

# TOWN OF GARFIELD

## 2009 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have provided to you over the past year. Our goal is, and always has been, to provide you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

This report is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

Our water sources are from the two municipal wells sunk about 300 feet into an underground source of water called The Grande Rhonde Aquifer. The town owns the land around these wells and restricts any activity that could contaminate them. After the water comes out of the wells, we add disinfectant to protect you against microbial contaminants.

We have a source water protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as sources of contamination.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water quality, please contact David Ulrick at 635 -1604 or email us at [garfield-town@completebbs.com](mailto:garfield-town@completebbs.com). We want our customers to be informed about their water quality. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled council meetings. They are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in Town Hall.

### WATER QUALITY DATA

The Town of Garfield routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring drinking water contaminants for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because of the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

<b>TEST RESULTS</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Town Results</b>	<b># of sites above AL</b>	<b>Sample Date Number Taken</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
<b><u>Inorganic Contaminants</u></b>						
Iron (mg/L) - Secondary Maximum Contaminant (Aesthetic Qualities)	.3	MCL2: .3	.542	One	8/09 1	
Nitrate-N (ppm)	10	10	ND	None	8/09 2	Fertilizer run off, leaching septic tanks, natural deposit erosion
Lead (ppm)	.015	0	.006	One	7/08 10	Household plumbing system corrosion
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.0526	None	7/08 10	Household plumbing system corrosion & natural deposit erosion
<b><u>Synthetic Organic Contaminants</u></b>						
Total HAA(5) (Haloacetic Acids) (ppb)		n/a	ND	None	8/08 1	Drinking water Disinfection by-product
Total Trihalomethane (ppb)		n/a	ND	None	8/08 1	Drinking water Disinfection by-product
<b><u>Volatile Organic Contaminants</u></b>						
			ND	None	3/08 1	
<b><u>Radioactive Contaminants</u></b>						
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	15	1.03	None	12/09 2	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	5	5	ND	None	12/09 2	Erosion of natural deposits

**TOWN OF GARFIELD  
PO BOX 218  
GARFIELD WA 99130-0218**

**POSTAL PATRON  
GARFIELD WA 99130**

## **DEFINITIONS / ABBREVIATIONS**

In the following table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with so to help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

- \* Non-Detects (ND) – laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.
- \* Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- \* Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- \* Action Level (AL) – the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water systems must follow.
- \* Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – the ‘Maximum Allowed’ 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.
- \* Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) – 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.
- \* N/A - not applicable.
- \* pCi/L - picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation).

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

## **CONTAMINANTS / SOURCES**

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 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 (800-426-4791).

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 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).

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, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

In order to ensure the tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides & herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture & residential uses.
- Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile chemicals, which are by-products of industrial and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

We, the Town of Garfield Water System, I.D. 27200R, located in Whitman County are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During August of 2008 we tested for Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids with no detectible contaminants. For more information, contact David Ulrick at 635-1604 or [garfield-town@completebbs.com](mailto:garfield-town@completebbs.com). Web: <http://www.garfieldwa.com>

### **Outdoor Water Conservation Tips**

- Sweep sidewalks and driveways rather than spraying them clean with water.
  - Check and fix leaky hoses and faucets. To find out just how much water is being wasted visit the [WaterWiser Drip Calculator page](http://www.awwa.org/awwa/waterwiser/dripcalc.cfm). <http://www.awwa.org/awwa/waterwiser/dripcalc.cfm>
  - Don't run the hose when washing the car. Instead try using a bucket of soapy water. Use the hose only to rinse.
  - Cover pools and hot tubs when not in use to prevent evaporation.
  - Drain outside spigots to prevent freezing in the winter.
- For more information on outdoor irrigation please visit [www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org).

### **Indoor Water Conservation Tips**

- Know where the water shutoff valves are in case an accident happens. Whether leaking pipes or the water heater it helps to know where the shutoff valves are located.
- Insulate water pipes. By insulating pipes you will reduce the amount of water and time it takes for the hot water to reach the faucet.
- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator. This will reduce the amount of water generally wasted when waiting for the cold water to reach the faucet. It will also improve the taste by allowing chlorine and sulfur smelling molecules to evaporate.
- Check and fix leaky faucets. A dripping faucet can waste 15 gals of water per day. Faucets are easy to fix. Visit [www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org).