

## Contaminants in 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. 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water hotline (1-800-426-4791).

**Sources of drinking water** (both tap water and bottled water) can 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 animal or human activity.

**Contaminants that may be present in source water include:**

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, parasites, and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from various 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. They can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants, which can occur naturally or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

**Source Protection Information:** The Dept of Health Office of Drinking Water has compiled Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) data for all community water systems in Washing. SWAP data for your system is available online at:



You can now download your reports on our website at [nwwatersystems.com](http://nwwatersystems.com) or by scanning the QR Code to the right. To opt out of mailing please email or call the office



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# Foothills Water Association 2019 Water Quality Report State ID# AA296N

Northwest Water Systems is pleased to present you with the annual Water Quality Report on behalf of Foothills Water Association as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is a snapshot of last years' water quality and the purpose is to provide you with details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

Safe drinking water is essential and we are committed to informing you so that you are able to make personal health-based decisions regarding your drinking water consumption and become more involved in decisions which may affect your health. We hope you find this information helpful.

Foothills Water Association receives its water from two groundwater wells. The primary source is Well #2, which is drilled 220 feet deep. Well #1 serves the system during the summer months and is drilled 150 to 170 feet deep. Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

## Water Use Efficiency Tips:

- Turn water off while brushing your teeth and rinsing your dishes.
- Cut the time per shower by a few minutes and save up to 150 gallons per month.
- Run full loads in your washing machine and dishwasher.
- Wash vegetables and fruits in a pan of water instead of running water. Then use the water for watering plants.
- Insulate hot water pipes to save water and energy.
- Mulch around plants to reduce watering

# Water Quality Data

## Lead in Drinking Water:

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. Foothills Water Association 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 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 online at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

**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).

Your drinking water is regularly tested in accordance with all federal and state regulations for over 50 substances in both the water sources and throughout the distribution system. In 2019, Foothills Water Association conducted over 100 tests for the parameter listed below. Only those substances that were detected are included in the water quality summary.

**Table 1: Primary Contaminants Detected in Your Drinking Water**

Inorganic Chemicals	Units	Year Tested	MCL	MCLG	Your Water	Violation?	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Nitrate	ppm	2019	10	10	0.79	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radiological	Units	Year Tested	MCL	MCLG	Your Water	Violation?	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Gross Alpha	pCi/L	2016	15	0	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	pCi/L	2016	5	0	1.07	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Primary Contaminants	Units	Year Tested	AL	90th Percentile	Samples <AL	Violation?	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Copper	ppm	2019	0.0200	0.0151	0 of 5	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	ppb	2019	0.0010	0.0018	0 of 5	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Table 2: Secondary Contaminants:	Units	Year Tested	SMCL	SMCLG	Your Water	Violation?	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Manganese	Ppm	2019	0.05	NA	0.01	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Iron	ppm	2019	0.3	0.1	0.10	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Sodium	ppm	2019	5.0	4.8	5.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness	ppm	2019	NA	169	56	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Conductivity	Umhos/cm	2019	700	700	101.1	No	Substances that form natural deposits
Turbidity	NTU	2019	N/A	NA	0.41	No	Soil runoff
Color	Color Units	2019	15	NA	5	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Chloride	Umbos/cm	2019	250	NA	2.8	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence

**Your drinking water source meets all applicable EPA and Dept of Health Standards!**

## Terms and Abbreviations used:

**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.

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

**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.

**SRL (State Reporting Limit):** If exceeds this amount it must be reported.

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** These standards are developed as guidelines to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

**Ppm:** Parts per million

**Ppb:** Parts per billion

**N/A:** Not applicable



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