

2020 Water Quality Data Table

The water quality information presented in the tables is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown were collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the tables. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.

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 feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

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

ppm: Parts per million, or milligrams per liter

ppb: Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter

Variance and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL, an action level, or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

SRL: State Reporting Level: the minimum reporting level established by the Washington State Department of Health.

| Inorganic Contaminants | MCLG | MCL | Your Water | SRL | Sample Year | Violation | Typical Source |
|--------------------------------------|------|-----|------------|-----|-------------|-----------|---|
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) | 10 | 10 | <0.22 | 0.5 | 2020 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) | 1 | 1 | <0.05 | 0.1 | 2020 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Arsenic (ppb) | 0 | 10 | 0.1 | 1.4 | 2017 | No | Erosion of natural deposits, Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production waste |
| Antimony (ppb) | 6 | 6 | 0.21 | 3 | 2017 | No | Discharge from petroleum refineries; Fire retardants; Ceramics; Electronics; Solder |
| Barium (ppm) | 2 | 2 | .001 | 0.1 | 2017 | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Beryllium (ppb) | 4 | 4 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 2017 | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Cadmium (ppb) | 5 | 5 | 0.1 | 1 | 2017 | No | Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; Runoff from waste batteries and paints |
| Chromium (ppb) | 100 | 100 | 0.1 | 7 | 2017 | No | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Cyanide [as free Cn] (ppb) | 200 | 200 | <10 | 10 | 2017 | No | Discharge from plastic, fertilizer, and steel steel/metal factories |
| Mercury (ppb) | 2 | 2 | <0.2 | 0.2 | 2017 | No | Erosion and natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills and cropland |
| Selenium (ppb) | 50 | 50 | <0.5 | 2 | 2017 | No | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries and mines; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Thallium (ppb) | 0.5 | 2 | 0.1 | 1 | 2017 | No | Discharge from electronics, glass; Leaching from ore-processing sites; Drug factories |
| Fluoride (ppm)* | 4 | 4 | 0.27 | 0.5 | 2017 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |

*Neither the City of Bingen nor the City of White Salmon adds fluoride to its water.

| Inorganic Contaminants | MCLG | AL | Your Water (sample range) | SRL | # of Samples >AL | Sample Year | Exceeds AL | Typical Source |
|------------------------|------|-------|---------------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|------------|--|
| Copper (ppm) | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.00215 - 0.0552 | 0.02 | 0 | 2020 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, Erosion of natural deposits |
| Lead (ppm) | 0 | 0.015 | <0.0001 - 0.000520 | 0.00 1 | 0 | 2020 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, Erosion of natural deposits |

| Disinfectant Contaminants | MCLG | MCL | Your Water | SRL | Sample Year | Violation | Typical Source |
|------------------------------------|------|-----|------------|-----|-------------|-----------|---|
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb) | NA | 60 | 8.78 | 15 | 2020 | No | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb) | NA | 80 | 11.88 | 0.5 | 2020 | No | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

| Radioactive Contaminants | MCLG | MCL | Your Water | Sample Year | Violation | Typical Source |
|--------------------------|------|-----|--------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Combined Radium (pCi/L) | 0 | 5 | Not Detected | 2017 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |

| Volatile Organic Contaminants | MCLG | MCL | Your Water | SRL | Sample Year | Violation | Typical Source |
|-------------------------------|------|-----|------------|-----|-------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Naphthalene (ppb) | NA | NA | 16.40 | 0.5 | 2020 | No | By-product of industrial activities |

The following contaminants were tested for but not detected:

Vinyl Chloride, Dichloroethylene, Trichloroethane, Carbon Tetrachloride, Benzene, Dichloroethane, Trichloroethylene, Dichlorobenzene, Dichloromethane, Dichloropropane, Toluene, Trichloroethylene, Chlorobenzene, Ethylbenzene, Styrene, Trichlorobenzene, Total Xylenes, Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, Chlorodibromomethane, Bromoform, Total Trihalomethanes, Chloromethane, Bromomethane, Tetrachloroethane, Bromobenzene, Trichloropropane, Chlorotoluene, Fluorotrichloromethane, Bromochloromethane, Trimethylbenzene, Butylbenzene, and Dichlorodifluoromethane

Additional Information for Arsenic and Lead

Your drinking water currently meets EPA’s revised drinking water standards for arsenic. However, it does contain low levels of arsenic. There is a small chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic for many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer, or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory diseases are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. EPA’s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water.

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 Bingen is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Microbial Contaminants

Your drinking water is tested regularly for the presence of coliform bacteria including fecal coliform and E.coli. All tests were negative.

Hydrogen Sulfide in Water

The City of Bingen’s water contains hydrogen sulfide which can have a sulfur smell. Hydrogen sulfide is formed by sulfur bacteria that may occur naturally in water. These sulfur bacteria do not cause disease, but their presence can cause a noticeable taste or odor. Filling a pitcher of water and letting it set for a period of time helps dissipate the taste and/or odor. The water produced by the three Bingen wells is safe to drink.

Hydraulic Connection

One of the city’s source wells is in hydraulic connection with surface water, the source is not considered to be directly influenced by surface water.

City of White Salmon Results

The City of White Salmon monitors its treated water using laboratories certified by the Washington Department of Health. Copies of the full City of White Salmon Water Quality Report for the Year 2020 are available at Bingen City Hall and on the City of Bingen’s web site <http://www.bingenwashington.org>