

Annual Drinking Water Report Calendar Year 2025

City of Milton-Freewater, Oregon
Public Works Department

501 Lamb Street - PO Box 6 - Milton-Freewater, OR 97862



We are pleased to provide you with our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. It is important to us that we keep you informed about the excellent water quality and services we have provided to you over the past year. Our goal is and has always been to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source comes from a total of three (3) well fields, which consist of six (6) deep basalt wells.

OUR CITY DRINKING WATER IS SAFE & MEETS FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS.

As water travels over the land or underground, it can acquire substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

What We Do:

The City collects at least eight (8) drinking water samples per month from various pre-determined locations throughout town, as well as source water coliform/E.coli and nitrate samples from each well, and additional sampling that is required by our drinking water permit. There were no positive tests for coliform or E.coli.

This past year, we have invested in several capital projects. The largest investments in our infrastructure are listed as follows:

- Completed water meter upgrades, installing new cellular transmitter devices to all water meters. The total cost for this required upgrade was \$496,321, which was done over four years. There are 2,557 cellular endpoints in service currently transmitting usage information. The new cellular transmitters allow you to track your water usage from your cell phone or home through the EyeOnWater® application.
- *Continuation of Engineering for the middle reservoir replacement and new well #10, and acquisition of additional property to allow for the new, larger tank.*
- Implemented Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system upgrades, Phase C for our water and wastewater systems.

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Your Health Matters!

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's) are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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 also available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 Milton-Freewater is responsible for providing high quality 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 two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your 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 on the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline or website (www.epa.gov/safewater).

What We Do – continued

- Initiated the process of updating our Water System Master Plan document which will include system hydraulic modeling to identify areas of needed improvement for future flow.

These are only a few examples of what your infrastructure fees and water rates fund. Moving forward we strive to continue our focus on water conservation and leak detection in accordance to our Water Conservation and Management Plan. This plan focuses on how to reduce system loss, locating and replacing/repairing leaks, upgrading and testing meters for accuracy and installing flow meters at our wells to accurately measure the amount pumped and sold to customers. We also know that water levels are dropping in our aquifers. Conservation measures help protect those levels. The new cellular water meter transmitter devices also allow you, as the consumer, to monitor your water usage from your cellphone or computer. You can download the EyeOnWater® application on your phone or computer and set alerts for leak detection and high usage. These new transmitters allow for you to have full control over how much water your household uses each month. We have provided conservation tips and the EyeOnWater® application information on the last page of this report.

The City of Milton-Freewater routinely monitors your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table below shows the results of our monitoring samples for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

What's in YOUR City water?

JANUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025
TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Measurement Unit	MCLG	MCL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Inorganic Contaminants						
Fluoride	N	0.240	ppm	4.0	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive, which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	0.000 ND	ppm	10.0	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	N	0.023	ppb	2.0	2.0	Erosion of natural deposits and mining.

Test Result Summary

As you can see by the table above, our water system did not have any violations this past year. We are proud to provide drinking water that meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and sampling that some constituents have been detected. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that OUR CITY WATER IS SAFE at these levels.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or you can visit their website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/>.

Abbreviations, Definitions and Notes:

ppb – Parts Per Billion or Micrograms Per Liter – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

TT – Treatment Technique – A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The “Goal” (MCLG) is 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.

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

MCL-Maximum Contaminant Level – The “Maximum Allowed” is 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.



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Department

501 Lamb St / PO Box 6
Milton-Freewater, OR
97862

PH: 541-938-8270,
8274, 8276

F: 541-938-8289
www.mfcity.com

2024 Lead and Copper –Requirement Completed

Inorganic Contaminant Subject to AL	Action Level	MCLG	Your Water ¹	Range of Results	Number of Samples Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead Year Sampled: 2022	15	0	0	0-2.0	0	Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper Year Sampled: 2022	1.3	1.3	.066	0-0.088	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

¹ Ninety (90) percent of the samples collected were at or below the level reported for our water.

The City of Milton-Freewater completed its lead service line inventory in 2024. This fulfilled the requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). This inventory was conducted using the statistical method outlined by OHA, and no lead service lines (LSLs), galvanized requiring replacement (GRRs), or lead status unknown services were found. We remain committed to safeguarding public health and maintaining safe drinking water for all residents. For more information on the Lead and Copper Rules, including the statistical methods used by the City, please visit the OHA’s LCRR website: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/RULES/Pages/LCRR.aspx> A summary of service line inventories can be found on OHA’s website at: <https://yourwater.oregon.gov/servicelines.php>

Information about lead: 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 Milton-Freewater is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce 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, contact the City of Milton-Freewater Public Works Department by phone at 541-938-8270 or 8274. 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>

The City of Milton-Freewater works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children’s future.

Este informe está disponible en español en el sitio web de la ciudad en www.mfcity.com en departamentos, agua.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact us. We want you, our valued customer, to be informed about the quality of your water utility.



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Action Level (AL)– The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The “Goal” (MCLG) is 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.

2024 LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

Number of Lead Service Lines
0
Number of Service Lines of Unknown Material
0
Total Number of Service Lines
2,443



EyeOnWater®

**SCAN & DOWNLOAD THE
EyeOnWater APP TO
VIEW YOUR LATEST WATER
USAGE.**

**UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH WATER YOU USE,
DETECT LEAKS AND DISCOVER TRENDS FOR
WHEN YOU USE THE MOST WATER**



DON'T FORGET

IRRIGATION SYSTEM BACKFLOW DEVICES ARE **REQUIRED** TO BE TESTED EVERY 12 MONTHS
BY AN OREGON STATE CERTIFIED BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY TESTER.

Reports are required to be submitted every 12 months to the City of Milton-Freewater.

For a current list of certified Backflow Assembly Testers visit:
<https://yourwater.oregon.gov/backflow.php>

More information is available on our website at <https://www.mfcity.com/publicworks/page/cross-connection-backflow-info>

Contact City of Milton-Freewater Public Works at 541-938-8270, 8274 or 8276 for more information.

The installation and annual testing of backflow preventers on customer systems is required by OAR 333-061-0070 and by City of Milton-Freewater Municipal Code 5-15 1, 4.



Lawn Irrigation Systems

Industrial/Commercial Systems

Swimming Pools

Medical Systems

Fire Sprinkler Systems

Heating/Cooling Systems

SAVE WATER, SECURE OUR FUTURE



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS FOR HOMES & BUSINESSES

WHY CONSERVE WATER?

Conserving water helps ensure a reliable water supply; protects the environment, and reduces your monthly utility bills. Every drop counts - join us in making water-wise choices!



FOR HOMES



Shorten Showers

Aim for 5 minutes or less, saving up to 10 gallons per shower.



Upgrade Toilets

Replace older toilets with WaterSense labeled models to save up to 13,000 gallons/year per household.



Fix Leaks

A dripping faucet can waste 3,000+ gallons annually. Download the "Eye on Water" app on your phone to monitor your water use and to be notified of water leaks.



Full Loads Only

Run dishwashers and laundry machines only when full.



Outdoor Tips:

Water lawns early in the morning, late at evening, or at night to reduce evaporation. You can also install a smart, weather-based irrigation controller or use drip irrigation



Choose Native Plants

They require less water and maintenance and still provide color and beauty.



FOR BUSINESSES



Install Low Flow Fixtures

Retrofit restrooms with low-flow faucets, toilets and urinals.



Use Water-Efficient Equipment

Opt for ENERGY STAR appliances in kitchens and laundries.



Monitor Water use

Conduct regular water audits to identify leaks and inefficiencies. Download the "Eye on Water" app on your phone to monitor your water use and to be notified of water leaks.



Employee Awareness

Educate staff on daily conservation practices and to report water leaks

DOWNLOAD THE "EYE ON WATER" APP



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

