

Water Quality  
Report 2020



Yakima County Public Services  
128 N. 2nd Street  
Yakima, Washington 98901

# Terrace Heights Water Quality Report

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua que usted bebé. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.



Yakima County Public Services

## Introduction

In compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, Yakima County is providing its Terrace Heights Water System customers with their annual water quality report. This report explains where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State standards.



## Does My Drinking Water Meet EPA Standards?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's and the State's standards. These standards require that we test for over 130 contaminants that may be in your drinking water.

## What Is The Source Of My Water?

**Your water comes from five wells** drilled between 420 and 2,421 feet deep. Well # 2 is near the reservoir at Terracotta Place and N. 57th Street. Well # 3 is near Terrace Heights Drive east of Keys Road. Well #4 is at the Country Club Tower reservoir near Morningside Drive and Manor Drive. Well # 5 is near Morningside Drive and Tower Lane, and Well # 6 is near 41st Street and Terrace Heights Drive. After the water is pumped out of the wells, we add chlorine to protect you against microbial contaminants.



## Water supplies vary in their susceptibility to contamination.

A well's susceptibility increases when it is poorly constructed, improperly cased, or located where no confining layer exists between the aquifer and the surface.

## Who Can I Call for More Information?



For more information about your drinking water, please call Joe Stump or Bill Trout with Yakima County Public Services at 574-2300.

## 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 and the 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 (800-426-4791).

## Why are There Contaminants in My 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**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.

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## Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it 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 stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink**, EPA prescribes regulations which 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.

**Our Board of Yakima County Commissioners** meet Tuesdays at 10:00 am at 129 N. 2nd St. Yakima city hall council chambers. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

## Is Our Water System Meeting Other Rules That Govern Our Operation?

The State and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. In 2018, we collected all required samples at the required times.

### Cross Connection Control

One of the many threats to our drinking water supply is known as a cross-connection (CC). A CC is the point at which a non-drinking water substance can possibly come in contact with drinking water. Connections as seemingly innocent as a sprinkler system, hot tub or ornamental pond can easily enable contaminants to enter potable (drinking) water lines via backflow. Customers install potential CCs like these and other water-using equipment every day, but they are often unaware of the potential danger that lurks in the pipes as a result. Some Terrace Heights Water Customers have access to irrigation water. If the irrigation water piping is connected with the drinking water piping the drinking water system could easily be contaminated. Irrigation water piping can be connected with drinking water piping with the proper backflow assembly if it is installed properly and tested annually by a certified backflow assembly tester.

For more information about cross-connections, contact Bill Trout at Yakima County Public Services 574-2300.

### Other Information

Yakima County and seven other water purveyors in the Upper Yakima Valley have developed a regional wellhead protection plan. The goal of the plan is to prevent contamination of drinking water supplies. For more information regarding the wellhead protection plan, please visit the Regional Wellhead Protection Committee website at <http://www.yakimacounty.us/584/Wellhead-Protection>

## Water Use Efficiency

The water use efficiency goal for Terrace Heights is to reduce water production and consumption by 3% in a six year period and to keep unaccounted for water below 10%. In 2018 we produced 340.8 million gallons and sold 297.8 million gallons of water leaving 12.6% unaccounted for water. In 2019 we produced 317.8 million gallons and sold 291.4 million gallons leaving 8.3% unaccounted for water.

### Conservation Tip

Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks. Make sure your home is leak-free. When you are certain that no water is being used, take a reading of the water meter. Wait 30 minutes and then take a second reading. If the meter readings change, you have a leak!

### Fluoride In Your Drinking Water

Your dentist may ask you “is your drinking water fluoridated?” When developing a fluoride treatment plan, your dentist will consider all the ways you might be getting fluoride. This can include the water you drink. Some water systems add fluoride to the water with a goal of maintaining 0.80 to 1.3 parts per million. Fluoride can also occur naturally in ground water. Most of the fluoride found in groundwater is naturally occurring from the breakdown of rocks and soils. When your dentist asks you if you have fluoride in your water you can say; yes, our water comes from wells with natural occurring fluoride with a average concentration of 0.54 parts per million.

### How Hard Is My Water?

Water described as “hard” is high in dissolved minerals, specifically calcium and magnesium. Hard water is not a health risk, but is a nuisance because of mineral buildup on fixtures and poor soap and/or detergent performance. Hardness is measured in either parts per million or grains per gallon. Terrace Heights water has five wells ranging from soft to hard. On average the water is considered moderately hard.



## Water Quality Data Table

The water quality data table (see insert) lists all the contaminants that were detected from monitoring between 2010 - 2019. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Definitions of the terms and abbreviations used in the table are given below:

### Definitions:

**MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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, or 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.

**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 (e.g. chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide).

**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.

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

**n/a:** Not applicable.

**ppb:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.

**ppm:** Parts per million or milligrams per liter.

**pCi/L:** Picocuries per liter.

**ND:** Not detected