# **2022 Water Quality Report**

Water Sampling Data Results From 2021

PWS# ID6030043



# WHAT'S INSIDE:

2021 Water Quality Sampling Results Where Your Water Comes From What's In Your Water Conserving Water Be Water Smart Kids Word Find



# **CITY OF POCATELLO**

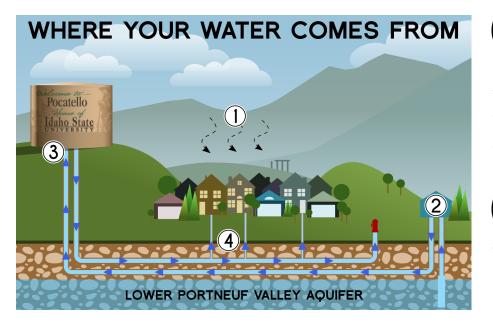
WATER DEPARTMENT

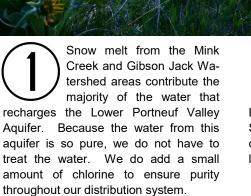


#### The City of Pocatello is committed to safe drinking water

Drinking water is our most precious resource and we are committed to provide a safe and adequate supply of water for our residential, commercial and industrial customers at the lowest practical cost, which is a bargain at two cents for ten gallons considering all that water provides—public health protection, fire protection, support for the economy, and quality of life.

Our customers play a significant role in maintaining the highest quality drinking water for the entire community and we appreciate the time you take to read this report, recognize your role and promote responsible action by everyone in the watershed.





A combined storage capacity of approximately 23 million gallons.

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

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

# Health Effects

#### **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

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline.

#### Lead Health Effects And Ways To Reduce Exposure

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 guality 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 drinking 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

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



# 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.

POTENTIAL CONTAMINANTS							
Contaminant	Туре	Sources					
Microbiological	Viruses & Bacteria	Sewage treatment plants, septic waste, agri- cultural, and livestock runoff					
Inorganic Chemical		Naturally-occurring; urban stormwater 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					
		Byproducts of industrial processes and petro- leum production, gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems					
Radioactive	Natural & Man Made Deposits	Mining, gas, and oil production, naturally oc- curring					

#### **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.

			2021	Sampl	ing Res	ults	
Substance	Year Sampled	EPA's Standards		Pocatello's Results		Violation	Possible Sources
		MCL	MCLG	Minimum	Maximum	VIOlation	rossible sources
			li	norganic Co	ontaminants	S	
Arsenic (ppb)	2019	10	0	1.00	2.00	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Baruim (ppm)	2019	2	2	0.08	0.18	No	Discharge from drilling wastes; erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium (ppb)	2019	100	100	ND	8.00	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
	2021	10	10	Well #2		Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural
				5.7	11.69* Yes		
Nitrate (ppm)				Other City Wells			
				1.69	6.48	No	deposits.
	(Running A	nnual Ave	rage = 4.15)			<u> </u>	
Selenium (ppb)	2019	50	50	ND	5.00	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
				Radion	uclides		
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)	2019	15	N/A	ND	1.67	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 226 and 228 Combined (pCi/l)	2019	5	N/A	0.31	3.74	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium (ppb)	2019	30	0	1.51	3.07	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
			Vola	tile Organi	c Contamina	ants	
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	2021	5	0	ND	0.58	No	Discharge from factories & dry cleaners.
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	2021	5	0	ND	0.51	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
					at Resident	ial Water T	
Lead (ppb)2019AL = 15090. percentile for lead = 5.0 ppb AND number of sites above the AL = 0						No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm) $2019$ $AL = 1.3$ $1.3$ $90_{\circ}$ percentile for copper = 0.435 ppm AND number of sites above the AL = 0						No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
			D	isinfection	By Product	S	
TTHM's [Total	2021	80	N/A	1.45	16.00		
Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	(Running Annual Average = 9.0 ppb)					No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2021	60	N/A	1.15	3.61	No	By product of dripking water disinfection
	(Running /	Annual Ave	erage = 2.55	ppb)	UVI	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	
			Maximu	m Residual	Disinfectio	n Level	·
Chlorine (ppm)	2021	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	0.04	0.79	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
	(Annual av	orado - 0	201)				
		eraye – 0.	231)			I	

### 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 ( $\mu$ g/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.

## Water Testing

The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires water agencies to meet health-based water quality standards. Last year the City of Pocatello Water Department conducted nearly 1,500 tests for more than 100 different constituents in your drinking water, in accordance with Federal and State regulations.

Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the water quality data table is from testing performed in 2021. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Only those substances on the EPA's primary (regulated) contaminant list that are detected in the drinking water are listed on the table.

\*Single Sample MCL Violation - Upon sampling results at Well #2 of 11.69 mg/L on October 14, 2021, the City inactivated the well and it no longer provides water to the distribution system. Drinking water provided to residents within the distribution system is a mixture of water from various sources. After notification of the results, nitrate levels from this mixture and adjacent to the source were sampled at 5.04 mg/L, which is within drinking water standards. A public notification was immediately issued.

**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.

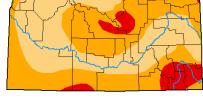
#### **Every Drop Counts**

It has been claimed that Idaho's name was derived from a Native American word that means "the land of many waters." While this claim is false, the 93,000 miles of streams and rivers that snake through our state and the 2,000 lakes that dot its magical landscape provide some justification for this myth. And that's just on the surface, Idaho is also home to multiple groundwater sources, known as aquifers. The majority of Idaho's drinking water is supplied from these aquifers, including right here in Pocatello where all of our drinking water is sourced from the Portneuf Aquifer.

So, although Idaho doesn't really mean "the land of many waters," we still have a lot of water, right? Well, sort of. You see, Idaho is also one of the driest states in the nation, which can be a problem for our many surface and ground water sources as they depend heavily on rain and snow melt. When the snow pack is low, as it has been this season, drought becomes a real concern. According to the National Drought Mitigation Center, Pocatello is currently facing moderate drought conditions.

Thankfully we as a community strive to be water wise and do our best to conserve water whenever possible.





Idaho Drought Monitor - June 7, 2022 droughtmonitor.unl.edu





- Adjust your sprinklers so they don't spray sidewalks and driveways.
- Set irrigation controllers to meet seasonal or daily watering needs. Turn off when rain or high winds are expected.
- Direct downspouts and other runoff towards shrubs and trees.
- Water only in the early morning or evening when it's cooler.
- Try xeriscaping less grass and more shrubs, wildflowers and rocks adds curb appeal and saves water (and money!).
- Get rid of weeds not only are they ugly, but they rob water from other plants.
- Use drip systems and soaker hoses in flower and vegetable gardens.
- Use drought-resistant, native trees and plants
- Mulch around plants and shrubs to retain soil moisture
- Use water-saving nozzles and sprinkler heads
- Monitor your water usage on your water bill and Water Smart Software





#### **Be Water Smart**

#### **Understanding Typical Water Use**

#### How much water does it take to:

Flush the toilet	6 gallons
with a water saving device	4 gallons
with an ultra-low flush toilet	0.8 gallons
Run the faucet without an aerator	5 gallons per minute
with a water saving aerator	2.5 gallons per minute
Take a shower	5 gallons per minute
Run the dishwasher	about 17 gallons per load
Run the washing machine	41-49 gallons per load
Run a garden hose	5 gallons per minute

# 24/7 Customer Self-Service View your water usage, check for leaks, and set up alerts



- Are you in control of your water spending?
- Are you saving more water than last year?
- Never miss a payment with auto-pay.
- Free bill forecast.

The City of Pocatello recently partnered with WaterSmart Software to offer our residents with a modern digital portal where you can access detailed information about your household water use. You can reach the portal on your mobile device or web browser at <u>https://pocatello.watersmart.com/</u>.



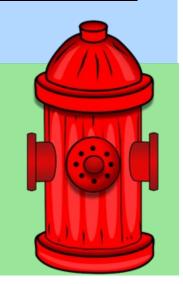
LOG ON Register to access your data GET NOTIFIED
Sign up for alerts

SAVE Money saving actions

# Word Find

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BATHTUB COLLECTION CONSERVATION DRINKING FAUCET HEALTH HYDRANT HYDRATION HYGIENE INFASTRUCTURE PIPE PLANT PROCESS QUALITY RELIABLE SHOWER TAP TREATMENT UTILITY WATER WEEK



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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 <u>www.pocatello.us/water</u> 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 aqua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.