City of Baker City

Inside:

OREGON DRINKING WATER SERVICES

Baker City works hard to keep drinking water safe for its citizens.

Access to safe drinking water is essential to human health. The Oregon Health Authority requires all cities within Oregon provide an annual Water Quality Report for its citizens.

DOES YOUR HOME HAVE A LAWN AND GARDEN IRRIGATION SYSTEM?

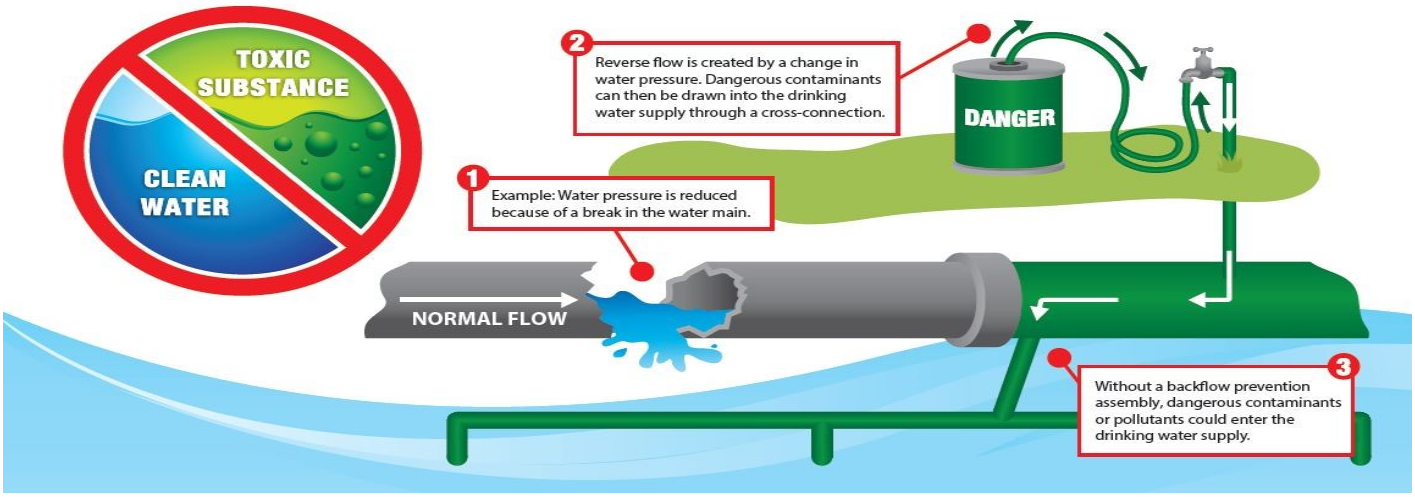
If you have a water backflow prevention device(s) installed at a location with water from the City of Baker City, it must be tested annually, as required by *State of Oregon Health Division Rules Chapter 333-061-0070, subsection 1 through 12,* and submit those results to the City of Baker City.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) provides a current public list of certified Backflow Assembly Testers. You can use the list to select and contact a tester that is currently certified, has indicated availability, and has appropriate licensing to test assemblies for compensation. Only Oregon OHA—certified testers can test assemblies in Oregon. The site is: https://yourwater.oregon.gov/backflow.php?county=Baker. Please be sure to ask if they can also repair your device if need be, you may have to contact a certified tradesperson to do this for you.

Upon completion of the backflow test, the tester will need to forward a copy of the test results to the Baker City Water Department, PO Box 650, Baker City, OR 97814.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Craig Dolby, Cross Connection Specialist, at 541-524-2017 or the Public Works Office, 541-524-2047.
You may also visit: http://bakercity.com/2227/Water.

Please be advised some properties may have a non-testable AVB (Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker) device. If you have such a device, it will need to be inspected and reported in the same manner as stated above.



FAQs

WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Backflow is the undesired reversal of the flow of liquids such as irrigation water into the drinking water system. The two forms of backflow are:

- Back-siphon: The action of flow reversal caused by a reduction in line pressure
- Back-pressure: The increase of water pressure caused by elevation or mechanical pumping

The installation of a backflow preventer will protect drinking water systems from possible contamination from irrigation systems.

WHY DO I NEED BACKFLOW PROTECTION?

Irrigation systems are considered non-potable water systems. Backflow protection stops animal waste, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides from entering your drinking water system.

HOW CAN IRRIGATION WATER ENTER MY DRINKING WATER SYSTEM?

The most common way contaminated water enters a drinking water system is by back-siphonage. This can occur when water pressure is reduced during times of high volume use; that is, a shower, clothes washer and dishwasher all operating at the same time.

HOW DOES BACKFLOW PROTECTION STOP CONTAMINATION?

A properly installed and maintained backflow preventer will allow water to flow in only one direction.

What Is In Our Water?

Contaminants that may be found in the water include inorganic compounds. These are naturally occurring contaminants (salts and metals) as a result of storm runoff, mining, and farming. In order to insure the water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulation which limit the amount of certain contaminants.

Lead and Copper sample results for 2022

Substance	Analysis	Action Level	Number of samples	Contaminate Source	
Copper	0.3200 Mg/L @ the 90th Percentile Value	1.3 Mg/L	0	Corrosion of household plumbing.	
Lead	0.0150 Mg/L @ the 90th Percentile Value	15 Mg/L	0	Corrosion of household plumbing.	

Note: 20 lead and copper samples are collected every 3 years from selected homes throughout the City. Samples were collected in August 2020. Next sample date is July 2023.

2022 Sample analysis results

Substance	Analysis	MCL	MCLG	Number of samples exceeding	Contaminate Source
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	All but one sample had 20 or fewer bacterial colonies per 100 milliliters.	20	0	1	Naturally present in the environment
Total Coliform Bacteria	ND	Fewer than 40 samples/month= 1	0	0	Naturally present in the environment
Nitrate	<0.60	10 PPM	10 PPM	0	Fertilizer runoff, septic tank leaching, sewage leakage, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite	<0.40	1 PPM	1 PPM	0	Fertilizer use runoff, septic tank leaching, sewage leakage, erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Residuals					
Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	0.0221 PPM Avg.	0.080 PPM	NA	0	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Halocacetic Acids (HAA)	0.0245 PPM Avg.	0.060 PPM	NA	0	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Definitions:

PPM= Parts Per Million
Mg/L= Milligrams/Liter

[1] MCL= Maximum Contaminant Level (the highest level of contaminant allowed in drinking water)

[2] MCLG= Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (the level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk)

Treatment Technique = A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Action Level = The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) = 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 contaminant.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) = The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

- There were **29** synthetic organic chemicals tested for and not detected.
- There were **21** volatile organic chemicals tested for and not detected.
- The 2022 hardness value for treated water was **60 Mg/L.**
- The 2022 fluoride value for treated water was **<0.40** PPM.

- Lead — 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 Baker City 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 2 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 from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

- "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 (1-800-426-4791)."

- "Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)."

- Cryptosporidium: In January 2006, the federal EPA implemented the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule known as LT2. This rule required the City to perform 12 months of sampling and testing, resulting in the detection of the cryptosporidium oocyst in Baker City's surface water collection source (Watershed) in 2012. The Cryptosporidium parasite can be found in the feces of most animals. This parasite can cause gastrointestinal health issues if ingested by a healthy person, and for people with a poor immune system can cause more serious illness. Detection of the oocyst triggered the ultraviolet light treatment technique that renders the oocyst sterile and harmless to ingest.

- In 2014, the City constructed a UV Treatment Facility (UVTF) in order to comply with the EPA's Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2). The UVTF contains (3) Wedeco LBX-1000 UV reactors which are validated for 3-log removal of *cryptosporidium* and *giardia*. The facility has a maximum treatment capacity of 12 MGD.

5 TIPS to Conserve Water Outide this Summer!

1. Only water grass & vegetation. Redirect sprinklers so they are not watering sidewalks, driveways or streets.
2. Water between 6:00pm and 10:00am.
3. Check for leaks at hose connections, in hoses, and with all sprinklers.
4. Use automatic shut off nozzle for hoses.
5. If planting, consider drought resistant plants or plants requiring less water.

TO: Current Resident

Este Informé contiene información muy importante.

Tradúscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.

Baker City Public Works
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