

CITY OF

POCATELLO



2025 Water Quality Report

Water Sampling Data Results From 2024

PWS# ID6030043

Clean. Safe. Reliable. Drinking Water is Our Commitment to You!

We are dedicated to our mission of delivering a safe, reliable, and sufficient supply of drinking water to our customers. Water is our most valuable resource, it protects public health, supports fire suppression, drives our economy, and sustains the quality of life for our residents.

Our community plays a vital role in protecting this resource to ensure we maintain the highest water quality for current and future generations. We appreciate your time in reading this report to better understand your drinking water, recognize your role in its stewardship, and support responsible actions throughout the watershed.

Where does your water come from and where does it go?



SNOW MELT/AQUIFER

Snow melt from Mink Creek and Gibson Jack Watershed areas contribute the majority of the water that recharges the Lower Portneuf Valley Aquifer. Because the water from this aquifer is so pure, we do not have to treat the water. We do add a small amount of chlorine to ensure purity throughout our distribution system.



WELL STATIONS

The City of Pocatello uses twenty one well stations throughout the City to extract water from the Lower Portneuf Valley and Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifers. These wells are capable of producing more than 45 million gallons of water per day.



PUMPS

In order to serve the customers who live on the foothills surrounding Pocatello, water is pumped from the valley floor to fifteen water storage facilities located throughout the higher elevations of Pocatello. These storage facilities have a combined storage capacity of approximately 23.6 million gallons.



STORAGE

Because the water storage facilities are located at higher elevations, gravity provides water pressure to the homes below. Pressure regulating valves are installed and maintained by highly trained operators in order to regulate the water pressures for customers in lower elevation areas.

Important Health Information



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 (Centers for Disease Control) 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) or at www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo.htm

Source Water Assessment

The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act amendments created a new program of source water assessments. The source water assessment report for the City of Pocatello was completed in November 2000. The report describes the City of Pocatello's drinking water system, the boundaries of the zones of water contribution, and the associated potential contaminant sources located within these boundaries. The ultimate goal of the assessment is to provide data to the City of Pocatello to develop a protection strategy for our drinking water supply system.



POTENTIAL CONTAMINANTS		
Contaminant	Type	Sources
Microbiological	Viruses & Bacteria	Sewage treatment plants, septic waste, agricultural, and livestock runoff
Inorganic Chemical	Salts & Metals	Naturally-occurring; urban storm-water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming
Organic Chemical	Pesticides & Herbicides	Residential and agricultural use, urban storm water runoff
	Synthetic & Volatile	Byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems
Radioactive	Natural & ManMade Deposits	Mining, gas, and oil production naturally occurring

Substances that may be in Drinking water

The City of Pocatello provides its customers with drinking water that surpasses all State of Idaho and EPA drinking water health standards. 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 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. The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider



EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline number 1-800-426-4791

www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo.htm

2024 Sampling Results							
Substance	Year	EPA's Standards		Pocatello's Results		Violatio n	Possible Sources
		MCL	MCLG	Min	Max		
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	2023	10	0	ND	3.00	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (ppm)	2022	2	2	0.06	0.13	No	Discharge from drilling wastes; erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium (ppb)	2022	100	100	1.00	2.00	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (ppm)	2024	10	10	ND	5.38	No	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
	(Running Annual Average = 3.42)						
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	2024	<5%	0%	ND	ND	No	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Radionuclides							
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)	2022	15	N/A	ND	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 226 and 228 Combined (pCi/l)	2022	5	N/A	ND	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium (ppb)	2022	30	0	1.29	1.57	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	2024	5	0	ND	.55	No	Discharge from factories & dry cleaners.
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	2024	5	0	ND	.63	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
Lead & Copper Sampling at Residential Water Taps							
Lead (ppb)	2022	AL = 15	0			No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
90% for lead = 2.0 ppb AND number of sites above the AL = 0							
Copper (ppm)	2022	AL = 1.3	1.3			No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
90% for copper = 0.414 ppm AND number of sites above the AL = 0							
Disinfection By Products							
TTHM's - Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2024	80	N/A	4.97	20.6	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
(Running Annual Average = 12.4)							
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2024	60	N/A	1.54	9.22	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
(Running Annual Average = 3.79)							
Maximum Residual Disinfection Level							
Chlorine (ppm)	2024	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	0.11	1.7	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
	(Annual Average = 0.369)						
Unregulated Contaminants (UCMR5)							
Lithium (ppb)	2024	-	-	34.1	42.3	No	Geological deposits, landfill leachate, and mining activity.
PFAS	2024	-	-	ND	ND	No	Runoff from fire response, industrial, and waste disposal sites.

Terms & Abbreviations

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

Maximum Contamination 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.

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

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contamination.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no know or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

ND: Not detected in the water at the testing limits.

Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/l): Indicates the amount of a contaminant found in a billion parts of water.

Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l): Indicates the amount of a contaminant found in a million parts of water. This is equivalent to finding one penny in \$10,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/l): A measure of radioactivity

How is the City of Pocatello Protecting the Public’s Health from Lead?

The City of Pocatello ensures the quality of your drinking water through proper operation and regular testing for lead or other contaminants. Testing for lead is performed at several representative households throughout the water distribution system that were built prior to the adoption of Idaho’s lead ban and have copper pipes with lead solder. Historical sample results have proven that Pocatello’s water is not corrosive and has a reduced risk for lead to leach from household plumbing components.

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 Pocatello 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 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Reducing Your Exposure to Lead

Actions	Purpose
Learn if you have a lead service line	Contact your water utility or a licensed plumber to determine if the pipe (water service) that connects your home to the water main is made from lead
Have your water tested	Contact a local licensed laboratory to have your water tested. IAS Envirochem in Pocatello, Idaho will accept samples from the public. You will need to contact them for instructions and pricing
Clean faucet screens or aerators	Regularly remove and clean your faucet’s screen to reduce any sediment, debris, or particle matter that may become trapped and contain lead.
Use cold water and do not boil water to remove lead	Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Boiling water will not reduce lead and may actually increase content
Use a water filter properly	If you use a water filter, make sure you use a filter certified to remove lead and replace regularly. Using a cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Also, do not run hot water through a filter.
Identify and replace old plumbing fixtures that may contain lead	Old brass faucets, fittings, and fixtures have a higher risk of contributing lead content to drinking water. The current law allows “lead free” fixtures and any wetted surfaces to contain a maximum weighted average of 0.25% lead.

What’s Happening...

- Barton Booster Station & Transmission Line
- Mountain View Cemetery Water Line Replacement
- High Country Tank Replacement
- Fire Hydrant Flushing
- Mainline Replacement
 - Tanager Drive, Oriole Ave, Heron Ave
 - South Arthur - Whitman to Terry
 - South Grant - Fore to Halliday
 - Johnson Ave, Halliday St, Hayes Ave, Carter St
 - Howard Ave - Alameda Rd to Eldredge Rd
 - Gray Ave - Alameda Rd to Eldredge Rd

Did you know...

The City of Pocatello performs an entire system flush once a year. This helps improve water quality by removing sediment from distribution pipes, ensures proper operation of fire hydrants and valves, and confirms we have adequate water flow in case of fire emergencies.



Drinking Water Week May 4 - 10

The month of May marked another successful Water Week event held at the Water Operations Facility. As part of our program to educate the public, Water Week has become an annual event. Since the Pocatello Water Department held its first event in 1992, we have strived to continue our public education on water related issues. This year's annual event educated approximately 1,960 children and adults within the area. The program has won the American Water Works Association Pacific Northwest competition in "Water Education" and the 2008 Association of Idaho Cities - City Achievement Award.



In addition to third grade elementary students, the event welcomes Scout troops, families and individuals to attend. The youth of this community are seen as an instrument to educate their families and the public about the importance of our water resources. Developing this mentality at an early age allows our youth to be more cognitive about how we can preserve our water for future generations. Interactive displays demonstrate how the aquifer works, how pollutants can

damage the water supply and how the water supply system operates throughout the city neighborhoods. Water conservation is another highlight of the event with visual displays which persuade the youth to actively participate in learning how to use water wisely. In conjunction with the Water Department, the Water Pollution Control, Science & Environmental, and Sanitation Departments are also part of the ongoing education. Community efforts of reducing, recycling and reusing products, along with managing yard waste, will help save the landfill and protect the environment.



I spy these water items

There are so many water-related items we see every day. Can you spot the items at the bottom of the page in the picture? The numbers indicate how many times each item appears.



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For more information about this report or if you have questions relating to your drinking water, please visit our web site at www.pocatello.gov/water or contact us at:

The City of Pocatello Water Department
1889 N Arthur Avenue
P.O. Box 4169
Pocatello, ID 83205-4169
208-234-6174

Share This Information

Please provide this Water Quality Report to any person who receives water from you, such as tenants, residents and employees. This and chemical analysis reports are available on our website or through the Water Superintendent's Office by calling 208-234-6174.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber.
Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.