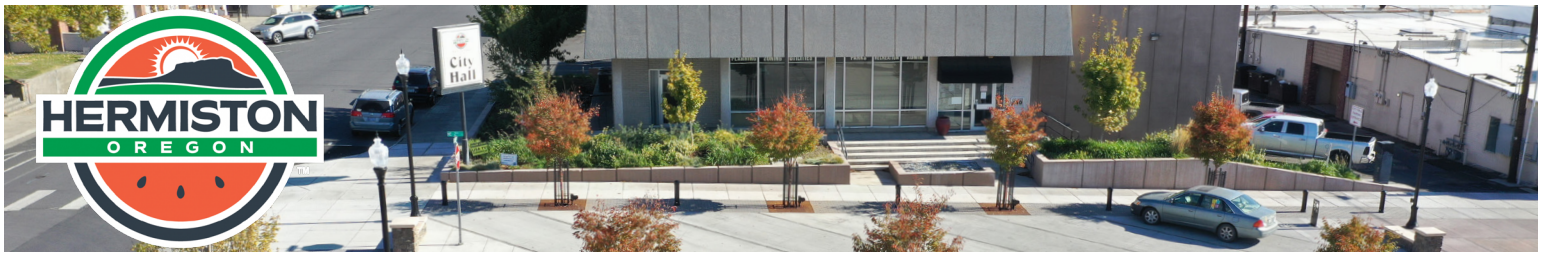

2025 City of Hermiston Drinking Water Quality Report

The City of Hermiston remains committed to delivering and maintaining the highest quality water while also providing the safest and best tasting water. This Drinking Water Quality Report describes our testing results for 2025 and provides information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding requirements for drinking water. This Drinking Water Quality Report, as part of our ongoing commitment to increase public communication, awareness, and transparency, is intended to help keep you informed of the testing and reporting that occurs with the City's water system. The data included in this report describe certain contaminants that are tested for in the City's water supply and the limits the EPA allows for those contaminants. If you have any questions after reading this report, please feel free to contact our office at 541-567-5521. You can also visit the Oregon Health Authority - Drinking Water Services website at https://yourwater.oregon.gov/inventory.php?pwsno=00372 to view all test results, information about our water sources, and other information about the water system.

Important Information About Water and Your Health

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised people, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, who have undergone organ transplants, who have HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and some elderly people and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers, such as their family doctor, to ensure that the tap water is safe for them to drink. The EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants. **For more information, call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.**

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 parts per million pose a health risk for infants under six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. It is recommended to ask for advice from your health care provider while caring for an infant. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods because of rainfall or agricultural activity. The City tests for nitrate yearly. The highest nitrate level found during 2025 was 7.11 mg/l.

An Important Message from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The sources of both tap 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 also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals and human activity.

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, can come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring. These can also result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

Pesticides and Herbicides can come from agricultural and residential uses and urban stormwater runoff.

Organic Chemical Contaminants are synthetic and volatile organic chemicals. These are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants are either naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Both tap and bottled water may 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 **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.**

Hermiston gets its water from several sources: three deep wells, one shallow well, and surface water. The City operates a water treatment plant where water from the surface water source is filtered and disinfected for domestic use. Chlorine is added to water from each source for disinfection to maintain system integrity. Our most recent test results are shown on the table on pages 3 and 4. The City is required to report only those substances present at detectable levels. The City is allowed to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year; therefore, some of the data can be more than one year old but within five years. Currently, the City is in good standing with the Oregon Health Authority.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 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 **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.**

Lead in Drinking Water... Are You at Risk?

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 Hermiston is responsible for providing high quality drinking water to your home but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. 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 to drink or cook with. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you can 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 https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water or www.leadline.org, or by contacting Edge Analytical, a drinking water testing laboratory, at 1-541-639-8425.

City of Hermiston Source Water Assessment

An assessment of our water system has been completed by the Oregon Department of Human Services to determine susceptibility to potential sources of contamination. A copy may be obtained by contacting the City at 541-567-5521.

City of Hermiston Water Sources

Deep Wells	
Well No. 2	Newport Park at the intersection of E. Newport Avenue and S.E. 5th Street
Well No. 4	Immediately east of Sunset Park by Public Works
Well No. 6	South side of E. Penny Avenue, between Kelli Boulevard and U.S. Highway 395
Shallow Well	
Well No. 5	East end of Theater Sports Park
Surface Water	
Lake Wallula	Port of Umatilla

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

In 2024 we conducted sampling to comply with EPA's 5th Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR), including lithium and PFAS in 2024. The UCMR provides the EPA with data on the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water. This national survey is one of the primary sources of information that the EPA uses to develop new regulations for contaminants in the public drinking water supply. With the exception of lithium and PFAS, no contaminants sampled were above the Minimum Reporting Level in our water. The detected lithium results are provided on the table below and PFAS results are provided in the last table of this report. More information on this rule can be found at https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule. The analytical results from the UCMR sampling can be found at https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/national-contaminant-occurrence-database-ncod.

Lithium Testing

Source	Units	MCLG	Average of Results (mg/l)	Detection Range (mg/l)	Did a Violation Occur?	Likely Source
Well No. 2	mg/L	N/A	32	32	N/A	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Well No. 4	mg/L	N/A	23.5	23 to 24	N/A	Erosion of Natural Deposits

2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 Results for Regulated and Unregulated Contaminants for City of Hermiston

Inorganic Compounds	Units	MCL	MCLG	Range/Result	Did a Violation Occur?	Likely Source
2020 - Fluoride	mg/L	4	0	0.37 to 1.49	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
2025 - Nitrate	mg/L	10	0	ND to 7.11	No	Runoff from Fertilizer Use; Leaching from Septic Tanks, Sewerage; Erosion of Natural Deposits
2024 - Lithium	mg/L	N/A	0	23 to 32	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
2024 - Arsenic	mg/L	0.01	0	ND to 0.0060	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Lead and Copper	**Units**	**AL**	**MCLG**	**90th Percentile**	**Did a Violation Occur?**	**Likely Source**
2023 - Lead	mg/L	0.0155	0	0.003	No	Naturally Occurring in the Environment
2023 - Copper	mg/L	1.3	0	0.285	No	Corrosion of Plumbing in Homes and Buildings
Radioactive Substances	**Units**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Range/Result**	**Did a Violation Occur?**	**Likely Source**
2022 - Radium	pCi/L	5	0	ND	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
2024 - Gross Alpha	pCi/L	15	0	ND to 4.8	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
2024 - Uranium	ug/L	0.03	0	ND to 0.0075	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Volatile Organic Compounds	**Units**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Range/Result**	**Did a Violation Occur?**	**Likely Source**
2025 - TTHM	mg/L	0.08	N/A	0.0173 to 0.0545	No	Byproduct of Drinking Water Disinfection
2025 - HAA5	mg/L	0.06	N/A	ND to 0.0329	No	Byproduct of Drinking Water Disinfection
Microbiological	**Units**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Positive Results**	**Did a Violation Occur?**	**Likely Source**
2025 - Total Coliform	Count	2	0	1	No	Naturally Occurring in the Environment
Physical	**Units**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Range/Result**	**Did a Violation Occur?**	**Likely Source**
2025 - Turbidity	NTU	TT	N/A	0.03 to 0.28	No	Soil Runoff
TOC	**Units**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Range/Result**	**Did a Violation Occur?**	**Likely Source**
2025 - TOC Raw	mg/L	TT	N/A	0.92 to 1.70	No	Naturally Present in the Environment
2025 - TOC Treated	mg/L	TT	N/A	0.82 to 1.34	No	Naturally Present in the Environment

2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 Results for Regulated and Unregulated Contaminants for City of Hermiston (*Continued*)

PFAS	Units	MCL	MCLG	Range/Result	Did a Violation Occur?	Likely Source
2024 - PFOS	ppt	4	0	ND to 7.8	N/A	Synthetically Made Chemical Compounds Used in Fabrics, Food Packaging, and Cosmetics
2024 - PFHxS	ppt	10	10	ND to 8.4	N/A	Synthetically Made Chemical Compounds Used in Fabrics, Food Packaging, and Cosmetics
2024 - Mixtures (PFBS, PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA)	H.I.	1	1	N/A	N/A	Synthetically Made Chemical Compounds Used in Fabrics, Food Packaging, and Cosmetics
2024 - PFHxA	ppt	N/A	N/A	ND to 3.9	N/A	Synthetically Made Chemical Compounds Used in Fabrics, Food Packaging, and Cosmetics
2024 - PFPeA	ppt	N/A	N/A	ND to 4.2	N/A	Synthetically Made Chemical Compounds Used in Fabrics, Food Packaging, and Cosmetics

90th Percentile Value: This means that 90 percent of the samples collected were equal to or below the value reported.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid (HFPO-DA): A short-chain PFAS used as an industrial replacement for perfluorooctanoic acid in making fluoropolymers.

Hazard Index (H.I.): A cumulative measure used in risk assessment to estimate the potential for non-cancer health effects from exposure to multiple chemicals.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant 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 level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow a margin of safety.

mg/L: Milligrams per Liter.

N/A: Not Applicable.

ND: Non-detect.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A scientific unit used to measure the cloudiness or turbidity of water caused by suspended particles.

Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L): A measure of radioactivity.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS): A large group of man-made "forever chemicals" known for being durable.

Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (PFBS): A synthetic "forever chemical" belonging to the PFAS family.

Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA): A 6-carbon short-chain perfluoroalkyl carboxylic acid that belongs to the PFAS chemical family.

Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (PFHxS): A synthetic, man-made "forever chemical" belonging to the PFAS family.

Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA): A synthetic "forever chemical" belonging to the PFAS family.

Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS): A synthetic "forever chemical" belonging to the PFAS family.

Perfluoropentanoic Acid (PFPeA): A short-chain PFAS.

Parts per Trillion (ppt): Number of parts of a chemical found in one trillion parts of a particular gas, liquid, or solid.

Result: The column that shows what level of contaminant was found in the drinking water.

Treatment Technique (TT): An enforceable, EPA-required process or procedure used to reduce contaminants in drinking water.

Total Organic Compound (TOC): A measure of all visible and invisible organic compounds dissolved in water.

ug/L: Micrograms per Liter.