

WATER QUALITY/ CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT
For
MERRILL WATER DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 2023

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water 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 Division requirements to supply the Merrill Water Department users with safe drinking water.

General Water System Information:

Public Water System: MERRILL WATER DEPT
Public Water System ID#: OR 41-00518
Phone Number: (541) 798-5808
Contact Person: Greg Matthews
Number of Connections: 435
Source Water Assessment: Yes

Source Information:

The water system draws its drinking water from groundwater at an onsite well. A source water assessment, per EPA requirements, has been compiled by the State Drinking Water Program. Merrill Water Department is also regulated by the US Public Health Department. It contains detailed information about the water system's source, including potential sources of contamination. The source water assessment may be available for review upon request. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water quality, please contact Merrill Water Department.

Merrill Water Department. routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. 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. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least some small amounts of some constituents. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

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

Non-Detects (ND) = Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) = One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter = One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l) = One part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l) = One part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) = Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per year (mrem/yr) = Measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million fibers per Liter (MFL) = Million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) = Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Variances & Exemptions (V&E) = State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. **(Only systems with a variance or exemption are REQUIRED to include this definition. In addition, it is REQUIRED to provide an explanation of the reasons for the variance or exemption, date issued, status or remediation.)**

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

Treatment technique (TT) = A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) = The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is 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 “Goal” is 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 Disinfectant 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.

TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Coliform bacteria	0	5% of Monthly Samples	Naturally present in the environment

Coliform bacteria is an indicator organism if found in drinking water that could mean something potentially harmful is in the water. Coliform bacteria are found in nature. Fecal Coliform bacteria are associated with septic and/or animal waste contamination and can cause intestinal problems and health concerns if detected and not treated.

Nitrates are tested annually for all water systems as they are a breakdown of pesticides and fertilizers and are a health risk for young infants, pregnant or nursing women.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) 426-4791.

Lead is tested every three years for all water systems. 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. Merrill Water Department 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 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Chemical Monitoring Results:

<u>Contaminant</u>	<u>Testing Date</u>	<u>Level Detected</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Most Likely Source of Contamination</u>
Nitrates	11/9/23	0/406 mg/l	10.0 mg/l	Pesticides and Fertilizers
Lead	9/9/21	0.0005 mg/l	0.015 mg/l	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; natural deposits
Copper	9/9/21	0.0054 mg/l	1.30 mg/l	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; natural deposits
Inorganic Compounds	11/16/21	See Attached List		Pesticides, fertilizers and naturally occurring in the groundwater or soil from erosion
Volatile Organics	11/9/23	See Attached List		Gasoline & gasoline additives
Synthetic Organics	11/9/23	See Attached List		Pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, & fertilizers
Combined Radium 228/226	3/9/22	ND	0.06 pCi/L	
Uranium	3/9/22	ND	.0001 mg/L	
Gross Alpha	1/25/23	ND	1.8 pCi/L	
TTHM	N/A		0.080 mg/l	Residual from disinfection by-products
HAA	N/A		0.060 mg/l	Residual from disinfection by-products
Asbestos	1/5/2011	ND		

Merrill Water Department confirms that this Consumer Confidence Report has been distributed to its consumers and appropriate notices of availability have been given. Furthermore, the Merrill Water Department certifies that the information contained in the report is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to the primary agency.

If you have any questions regarding these analyses or the Consumer Confidence Report, please contact Greg Matthews at Merrill Water Department at (541) 798-5808

Merrill water Department works 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, our way of life and our children's future.

Approved by:

Merrill Water Department
Greg Matthews

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2/5/24