

City of Veneta

2009 Drinking Water Quality Report

The City of Veneta is pleased to provide you with this annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the year 2009. This report is provided to keep you informed of the City's ongoing commitment to provide you with high quality, safe, and dependable drinking water and related services. A Drinking Water Protection Plan, as well as a Water Conservation and Management Plan are available at the Veneta Administrative Center, 88184 Eighth Street. These documents provide more information about potential sources of contamination and the steps the City is taking to protect and conserve our drinking water.

The City's sole water source is from deep wells located within City limits. In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, the City of Veneta took several steps in 2009 towards ensuring delivery of the highest quality water to our City. Well #12 was completely developed and is currently providing high quality water to our system.

Water conservation is an important part of our master plan. Summertime use of water is double to triple that of winter. Practicing water conservation will reduce your water bill and reduces the need for additional wells which can be very costly to our water customers. See the enclosed insert for details on how you can help conserve water.

If you have any questions, or concerns regarding the information provided in this report, please call our administrative office at 541-935-2191. Those of us who work on the water system are on call around the clock to provide continual, top quality water to every tap. We ask that all of our customers help us to protect and conserve our water resources.

The City of Veneta is pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements. The City routinely monitors for contaminants in the drinking water according to State and Federal laws. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals, or radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the 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 1-800-426-4791.

The City completed all tests required by the state for 2009. Though we test for many things, the following table lists only the contaminants that were detected and the year in which they were tested for. For an explanation of the contaminants tested for and their effects on health, please contact the City. The following contaminants are commonly tested for in water:

Total Coliform: The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a strict limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. Veneta tests its water weekly for coliform bacteria to ensure the system is free of disease causing bacteria. The City's water tested positive for Total Coliform once in 2009. Our consumers were notified by mail and the situation was quickly resolved.

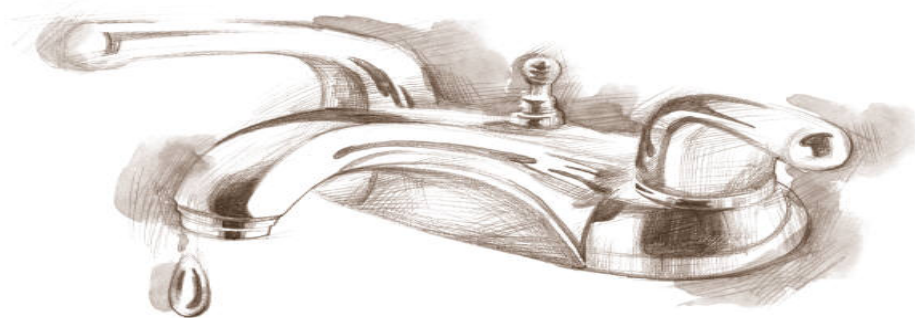
Nitrates: Nitrates in water can come from natural, industrial, or agricultural sources (including septic systems and run-off). Nitrates in drinking water are a serious health concern for infants. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. As a precaution we will notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply. The City is required to test annually for the presence of nitrates. Nitrates were not detected.

Lead: Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The City is required to test for lead in homes every three years. These tests (along with copper) were last taken from selected homes during the summer of 2008. The levels of lead and copper detected were well below State mandated action levels.

Hardness: Hardness in water is the most common water quality problem reported by U.S. consumers. Hard water occurs when excess minerals in the water create certain nuisance problems. While these water problems can be frustrating, water hardness is not a safety issue. Hard water is safe for drinking, cooking, and other household uses. Water Hardness is generally measured in Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) or Grains per Gallon. Water tested within the City of Veneta's water distribution system had results of 60 mg/L or about 4 grains per gallon of Hardness. Water is considered "Hard" if it tests at 120mg/L (7.0 grains per gallon) or higher.

The US Environmental Protection Agency has established levels at which a contaminant may pose a risk and the requirements a community water supply must meet if the level is exceeded. The following table shows a comparison of our detected test results to the regulated EPA levels.

Note: Water tests are done in conformance with compliance cycles determined by State and Federal regulations. Cycles range from one year to nine years. The table below reflects when the last test was conducted for that specific contaminant. The City of Veneta is current with all required testing.



CITY OF VENETA TEST RESULTS

Substance (year tested)	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead and Copper						
Copper (2008)	No	.37	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (2008)	No	.01	ppm	0	AL=.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Compounds						
Tetrachloro- ethene	No	0.00126	Mg/L	0	0.005	Discharge from factories or dry cleaners
Disinfection By-Products						
Trihalo- methanes (08)	No	0.00607	ppm	0	0.080	Byproducts from Chlorine Disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (08)	No	Not detected	ppm	0	0.060	Byproducts from Chlorine Disinfection

Definitions:

ppm - Parts per million; example: 1 gallon of substance in 1 million gallons of water = 1 ppm.

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

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level: The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is 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- The “Goal”(MCLG) is 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.

pCi/L – Picocuries per liter: picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

ug/L – Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water.

It is important to understand that none of these contaminants were found in Veneta’s water in sufficient quantity that could cause health related problems. 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. For a complete list of contaminants tested, contact the City at 541-935-2191.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as cancer patients 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 guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Kyle Schauer, Public Works Superintendent at 541-935-2191. If you want to learn more about policy decisions or make public comments, please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings. They are held at 7:00 p.m. on every second and fourth Monday of the month at the Veneta Administrative Center. Agendas are posted outside City Hall the Friday before each City Council meeting and can be viewed on the City’s website (www.ci.veneta.or.us).