



2013 City of Nampa Water Quality Report

Water Information

Where does NAMPA's water come from?

The City of Nampa's drinking water supply is provided by 14 ground water sources (wells) which draw from the Snake River Plains Aquifer to serve our more than 81,000 customers.

Source Water Assessment

In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act to emphasize the protection of surface and ground water sources used for public drinking water. The amendments require that each state possessing primacy over its drinking water develop a source water assessment plan for public drinking water sources, conduct assessments on all public water systems, and make the assessments available to the public.

The City of Nampa's Source Water Assessment can be requested through ID DEQ at 373.0500.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.

The City of Nampa vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

Last year, we conducted more than 1,300 tests for 80 contaminants and your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards.

Tap Water or Bottled Water

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.

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:

- ◆ 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.

Health Notes

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 Water Drinking Hotline at 800.426.4791.

ARSENIC

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

NITRATE

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 parts per million (ppm) is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.



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



LEAD

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 of Nampa 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 and 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 at 800.462.4791 or www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Drinking Water Quality – 2013

The water quality table shows how the quality of your drinking water in 2013 compared to the standards set by the EPA and the ID DEQ. The tables in this report list minimum and maximum values for substances detected in our sources of supply. All testing performed is in accordance with all regulations. Each of the regulated contaminants compares to a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) and a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) established by the EPA and the State of Idaho. We tested for more than 80 substances in the water and detected only those indicated in the Drinking Water Quality Table. Some of the information is technical in nature so we have provided definitions on the following page.

Primary Standards directly related to the safety of drinking water.

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result	Range of Results	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)							
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	0.32	0.20 - 0.32	2013	No	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	7.7	ND - 7.7	2013	No	Disinfection by-product
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	ND	ND	2013	No	Disinfection by-product
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	8	2 - 8	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.08	0.003 - .08	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	5	3 - 5	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.45	0.45 - 1.45	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	5.4	0.3 - 5.4	2013	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliforms (% positive in monthly samples)	0	5	0	NA	2013	No	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants							
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	7	3.6 - 7	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (pCi/L) (combined 226/228)	0	5	0.3	0.1 - 0.3	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	16	3 - 16	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Highest Result	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.06	2013	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	0	2013	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

The City of Nampa serves over 81,000 people with over 488 miles of domestic pipe.

Secondary Standards are related to the aesthetics of the drinking water.

City of Nampa Secondary and Other Contaminants – 2013		
ANALYSIS	MAX CONTAMINANT LEVELS (MG/L)	YOUR WATER RESULTS (MG/L)
ACIDITY	NONE	-129.10
ALKALINITY	NONE	187
BARIUM	2.0	0.07
CALCIUM	NONE	87.03
CADMIUM	0.005	NONE
CHROMIUM	0.1	0.004
CORROSIVITY	NONE	- .50
FLUORIDE	4.0	1.45
HARDNESS	NONE	7.08 GRAINS
MERCURY	0.002	NONE
SELENIUM	0.05	0.0005
PH	10.0	7.56

It's easy to take water for granted, but clean, fresh water is essential to our survival. We need clean water to drink, cook and clean. We need it for sanitation and fire protection.

Source: PNWS-AWWA

Definitions

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG): 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.

NA: Not applicable

ND: Not detected

ppb: Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppm: Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

pCi/L: Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

% positive samples/month: Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive

Primary Standards: Federal drinking water regulations for substances that are health related. Water suppliers must meet all primary drinking water standards.

Secondary Standards: Federal drinking water measurements for substances that do not have an impact on health. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as taste, odor and appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.

For more information, go to www.nampawaterdivision.org or email water@cityofnampa.us. Call our office at 208.468.5860. The City of Nampa's Council usually meets the first and third Monday of the month.