

"The Water Department's goal is to provide tasty and healthful water at a reasonable price at consistent pressures and in sufficient quantities."



PUBLISHED
MAY 2016

CITY OF COEUR D ALENE IDAHO WATER DEPARTMENT

2015 Water Quality Report



Water Source

The source of water for the City of Coeur d' Alene is the Rathdrum Aquifer. We currently have 10 wells that can pump a total of 44.0 million gallons of water a day. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has completed an assessment of our source water, which is available. Call 769-1422 for information. We are within the Rathdrum wellhead protection area as administered by D.E.Q. As a result of their efforts, we expect long-term water quality to continue.

Special Needs Customers

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons 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.

Inside this issue

Water Source, Treatment, Contaminants, Special Needs Customers.	1
Water Testing	2
Backflow Prevention	3
Water Conservation	3

Water Treatment

In an effort to provide the customer with the safest possible product, we disinfect the water at each well with chlorine. A small amount of excess chlorine remains in the water to protect it from contamination as it travels through water mains and to the customer. Coeur d' Alene does not add fluoride to the water.

Contaminants

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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling:
EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline
1-800-426-4791

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 1-800-426-4791. The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) 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. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

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



WATER TESTING

We have an extensive water quality-testing program that exceeds State and Federal requirements. We take over 50 samples a month for bacteria from various locations throughout the distribution system. Samples are also taken at the wells for 76 compounds. Last year, as in years past, your tap water has met all chemical Federal and State drinking water standards. Low levels of a few contaminants have been detected. They are summarized on the following table. Because our water system tests for contaminants from several well sources, we are including the lowest and highest levels detected from all of our well sources.

Contaminant	Violation	MCL	MCLG	Lowest Level	Highest Level	Date	Source	Health Effects
Nitrate (ccr unit)	No	10 ccr unit	10 ccr unit	0.502 ccr unit	1.93 ccr unit	7/15(L) 1/15(H)	Runoff from fertilizer; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	Infants below the age of 6 months who drink water-containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.
Arsenic (ccr unit)	No	10 ccr unit	0.0	1.6 ccr unit	22.9 ccr unit	1/15(L) 8/15(H) 6.54 (average Hanley/Annie)	Erosion natural deposits. Runoff orchards, glass and electronics productions wastes.	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 .
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	No	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	0.3 ccr unit	1 ccr unit	1/15(L) 12/15(H) 0.36(ave)	Water additive used to control microbes.	Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort
Combined Uranium	No	30 ccr unit	0	0.8 ccr units	2.24 ccr units	10/15 (L) 1/15 (H)	Erosion of natural deposits	Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer and kidney toxicity.
Gross Alpha incl Radon	No	15 ccr unit	0	2 ccr units	4.9 ccr units	7/15 (L) 1/15 (H)	Erosion of natural deposits	
Radium 226	No	5 ccr unit	0 pCi/L	0.1 ccr units	0.7 ccr units	4/15 (L) 7/15 (H)	Erosion of natural deposits	
Total Trihalomethanes	No	80 ccr units	n/a	0	0.56 ccr units	7/15	By-product of drinking water disinfection	Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Coliform	No	0	0	Absent	Absent	1/15 to 12/15	Naturally present in the environment.	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Contaminant	Action Level	MCLG	Our Water	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation?	Typical Source of Contamination
Copper	1.3	0	.084	ND-0.119	July-August	No	Leaching of materials from plumbing components.
Lead	15	1.3	.003	0.0011-0.04	2013. 30 samples.	No	

An Explanation of Arsenic

The maximum contaminant level (MCL) of Arsenic that is allowed in drinking water is 10 ccr (PPB). This level was established by the Environmental Protection Agency in a rule that took effect in January 23rd 2006. The prior standard was 50 ccr. In 2015 the Arsenic levels in the Hanley and Annie Wells ranged from 1.6 ccr to 22.9 ccr. For this reason we want to notify you of the health impacts related to the long term use of water containing Arsenic. This mineral, when in drinking water, has been demonstrated to cause skin damage, circulatory system disorders, and cancer when consumed continuously. At the levels in our water there is no acute or immediate effect from using it. We try not to use these wells unless it is absolutely necessary to maintain an adequate supply of water in the water system. Unfortunately we do not have the ability to shut these wells down or to treat the water to remove the Arsenic, so when they are activated our customers in the local area may receive water containing this contaminant. These wells pumped water in varying volumes into our system for 46 days in the summer of 2015.

- If you wish to obtain more information about Arsenic in drinking water you may contact the Safe Water Drinking Hotline at 800-426-4791.
- In the internet EPA has provided information that can be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic/basininformation.html>.
- A summary of the Arsenic Rule can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic/pdfs/quickguide.pdf>.
- A more technical discussion of Arsenic can be found at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp2.html>.
- If you need additional information please contact the DEQ Regional Office at: <http://apps.deq.idaho.gov/water/swaonline/> or the City Water Department at 769 2210

An Explanation of 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 Coeur d'Alene 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 drinking 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

- MCL Maximum Contaminant Level. Highest amount of contaminant allowed.
- MCLG Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. Level of contaminant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- MCL Maximum Contaminant Level. Highest amount of contaminant allowed.
- MRDL Maximum Residual Detection Level.
- MRDLG Maximum Residual Detection Level Goal.
- ppm parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
- ND below minimum lab analysis detection limit.

- ccr Consumer Confidence Report unit = milligrams per liter (mg/l) x 1000, e.g. 0.05 mg/l x 1000 = 50 ccr
- ppb parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
- pCi/l Pico curies per liter (measurement of radioactivity)

Backflow

To protect your drinking water from potential contamination, it is important to have an approved backflow prevention assembly on your irrigation system. A lawn irrigation system not protected by an approved backflow prevention assembly endangers the health of a household, neighborhood, and community. All lawn irrigation systems - new or existing - must be equipped with an approved backflow prevention assembly.



The City of Coeur d'Alene Water Department is responsible for providing safe drinking water to all its customers. To ensure drinking water quality, the Water Department monitors backflow protection on known health hazards to meet Idaho Rule IDAPA 58.01.08. The Water Department strives to make it easy for its customers to keep their drinking water safe and to meet state requirements by allowing a Double Check Valve, Pressure Vacuum Breaker, Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker, or Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Assembly to be installed on a lawn irrigation system.

All backflow prevention assemblies on irrigation systems must be annually tested by a licensed backflow assembly tester at spring startup for proper operation and protection. For more information call 676-7408.

Hardness and pH Level

pH Level: 7.6 (Low) 8.34 (High) 8.02 (Average)
DEQ 5 Sample Sites. 6/2014

Hardness: 126 mg/L (Low) 165 mg/L (High)
150 mg/L (Average) = medium hard/hard
Panhandle Health 3 Sites. 3/2015

A [measure](#) of acidity or alkalinity of water soluble substances (pH stands for 'potential of Hydrogen'). A pH [value](#) is a number from 1 to 14, with 7 as the middle (neutral) point. [Values](#) below 7 indicate acidity which increases as the number decreases, 1 being the most [acidic](#). Values above 7 indicate alkalinity which increases as the number increases, 14 being the most [alkaline](#).

Water hardness is a measure of the amount of calcium and magnesium salts in water. Calcium and magnesium enter water mainly through the weathering of rocks. The more calcium and magnesium in water, the harder the water. Water hardness is usually expressed in milligrams per liter (mg/l) of dissolved calcium and magnesium carbonate

CONSERVATION PROGRAM

You may be eligible to receive a utility bill credit when you purchase:

Hose Bib Timer.



Moisture Sensor.



Rain Sensor.



For more details:
Call: Water Department Office 769-2210
Online: www.cdaid.org/water