

The City of Rexburg 2013 Drinking Water Report for 2012 Sampling Results



During recent years we have sampled for over 80 different chemicals and have found little contamination. Contamination is anything other than pure water. We sample total coliform bacteria monthly as an indicator of microorganisms that should not be present. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of 2012 or in our most recent test as noted. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contamination. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling our office at (208) 359-3034 or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA's) Safe Drinking Hotline (1-800-246-4791).

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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.

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

Regulated	MCLG	MCL	Our Water	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	2	0	n/a	Monthly	No	Naturally occurring
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	1.55-2.46	1.39 - 2.29	8/28/2012	No	Run off from fertilizer
Lead (ppb)	0	15AL	<0.005	nd - <.005	10/1/2010	No	Erosion of natural deposits & Corrosive home plumbing
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.19	nd - 0.34	10/1/2010	No	Erosion of natural deposits & Corrosive home plumbing
Radium	5	5	2.3	nd - 2.9	5/31/2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Alpha/Radiation (pCi/l)	0	15	3.0-9.3	nd - 9.3	5/31/2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.16 - 1.23	.16 - 1.23	5/31/2011	No	Naturally occurring
Arsenic (ppb)	n/a	10	<.005	<.005	5/31/2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits

n/a: not applicable **nd:** not detectable at testing limit **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a Measure of radiation)

(<): non-detectable or below the detection level of the instrumentation of the lab and does not have to be reported.

Total Coliform: Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Coliform bacteria, found in two or more samples are a warning of potential problems and usually trigger a precautionary boil notice. In 2011, Rexburg had two months (September and November) that had more than two samples that tested positive for total coliform. The City immediately re-sampled, flushed water mains, and tested the wells that had been on to find out if there was a problem. Test results from re-sampling were negative for total coliform.

About Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants less than six month of age. When levels approach 10 ppm, ask for advice from your care provider about blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of well construction, usage, rainfall, and local contamination.

Arsenic: Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Sources of drinking water, both tap water and bottle water originate as surface water from rivers and lakes or as ground water from springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. Water picks up wastes from both human and animal activities. Surface water must be carefully filtered and disinfected to remove bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. Ground water is usually filtered naturally.

Contaminants that may be present include:

Microbial contaminants such as bacteria, viruses, and protozoa are very small living creatures that may be natural and harmless, or harmful if originating from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations or wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants such as heavy metals can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.

Pesticides and herbicides may come from agriculture and residential uses.

Radioactive contaminants are naturally occurring.

Organic chemical contaminants are usually man-made (synthetic) and vaporize easily (volatile). Petroleum products and degreasers are examples of gas station and dry cleaner waste transported by storm water and sewers.

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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

EPA ensures that tap water is safe to drink, by writing regulations that limits both natural and man made contaminants. We treat our water according to both Idaho and EPAs regulations. Interstate bottled water is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Your drinking water comes from ground water. We have six ground water wells.

The state is performing an assessment of our source water including a map of where it comes from (delineation), a map of near by possible pollution sources (sources of contamination), and a review of the chance for contamination (susceptibility). This report has been completed and is available at your request.

If you want to further protect yourself: Remember that bacteria can grow on the end of your faucet and lead can dissolve from your home plumbing. Flush your system by running your water for about ten seconds or until cold before drinking.

If you detect problems or have a question please call:

Chuck Velman at (208) 359-3034.