



2026 Annual Drinking Water Report

The City of Athol is pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Where does my water come from?

The City of Athol currently has three deep wells throughout our city. They pump clean, high-quality water directly from the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, our region's most precious groundwater resource: <https://www.spokaneaquifer.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023-SVRP-Aquifer-Atlas.pdf> Our wells are located on Bennett Avenue, Grove Avenue, and Howard Road. Well components are computer controlled and automatically alternate usage to equally spread water delivery amongst all well apparatus filling our 250,000-gallon elevated tank on the corner of Menser and 5th Street and a 300,000-gallon standpipe reservoir at the Mountainview Cemetery. Backup generators ensure a constant supply of drinking water during power outages. These three wells are protected by security fencing and are monitored using video camera equipment.

Source water assessment and its availability

The City of Athol works with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to create a Source Water Protection Plan, and the city has been awarded with state certification for the plan. We work closely with DEQ and Panhandle Health District to protect drinking water sources, monitor for contaminants, inspect water systems, and review system engineering. DEQ's Drinking Water Bureau protects public health by ensuring drinking water from public water systems is safe and reliable. Further information can be attained by navigating throughout their website: <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/drinking-water/>

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amounts of 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that 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.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people are more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline 800-426-4791.

How can I get involved?

Athol City Council meetings are open to the public and held at 6 PM the first and third Tuesdays of each month. On a limited basis, citizens being served by our water system may tour our water facilities to see how we obtain, store, and protect the city's drinking water. Contact the public works department using the information located at bottom of this report.

Cross Connection Control Survey

A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. The purpose of this type of survey type is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and ensuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the topic, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it to protect our drinking city's drinking water supply.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (*water heaters not included*)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (*whirlpool tubs not included*)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. Please browse this link for additional tips <https://panhandlehealthdistrict.org/licensing-and-permitting/water-protection/> but you can directly help protect your community's drinking water source in several important ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.

- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.

Additional Information for Lead

The City of Athol has completed an annual review of our service line inventory in accordance with improvements enacted by the EPA in October of 2025. Learn more at this EPA website <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-and-copper-rule-improvements>. Our revised inventory is available for public review by contacting Public Works at 208-683-1130. The City of Athol's inventory of service lines does not include any lead lines. Our system used different approaches to evaluate that all our service lines are non-lead, and we used a combination of evidence-based records, methods, and techniques to make this determination. Our sources of information included previous materials evaluation, construction and plumbing codes and records, engineering plans, water system records, distribution system inspections and records, and statements by 3 previous water operators of our city water system going back over 30 years.

A critical note to add is that lead can cause serious health problems, ***especially for pregnant women and young children***. The City of Athol is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components inside of your home. Lead in drinking water primarily comes from materials and components associated with service lines but also leaches into your tap water from inexpensive or "knockoff" faucets sold online as they often contain brass components with high lead levels not compliant with U.S. regulations. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing & fixtures. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and reducing your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact City of Athol (Public Water system Id: ID1280006) by calling 208-683-1130 or emailing publicworks@cityofathol.us. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Water Quality Data Table

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have

nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the 2025 calendar year. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (ppb)	00	10 ppb	2 ppb	2 ppb	3 ppb	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10 ppm	10 ppm	1.34 ppm	0.177 ppm	1.34 ppm	2025	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm) <i>Note: none is added to your water</i>	4 ppm	4 ppm	0.098 ppm	N/A	0.098 ppm	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Chlorine	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	2025	No	Not detected or added into our city water system
Radioactive Contaminants								
Combined Uranium (µg/L)	00	30 µg/L	1.97 µg/L	N/A	1.97 µg/L	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Metamorphic rocks, volcanic rocks, placer deposits, and lakebed deposits

Violations and Exceedances
None

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

Unit Descriptions	
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	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	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level
90th Percentile	Compliance with the lead and copper action levels is based on the 90th percentile lead and copper levels. This means that the concentration of lead and copper must be less than or equal to the action level in at least 90% of the samples collected.

For more information please contact:

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