
West Slope
Water District
2018
Water Quality
Report
Drinking water delivered to your home

Your 2018 Drinking Water Report

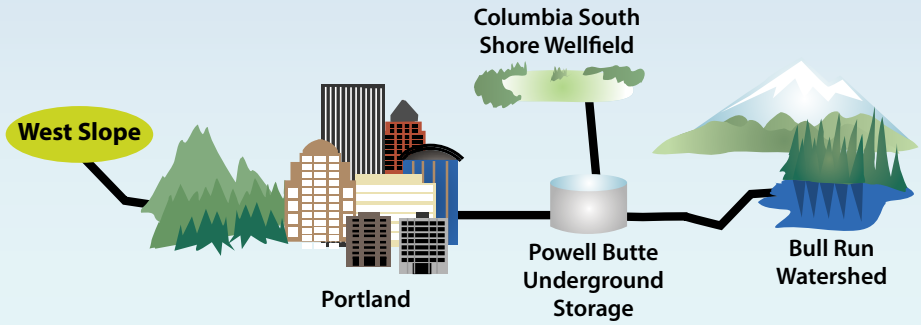
Hello, West Slope Water District Customers!

Pour yourself a cup of coffee or tea (or better yet a tall glass of water!), find a nice comfortable chair, and spend 10 minutes reading this report. If you do, you will know:

- Where your drinking water originates
- What water quality tests were performed on your drinking water in 2017
- What projects were completed in 2017 by the District
- What issues are on the horizon for the West Slope Water District
- How to win a nice prize!

Congress and the USEPA want all Americans to be aware of what is in their drinking water and the health of their public water system. We at West Slope Water District completely agree. This report should answer your questions about West Slope Water District water quality, but it also might lead to new questions for you.

We are always here to answer any questions you might have.
Just call us at 503-292-2777 Monday-Friday from 8 AM-Noon and 1-4:30 PM or email us at customer.service@wswd.org.



Dear Water Customers,

What Value do You Place on Water?

West Slope Water District
EST. 1922

Safe Drinking Water. It is delivered to your house 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, year after year. Its water quality is superior to the majority of drinking water found anywhere on the globe. It is used to drink, cook, bathe, clean clothes, clean dishes, water gardens, and once in while extinguish a fire. A product like that delivered on demand to your home must be very expensive, right? Well, it isn't. In fact, the average home pays less than 1 cent per gallon for water delivered to the tap … or … about $1.45/day. So, is that the value you place on water … less than $0.01/gallon?

West Slope is facing the challenge of increased costs to purchase water from the Portland Water Bureau (PWB). Over the next 10 years, the District will pay Portland for its share of PWB's new water infrastructure projects including:

- *A 13.3 million gallon covered reservoir at Washington Park (estimated at $190 million)*
- *A new corrosion control treatment facility (Estimated at $20 million)*
- *The Bull Run Water Filtration Treatment Plant (Estimated at over $500 million)*

West Slope's Green Tank project to seismically rebuild the foundation has been completed!

The District pays these construction costs through wholesale water rates paid to PWB. Those costs are passed on to District customers through retail water rates. PWB estimates that in order to build the facilities currently planned, the water rate West Slope pays to PWB in 2028 will likely be four times higher than the current water rate. While West Slope must plan to financially cover these costs, we also believe it is in the customers' best interest to explore other options to make sure West Slope residents have the best water quality, the most sustainable source of supply at an affordable price. As we move forward,, we will share what we learn with you, the customers, so you will know the facts and the research behind the decisions the Board will eventually make.

Meanwhile, be thinking about that question asked earlier … what value do you place on drinking water. It will be an important concept as the District moves forward over the next ten years and beyond. Thank you for your continued support as we provide you with safe, clean, reliable drinking water.

Thank you for your patience and continued support to provide you with safe, clean, reliable drinking water.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Grimm, P.E.
General Manager
West Slope Water District

The West Slope Water District maintains 3100 metered customer accounts serving 10,400 people. The District boundaries are roughly US Hwy 26 on the north, OR Hwy 217 on the west, SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy on the south, and SW Scholls Ferry Road on the east. The District has no water source of its own but instead relies on a wholesale water purchase contract with the Portland Water Bureau for the District's water supply. Portland's water enters the West Slope Water District through the District's two concrete Sylvan Hill reservoirs. The District maintains 48 miles of water pipe in a 3.5 square mile area.

Did you know?
437 million gallons of water was used by West Slope customers in 2017

West Slope Water District

Established 1922

What Sources of Water Do We Drink in West Slope?

The Portland Water Bureau maintains two high-quality sources of drinking water:

1 - The Bull Run Watershed

2 - The Columbia South Shore Wellfield

1 - The Bull Run Watershed (background photo) is a unique, protected (closed to public access) surface water supply located in the Mt. Hood National Forest 26 miles from Portland. The watershed is carefully managed to sustain and supply clean drinking water to a quarter of Oregon's population including West Slope. The Bull Run Watershed is a sub-basin watershed in the Sandy River basin that is separate from Mt. Hood and the Hoodland communities found along US Hwy 26. No recreational, residential or commercial uses occur within the watershed. The Portland Water Bureau carefully monitors water quality and quantity in the watershed. The Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Program regularly inspects the watershed and the related treatment and distribution facilities.

On average, the Bull Run watershed receives over 135 inches of precipitation (rain and snow) annually, that flows into the Bull Run River and then into two reservoirs that store nearly 10 billion gallons of drinking water.

In 2003, the Portland Water Bureau completed a Source Water Assessment in compliance with federal USEPA requirements. The Assessment identifies the only contaminants of concern as naturally occurring microbes such as *Giardia, Cryptosporidium*, fecal coliform bacteria and total coliform bacteria (available at www.portlandoregon.gov/water/sourcewaterassessment or by calling 503-823-7525). These organisms are found in virtually all freshwater ecosystems and may be present in our supply at very low levels.

2 - The Columbia South Shore Wellfield provides high-quality drinking water from 26 active wells located in three different aquifers. Located on the south shore of the Columbia River, the wellfield is the second largest water source in Oregon and can produce up to 95 million gallons of water per day. The wellfield is used to supplement or as an alternative to the Bull Run supply during routine maintenance, turbidity events, emergencies and when the bureau needs additional summer supply.

Gresham, Rockwood Water PUD, Fairview, and the Portland Water Bureau work together with businesses in the area to prevent hazardous material spills that could seep into the ground and impact groundwater. Public events are held such as Aquifer Adventure, Cycle the Wellfield and Groundwater 101 to educate residents on how they can get involved.

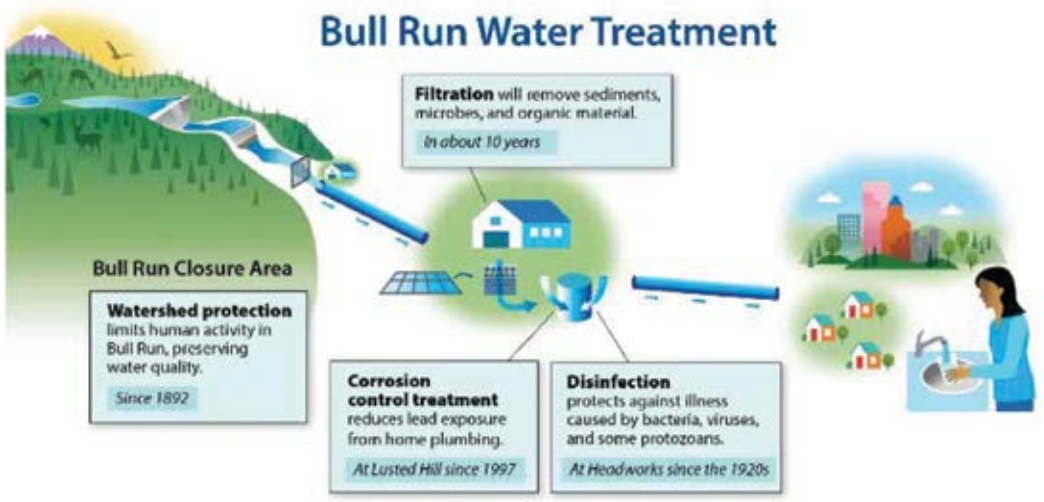
To learn more about the regional Wellfield Protection Program or find upcoming events, visit www.portlandoregon.gov/water/groundwater or call 503-823-7473.

The Bull Run Filtration Treatment Project

The high-quality and well-protected nature of the Bull Run Watershed has allowed the Portland Water Bureau to maintain a filtration exemption until 2016. After a series of detections for *Cryptosporidium* in 2017, Portland City Council directed the Portland Water Bureau to add filtration treatment to Bull Run drinking water. This decision is a major undertaking and will result in a new drinking water treatment plant for the Bull Run. The new treatment plant will be online by 2027.

In addition to providing treatment for *Cryptosporidium,* the water filtration treatment plant will provide more consistent water quality through the distribution system, increase the reliability of the Bull Run by enabling treatment for most instances of increased turbidity and filter algae, and remove sediment from the water. Constructing a new treatment plant now is also an investment in our future by better preparing the Portland Water Bureau to meet future regulations.

More information: www.portlandoregon.gov/water/filtration



Did you know?

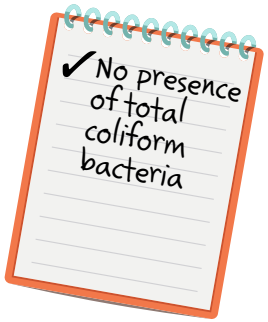
There are 48 miles of water pipeline in the West Slope Water District. That's 80 feet of water pipe per water meter in the system

Special Notice for Immuno-Compromised Persons

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 people and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 at **800-426-4791**.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Required Public Notice

Each month, West Slope WD collects 10 water samples to check for microbiological contaminants in the distribution system. The sample results for August 2017 were reported to OHA on the morning of September 11. The due date to report the results each month is the 10th of the following month. So even though September 10 was a Sunday, the District was about 9 hours late reporting the results on Monday morning. As usual, all 10 test results confirmed no presence of total coliform bacteria. The next month, the 10 water test results for September 2017 were reported to OHA prior to the October 10 deadline, but OHA lost the data, and so the District was obligated to resubmit the data after the due date. Once again, all 10 water test results confirmed no presence of total coliform bacteria.



Definitions

Action Level
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 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.

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU)
The unit of measurement of turbidity or cloudiness in water as measured by the amount of light passing through a sample.

Part Per Million (ppm)
One part per million corresponds to one penny in $10,000 or approximately one minute in two years. One part per million is equal to 1,000 parts per billion.

Part Per Billion (ppb)
One part per billion corresponds to one penny in $10,000,000 or approximately one minute in 2,000 years.

Picocuries Per Liter
Picocurie is a measurement of radioactivity. One picocurie is one trillion times smaller than one curie.

Treatment Technique
A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Water Quality Data *Contaminants Detected in 2017*

	Detected in West Slope's Water		EPA Limits		
Regulated Contaminant	**Minimum**	**Maximum**	**MCL or TT**	**MCLG**	**Sources of Contaminant**
UNTREATED SOURCE WATER FROM THE BULL RUN WATERSHED					
Turbidity (NTU)	0.20	3.06	5	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Fecal Coliform Bacteria (%>20 colonies/100mL in 6 months)	N/D	1.6%	10%	N/A	Animal wastes
Giardia (#/iL)	N/D	.027	TT	N/A	Animal wastes
TREATED DRINKING WATER FROM BULL RUN WATERSHED AND COLUMBIA SOUTH SHORE WELLFIELD ENTRY POINTS TO THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM					
Arsenic (ppb)	<0.50	0.94	10	0	Found in natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	0.00073	0.00975	2	2	
Copper (ppm)	<0.00050	0.00101	N/A	1.3	
Fluoride (ppm)	<0.025	0.160	4	4	
Lead (ppb)	<0.050	0.11	N/A	0	
Nitrate - Nitrogen (ppm)	0.013	0.140	10	10	Found in natural aquifer deposits; animal wastes
TREATED DRINKING WATER FROM POINTS THROUGH THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OF RESERVOIRS, TANKS AND MAINS					
Microbiological Contaminants					
Total Coliform Bacteria	0%	0%	N/A.	N/A	Found throughout the environment
Disinfectant Residual					
Total Chlorine Residual Running Annual Average (ppm)	1.06	1.55	4 (MRDL)	4 (MRDLG)	Chlorine is used to disinfect water
Total Chlorine Residual at Any One Site (ppm)	0.8	1.73	N/A	N/A	
Disinfection Byproducts					
Haloacetic Acids					
Running Annual Average at Any One Site (ppb)	24.1	34.5	60	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Single Result at Any One Site (ppb)	23.4	52.3	N/A		
Total Trihalomethanes					
Running Annual Average at Any One Site (ppb)	33.4	34.4	80	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Single Result at Any One Site (ppb)	23.4	55.5	N/A		

	Detected in Source Water from Portland Water Bureau			
Unregulated Contaminant	**Minimum**	**Average**	**Maximum**	**Source of Contaminant**
TREATED SOURCE WATER FROM THE BULL RUN WATERSHED AND COLUMBIA SOUTH SHORE WELLFIELD				
Radon (piC/L)	<50	165	330	Found in natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	3.3	5.8	12.0	

Monitoring for *Cryptosporidium*

2017 RESULTS OF *CRYPTOSPORIDIUM* MONITORING AT THE RAW WATER INTAKE		
Number of Samples	**Total Volume (L)**	**Detections (oocysts)**
378	11,511.9	43

The Portland Water Bureau does not currently treat for *Cryptosporidium*, but is required to do so under the state and federal drinking water regulations. Portland will construct and begin operating a water filtration treatment plant for the Bull Run source by 2027 under a compliance schedule with Oregon Health Authority. In the meantime, Portland Water Bureau is implementing interim measures such as watershed protection and additional monitoring to protect public health.

Exposure to *Cryptosporidium* can cause *cryptosporidiosis*, a serious illness. Symptoms can include diarrhea, vomiting, fever, and stomach pain. People with healthy immune systems recover without medical treatment. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people with severely weakened immune systems are at risk for more serious disease. Symptoms may be more severe and could lead to serious life-threatening illness. Examples of people with weakened immune systems include those with AIDS, those with inherited diseases that affect the immune system, and cancer and transplant patients who are taking certain immunosuppressive drugs. The Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that a small percentage of the population could experience gastrointestinal illness from *Cryptosporidium* and advises that customers who are immuno-compromised and receive their drinking water from the Bull Run Watershed consult with their health care professional about the safety of drinking the tap water.

For more detailed analyses, view our Triannual Reports at www.portlandoregon.gov/water/triannual.

See Notes on Contaminants on page 10 for more information about each contaminant.

West Slope Out in the Community

To provide information to West Slope customers about future water rate increases, West Slope will be launching some outreach efforts this summer to meet other customers, provide factual information, and listen to your concerns.

We will also be participating in an emergency preparedness fair this fall along with members of the Raleigh Hills Business Alliance. The goal is to provide information to District customers about what to do now to be prepared in case of earthquakes or other disasters that would cause heavy damage the water system.

We will hand out information AND have some prizes to give away to some lucky customers! We will post details about the fair later this summer … check our website at that time for details.

http://www.wswd.org/

PRIZES!

We're giving away prizes this summer to some lucky customers!

Check our website later this summer for details.

West Slope Water District

Information from the EPA About Drinking 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 the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater.

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 in drinking water sources may include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from wildlife or septic systems.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as farming, urban storm water runoff and home or business use.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can occur naturally.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA has regulations that limit the concentrations of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems and require monitoring for these contaminants. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Notes on Contaminants

Arsenic, Barium, Fluoride, and Vanadium
These metals are elements found in the earth's crust. They can dissolve into water that is in contact with natural deposits. At the levels found in your drinking water, they are unlikely to contribute to adverse health effects.

Disinfection Byproducts
During disinfection, certain byproducts form as a result of chemical reactions between chlorine and naturally occurring organic matter in the water. These byproducts can have negative health effects. Trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids are regulated disinfection byproducts that have been detected in low concentrations in West Slope Water District drinking water. Adding ammonia to chlorine results in a more stable disinfectant and helps to minimize the formation of disinfection byproducts.

Fecal Coliform Bacteria
The presence of fecal coliform bacteria in source water indicates that water may be contaminated with animal wastes. The West Slope Water District maintains a total chlorine residual to protect the water from fecal bacteria contamination.

Giardia
Wildlife in the watershed may be hosts to *Giardia lamblia*, the organism that causes giardiasis. Chlorine is added to the Bull Run source water to inactivate these organisms.

Lead and Copper
There is no maximum contaminant level (MCL) for lead or copper at the entry point to the distribution system. The main source of lead and copper is through the corrosion of home/building plumbing. Lead and copper are tested at customers' tap where levels are the determined to be the highest. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. For more information, see Reducing Exposure to Lead on page 13.

Nitrate – Nitrogen
Nitrate, measured as nitrogen, can support microbial growth (bacteria and algae). Nitrate levels exceeding the standards can contribute to health problems. At the levels found in your drinking water, nitrate is unlikely to contribute to adverse health effects.

Radon
Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that cannot be seen, tasted or smelled. Radon can be detected at very low levels in the Bull Run water supply, and at varying levels in the Columbia South Shore Wellfield groundwater supply. Based on the historical levels of radon in groundwater combined with the limited amount of groundwater used, radon is unlikely to contribute to adverse health effects. For information about radon, call the EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON) or www.epa.gov/radon.

Sodium
There is currently no drinking water standard for sodium. Sodium is an essential nutrient. At the levels found in drinking water, it is unlikely to contribute to adverse health effects.

Total Chlorine Residual
Total chlorine residual is a measure of free chlorine and combined chlorine and ammonia in our distribution system. Chlorine residual is a low level of chlorine remaining in water and is designed to maintain disinfection through the entire distribution system.

Total Coliform Bacteria
Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment. They are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful bacteria may be present. The West Slope Water District maintains a total chlorine residual to protect your water from total coliform bacteria contamination.

Turbidity
Turbidity is a relative measure of water clarity. Increased turbidity is typically caused by rain events that suspend organic material in our source water. Turbidity can interfere with the disinfection process and provide an environment for microbial growth. When turbidity rises to levels near 5 NTU, the Bull Run water source system can be shut down temporarily, and customers are served water from the Columbia South Shore Wellfield.

Frequently Asked Questions

How is my drinking water tested?

The West Slope Water District and the Portland Water Bureau jointly monitor for over 200 regulated and unregulated contaminants in drinking water. All water quality monitoring data in this report are from 2017. If a known health-related contaminant is not listed in this report, the contaminant was not detected in the drinking water.

How is my drinking water treated?

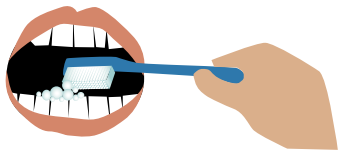
The first step in the treatment process for water purchased by the West Slope Water District from the Portland Water Bureau is disinfection using chlorine. Next, ammonia is added to form chloramines which ensure that disinfection remains adequate throughout the transmission and retail distribution system.

Finally, sodium hydroxide is added to increase the pH of the water to reduce corrosion of plumbing systems. This treatment helps control lead and copper levels at customers' taps, should these metals be present in commercial and household plumbing systems.

Is my water treated by filtration?

No. The water purchased from the City of Portland is not filtered. However, following months of low-level Cryptosporidium detections in water entering the Portland's intake structure, the Portland City Council voted in August in favor of designing and constructing filtration treatment for the Bull Run water source. The new water filtration plant will be operational by 2027. Water from the Columbia South Shore Wellfield will not be filtered, however, as protected groundwater does not need to be filtered.

Is supplemental fluoride added to my drinking water?



No. Neither the West Slope Water District or Portland Water Bureau add fluoride to the drinking water. Fluoride is a naturally occurring trace element in surface and groundwater. You may want to consult with your dentist about fluoride treatment to help prevent tooth decay, especially for young children.

Is my water soft or hard?

Water served by the West Slope Water District water is very soft. One easy way to tell is by how fast you can make soap lather when washing hands or bathing. The hardness of Bull Run source water is typically 3-8 parts per million (ppm), or approximately ¼ to ½ a grain of hardness per gallon. For periods of time, the Bull Run source water may be blended with Columbia South Shore Wellfield groundwater. The groundwater hardness is approximately 80 ppm (about 5 grains per gallon), which is considered moderately hard.

What causes my water to be temporarily discolored?

Since water purchased by the West Slope Water District from the Portland Water Bureau is not filtered, small amounts of natural sediment and organic material from the Bull Run Watershed can be present in the water supply and distribution system. This can sometimes be seen in the Fall as a tea-colored tint to the water. Sediment that has settled at the bottom of the water mains can be temporarily stirred up when the direction or flow of water changes due to hydrant use, nearby construction or maintenance activities, firefighting, routine water line flushing or main breaks. Corrosion of older pipes inside buildings can also cause rusty water after water has been sitting in the pipes for several hours. More information is available at www.portlandoregon.gov/water/discoloredwater.

What is the pH of my drinking water?

The pH of the drinking water in the West Slope Water District typically ranges between 7.5 and 8.5.

How can I get my water tested?

Contact the LeadLine at www.leadline.org or 503-988-4000 for information about free lead-in-water testing. For more extensive testing, private laboratories can test your tap water for a fee. Not all labs are accredited to test for all contaminants. For information about accredited labs, call the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program at 503-693-4122 or contact the West Slope Water District for certified laboratories in the Portland metro area.

To get your water tested, contact the LeadLine

www.leadline.org

Lead is commonly found in a variety of places throughout our environment. While lead is rarely found in our source waters and there are no known lead service lines or lead pipe in the West Slope Water District, lead can be found in some homes. Lead enters drinking water from the corrosion (wearing away) of household plumbing materials containing lead. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe (commonly used in homes built or plumbed between 1970 and 1985) and brass faucets and components. Lead in household plumbing can dissolve into drinking water when water remains in those pipes for several hours, such as overnight or after returning from work or school.

LeadLine

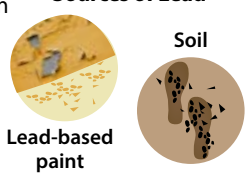
If you are concerned that your home tap water may have lead, contact the LeadLine for a free lead-in-water test kit and to learn ways to reduce your exposure to all sources of lead. **Visit www.leadline.org or call the LeadLine at 503-988-4000.**

- ✓ Free lead-in-water testing
- ✓ Free childhood blood lead testing
- ✓ Free lead reduction services

If present, lead at elevated levels can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. The West Slope Water District is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water to all customers, but the District cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in homes or buildings. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds or up to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you can request a free lead-in-water test from the LeadLine. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the LeadLine, at www.leadline.org or by phone at 503-988-4000 or the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791, www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

In the Portland Metro Area, the most common sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint, household dust, soil and plumbing materials. Lead is also found in other household objects such as toys, cosmetics and pottery.

Sources of Lead




Toys

Protecting Public Health

The West Slope Water District is a partner in the Portland Water Bureau's Lead Hazard Reduction Program. This program is a comprehensive approach to reduce exposure to lead by providing:

- **Corrosion Control Treatment**. Corrosion control treatment reduces corrosion of lead in plumbing by increasing the pH of the water. This pH adjustment has reduced lead in tap water by more than 70 percent. Portland has begun the process of further improving corrosion control treatment. These improvements will be in place no later than Spring 2022. See page XX for more information.
- **Lead in Water Testing.** In home lead in water testing is available to everyone for no cost, but the testing targets households most at-risk from lead in water. These are homes built between 1970 and 1985 with pregnant women or children ages six or younger in the home.
- **Education, Outreach and Testing.** Third party agencies and organizations provide education, outreach and testing on all sources of lead.
- **Home Lead Hazard Reduction.** The Portland Lead Hazard Control Program provides grants to minimize lead paint hazards in homes.

Did you know?

In 2017, the average water use per person was 111 gallons per day

LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLING AT HIGH-RISK RESIDENTIAL WATER TAPS

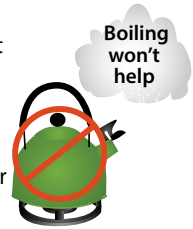
Regulated Contaminant	Detected in Residential Water Taps		EPA Limits		Source of Contaminant
	Fall 2017 Results	Homes Exceeding Action Level*	Action Level*	MCLG	
Lead	17	18 out of 134 (13.4%)	15	0	Corrosion of household and commercial building plumbing systems
Copper (ppm)	0.26	0 out of 134 (0%)	1.3	1.3	

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

8 Easy Steps

To reduce possible exposure to lead from household plumbing

1. **Run your water to flush the lead out.** If the water has not been used for several hours, run each tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes or until it becomes colder before drinking or cooking. This flushes water which may contain lead from the pipes.
2. **Use cold, fresh water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
3. **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
4. **Test your child for lead.** Ask your physician or call the LeadLine to find out how to have your child tested for lead. A blood lead level test is the only way to know if your child is being exposed to lead.
5. **Test your water for lead.** Contact the LeadLine at www.leadline.org or 503-988-4000 to find out how to get a FREE lead-in-water test.
6. **Consider using a filter.** Check whether it reduces lead – not all filters do. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality. Contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters.
7. **Regularly clean your faucet aerator.** Particles containing lead from solder or household plumbing can become trapped in your faucet aerator. Regular cleaning every few months will remove these particles and reduce your exposure to lead.
8. **Consider buying low-lead fixtures.** As of January 2014, all pipes, fittings and fixtures are required to contain less than 0.25% lead. When buying new fixtures, consumers should seek out those with the lowest lead content.



Water Testing

Twice each year, the West Slope Water District participates with the Portland Water Bureau to monitor for lead and copper in tap water from a sample group of more than 100 homes. These are homes where the plumbing is known to contain lead solder and represent a worst-case scenario for lead in water. Called the Joint Monitoring Plan (JMP), samples are collected after the water has been standing in the household plumbing for more than 6 hours. A Lead and Copper Rule exceedance for lead occurs when more than 10 percent of these homes exceed the lead action level of 15 parts per billion. In the October 2017 round of testing, more than 10 percent of homes (18 of 134), exceeded 17 parts per billion (exceeding the 15 parts per billion lead action level). As a result of exceeding the action level, the West Slope Water District along with the City of Portland informed customers and encouraged them to follow the 8 Easy Steps listed above to reduce exposure to lead in water. However, West Slope Water District customers should know that all samples collected from sampling locations in West Slope were less than 7 parts per billion which is below the lead action level.

West Slope Water District

The Board of Commissioners developed the following strategic direction for 2016-2020. All energy will be directed toward implementing the strategies, attaining the goals, accomplishing the mission, and striving for the vision, while adhering to our values.

Our Vision is to

Sustain water supplies and manage demand for continuous availability

Our Mission is to

Provide safe, clean, reliable water for customer use and fire suppression

We practice stewardship by holding true to these Values

- Respect and courtesy to all people
- Integrity in our dealings
- Commitment to act in the best interest of customers
- Accountability to customers
- Transparency in our activities

Goals and Strategies

Goals: What we want to accomplish toward achieving our vision.

Strategies: Approaches, plans, or methods for moving from the current condition to attainment of our goals.

GOALS	STRATEGIES
Decisions reflect customer interests and perspectives	• Provide access for two-way communication between the District and its customers and other stakeholders • Use technology, including Website, to reach customers
Establish a long-term water supply for customers	• Evaluate full range of water supply alternatives, considering cost, control, influence, sustainability • Promote conservation practices that recognize inevitability of pressure on water supplies
Operate a reliable water system	• Assure a well-trained, competent staff is available to manage and operate the water system • Create effective communication among staff, management, and board
Provide reliable water service in the aftermath of a natural or human caused event	• Prepare and test an emergency response plan that addresses multiple hazards
Manage impacts of territorial withdrawals	• Evaluate whether intergovernmental agreements should be established • Identify and evaluate impact of potential withdrawals on remaining District customers
Deliver cost effective service	• Implement a system to measure cost effectiveness

Questions?

We're Here to Help

You have a range of options for contacting us about programs and services offered to customers, issues with your account, information about public meetings, and activities within the District.

VISIT 3105 SW 89th Ave., Portland, OR 97225
Monday through Friday
8 am – Noon; 1 – 4:30 pm

CALL 503-292-2777

EMAIL customer.service@wswd.org

ONLINE wswd.org
Account information, public meetings, and water quality reports can be found on our website.

EMERGENCY **503-292-2777**
24 hours, 7 days a week
Hotline for water system emergencies.

West Slope Water District

3105 SW 89th Ave.
Portland, OR 97225

Public Water System
ID#: 4100660

MORE INFORMATION

Oregon Health Authority – Drinking Water Services
971-673-0405
public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater