

City of Camas Annual Water Quality Report

CONTACT US

City Hall

616 NE Fourth Ave
Camas, WA 98607
360-834-2462
www.cityofcamas.us

Public Works

360-817-1563
publicworks@cityofcamas.us

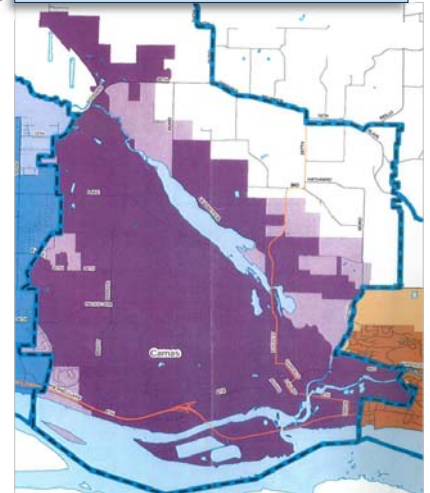
**After-Hours/Holiday Water
Emergency: 360-737-0592**

Cross-Connection Control
backflow@cityofcamas.us
360-817-1569

Camas Connect 24/7

Download our city app to
make service requests, or
go to [www.cityofcamas.us/
service-request](http://www.cityofcamas.us/service-request)

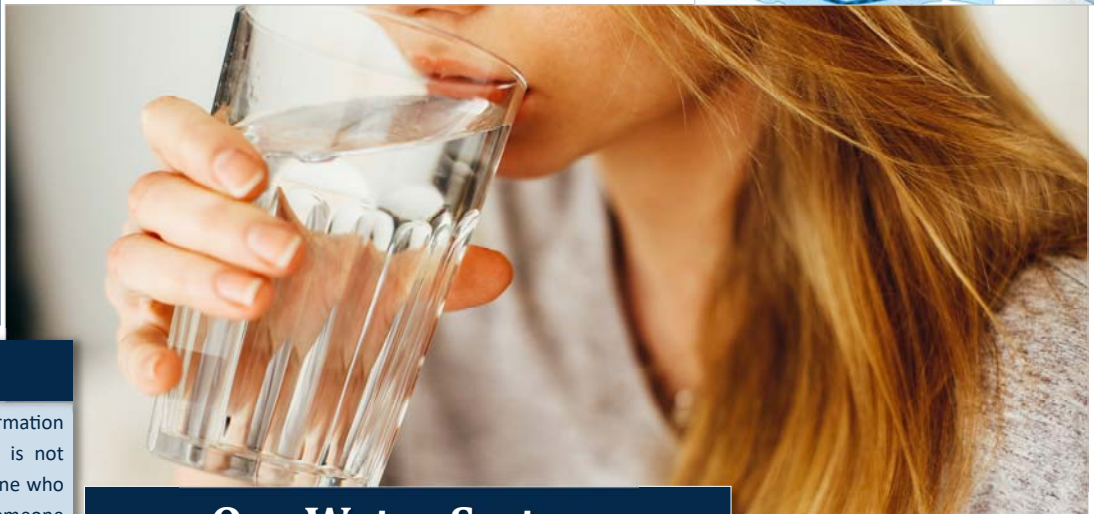
Public Water System ID: 108002



The City of Camas is pleased to present the annual Water Quality Report, which provides the public with water testing results. The health of our consumers and their families is paramount and our goal is to provide the community with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

At the City of Camas we understand how important it is to ensure we provide high quality water. We work diligently to provide top quality water to our growing residential population.

More information about Camas drinking water and what we're doing to keep your water safe can be found online at www.cityofcamas.us/publicworks/page/water-services



IMPORTANT!

This report contains important information about your drinking water. If English is not your first language, please have someone who can translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.

Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Si el inglés no es su primer idioma, tenga a alguien que pueda traducirlo por usted o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Si l'anglais n'est pas votre langue maternelle, demandez à quelqu'un de le traduire à votre place ou de parler à quelqu'un qui le comprend.

Этот отчет содержит важную информацию о вашей питьевой воде. Если английский не является вашим родным языком, попросите кого-нибудь, кто может перевести его для вас, или поговорить с кем-то, кто понимает его.

Our Water System

The City of Camas has multiple water sources that include surface and ground water. The surface water sources (Boulder and Jones Creeks) are located on the south-side of Larch Mountain, northeast of Camas. Surface water was not used in 2020. The ground water sources include nine wells near the Washougal river and one well in Grass Valley. All water sources are treated with chlorine for disinfection, fluoride for good dental health and sodium hydroxide to reduce the corrosion of copper piping to meet State and EPA standards. Water pressure and fire flows are maintained throughout the service area with eight distribution reservoirs, nine pump stations, and over 160 miles of pipeline.

We've got news!

Follow City of Camas on social media and on the city's website for the latest in updates and alerts:

- Website:** www.cityofcamas.us
- Twitter:** [@CityofCamas](https://twitter.com/CityofCamas)
- Facebook:** www.facebook.com/cityofcamas

2020 Water Quality Summary

Our drinking water is safe and surpasses all State and Federal health standards!



The City of Camas routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Field and laboratory analyses include tests for bacteria, as well as chemical and physical indicators. Reports are submitted monthly to the Department of Health to report that City water meets all drinking water standards. Contaminants that were detected are listed in the following tables.

Should there ever be a public health concern, you would be notified immediately. Please report possible water pollution (illicit discharge) to the City of Camas 360-817-1563, or the Department of Ecology-SW Regional Offices 360-407-6300.

Definitions

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as possible using the best available treatment technologies.

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

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

Milligram Per Liter (mg/L): A unit of measurement used in reporting the concentration of matter in water as determined by water analyses.

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

ug/L: Units of measurement in micrograms/liter. A unit of concentration for dissolved substances based on their weights.

ppm: (1 parts per million = 1 mg/L = 1 milligram per liter)

ppb: (1 parts per billion = 0.001 mg/L = 1 microgram per liter)

pCi/L: Picocuries per liter is a unit for measuring radioactive concentrations. The curie (Ci) unit is the activity of 1 gram of pure radium.

NA (Not Applicable): Means that the U.S. EPA has not established MCLGs for these substances.

ND (Not Detected): A compound that was analyzed and not detected at a level greater than or equal to the state reporting level.

2020 Detected Contaminants

				City of Camas	
		EPA Regulations		Water Quality Results	
Regulated Contaminants	Units	Ideal Level/Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Level (MCL)	Range of Level Detected	Violation
Fluoride	mg/L	.50 -.90	4	.48 - 1.09	No
<i>Fluoride is added to your water in carefully controlled levels for dental health. In May 2016, the Washington State Department of Health changed the fluoridation requirement to a target of 0.7 mg/L from the previous target of 0.7-1.2 mg/L.</i>					
Nitrates (as nitrogen)	mg/L	10	10	Not Detected - 1.30	No
<i>Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural products.</i>					
Haloacetic Acid (5)	ug/L	48	60	.64 - 1.90	No
Trihalomethanes	ug/L	60	80	.29 - .54	No
<i>Haloacetic acids (HAA5) and trihalomethanes form as by-products of the chlorination process that is used to kill or inactivate disease-causing microbes.</i>					
Radionuclides - Naturally Occurring Substances In Drinking Water					
Gross Alpha	pCi/l	0	15	2.34 -2.95	No
Radium 228	pCi/l	0	5	.974 -.713	No
Total Coliform Bacteria	%	0	<5% Positive/Mo.	0	No

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to help EPA determine their occurrence in drinking water and potential need for future regulation. For more information, go to: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/third-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule> or contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or via website <https://www.epa.gov/home/epa-hotlines>.

Sources of Drinking Water

In general, 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, radio-active material. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Washington Department of Health and the United State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, and mining or farming.
- **Pesticides and Herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
- **Organic Chemicals**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive Contaminants**, which are naturally occurring as a result of mining and/or gas production.

Mandatory EPA Statement for All Community Water Systems

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. The US EPA-Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water website.

Lead & Copper

In 2018, the City tested thirty residences for lead and copper. The highest result was 0.0026 mg/L for Lead, and 0.6100 mg/L in Copper. No households exceeded the action level. The City was not required to test for lead or copper in 2020. The next sampling event is scheduled for 2021.

To Reduce Lead and Copper Exposure

- When your water has been sitting for several hours, flush the pipe by running the cold water tap until the water is noticeably colder before using the water for drinking or cooking.
- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Hot water may contain higher levels of copper.
- Frequently clean the filter screens and aerators in faucets to remove captured particles.
- If building or remodeling, only use "lead free" or low lead piping and materials. Avoid using copper piping or brass fixtures for locations where water will be consumed or used in food preparation.

Parameter	Major Source	Units	(MCLG) mg/L	(AL) mg/L	City Results mg/L	Violation
Lead (at consumers tap)	Plumbing, erosion of natural deposits.	ppb	0	0.015	.0010—.0034	No
Copper		ppm	0	1.30	.027—.55	No

EPA STATEMENT

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 Camas 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. The EPA requires the City to conduct lead testing every three years.

Copper is a mineral component naturally found in solids. In the correct amounts, it is an essential nutrient for humans and plants. In Washington State, most copper in drinking water comes from corrosion of household plumbing. Plumbing sources can include copper pipe and brass fixtures. Copper from plumbing corrosion can accumulate overnight. Although copper is an essential mineral in the diet, too much copper can cause health problems. Copper is widely distributed within the tissues of the body, but accumulates primarily in the liver and kidneys. A single dose of 15 mg of copper can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and intestinal cramps.

If you are concerned about lead or copper in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead and copper in your drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from:

Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791, or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Water Conservation

In 2020 the average daily water consumption in Camas was 4.22 million gallons. Our peak usage day was on August 16, 2020, when 8,686,000 gallons were consumed. Most of this increase in the summer months is due to irrigation demands. We are once again asking for the public's help to implement a voluntary odd/even lawn watering program for residential customers. Water on odd days for home addresses that end in an odd number, and even days if it ends in an even number.

City Water Saving Commitments

- To reduce the customer consumption per home by one percent or approximately two gallons-per-day per year over the next six years. The City will maintain distribution system loss at-or-below ten percent for the next five years.
- Replacing industrial, commercial, and residential service meters with the new radio read meters, which will allow the City to log usage more effectively to notify customers about continuous leaks or high consumption.
- Encourage the installation of smart controllers on irrigation systems for the school district and industrial users.
- Educate the public on water-saving devices, and distribute water conservation kits and water-saving devices to homeowners. Continue metering all sources.
- Replace water mains and service lines in problematic areas and complete Capital Projects in accordance with the new Water System Plan Update.

Community Involvement to Reduce Water Leaks

Locate your master water supply valve and label it. The master supply valve can be turned off in case of a major leak or broken pipe. The majority of leaks in residential plumbing systems are found at the toilet tank (fill and flapper valves).

CONSERVATION TIPS

Fix leaks on old leaky faucets, toilets, hoses, and sprinkler systems.

Choose water saving fixtures and appliances and you will use 30% less water.

Sweep porches, driveways & sidewalks rather than hosing, to not only conserve water, but to avoid runoff.

Water late at night or early in the morning (10:00 pm or 6:00 am).

Take a short shower instead of a bath.

An inch of water per week is enough to keep lawns green.

Other common leaks include:

- Lawn irrigation valves and lines
- Yard hose turned on or leaking
- Ornamental fountains & fish ponds
- Water heater relief valve or fittings
- Leaking house pipes or fittings
- Leaking between the house and meter
- Inside and outside dripping faucets

The City is actively working to reduce system leaks. If you suspect a leak in your neighborhood please call City of Camas at 360-817-1563.

Cross Connection Program

Annual Backflow Test Required - Cross-Connection Prevention



Backflow is the undesirable reversal of the flow of water from the intended direction of flow. When this occurs, other liquids, mixtures, gases or substances can enter the potable water piping through cross connection. Under the right hydraulic conditions, backflow can result in contamination of the water supply, which is called back siphonage and back pressure.

How to keep our drinking water clean and safe:

Locate or install a backflow device

If you have an underground irrigation system, check to see if you have a backflow assembly. The backflow assembly is a brass valve usually found between your water meter and the point where your water service line enters your home, usually in a small green box similar to a meter box. If your irrigation system does not include backflow assembly or if you are installing a new underground irrigation system, City of Camas plumbing code requires you to install a *Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA)* at a minimum.

Test your backflow assembly device annually

Once you have your backflow assembly installed or located, make sure to have it tested annually by a state-certified backflow assembly tester. If you are a property owner and have an in-ground sprinkler system you are required by state and local laws (WAC 246-290) to install and maintain a backflow prevention device on your service line, and have it inspected yearly by a Washington State Certified Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT). View our Certified Backflow Tester List on the City website: <https://www.cityofcamas.us/publicworks/page/backflow-and-cross-connection-prevention>.

If you have more questions call our Backflow Hotline at 360-817-1569, or email us at backflow@cityofcamas.us

Properly winterizing your irrigation system

During the fall, most irrigation systems will need to be winterized to prevent pipes from freezing and breaking. Many times this involves using compressed air to blow out the excess water left in the irrigation piping. Although this is the best method, backflow of compressed air and contaminants may enter the drinking water distribution system and cause damage and or health risks if not performed properly. Make sure the compressed air is connected to a properly installed blowout connection to avoid inadvertently introducing air into our water system.

For more water-leak information, check the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak.

