most recent lead and copper at-the-tap samples were collected from five residences in 2021. None of the five samples tested for lead and copper exceeded the respective Action Level (AL). Ridgewater complies with the Lead and Copper Rule. <b>A regulatory Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements.</b> The standard is exceeded if the 90th percentile value of all of the five samples exceeds the AL.						

---

contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. In August and October of 2022, coliform bacteria were detected in the Ridgewater distribution system, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurred, we conducted a Level 1 and a Level II coliform investigations as prescribed under Oregon drinking water regulations. In addition, we completed one corrective action which solved the problem. A low dose of chlorine bleach was temporarily added to the drinking water supply, so that any coliform bacteria in the drinking water would be killed. Subsequent testing during 2022 showed the absence of coliform bacteria in the disinfected drinking water.