

KETCHUM DRINKING WATER NEWS



ANNUAL CITY OF KETCHUM MUNICIPAL DRINKING
WATER QUALITY REPORT #12

Spring-Summer 2010

This Drinking Water Quality Report contains water analysis results for 2009, as well as other important information. Our goal is to keep the public informed about the quality of the water produced and delivered by the City of Ketchum. Over the past year, **City of Ketchum municipal drinking water is safe and meets or exceeds all Federal and State regulations.**

City of Ketchum municipal water originates from six wells that vary in depth from 35 to 110 feet deep. Five of these wells are located in close proximity to the Big Wood River and pump water from the Big Wood aquifer. The remaining sixth well is located near Sun Valley Resort and pumps water from the Trail Creek aquifer. Water pumped from these wells is treated with a light dose of chlorine to sanitize the drinking water against microbial contaminants.

Drinking water sources (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water flows over the land surface, or as it penetrates through the ground into the aquifer, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals which, in some cases, might be radioactive materials. This water can also pick up biological contaminants residual from the presence of animals or human activity.

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, contains at least small amounts of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water hotline (800-426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA regulations limit the amount of certain types of contaminants in municipal drinking water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates contaminants in bottled water as a 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 and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and

volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Lead Informational Statement (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 Ketchum 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 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>.

Some people may be more vulnerable to certain 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. Guidelines issued by the EPA and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) address the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants and are available upon request from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If you have any questions regarding this report or concerning the City of Ketchum Municipal Water System, please contact Steve Hansen at (208) 726-7825 or e-mail to utilities@ketchumidaho.org. Keeping the public informed is a primary mission of this department. If you would like to learn more, please attend one of the regularly scheduled City Council meetings. They are held at Ketchum City Hall on the first and third Mondays of every month at 5:30pm.

WATER QUALITY DATA

The table below lists all of the contaminants that were detected in our most recent round of water testing. The date indicating when the most recent analysis was performed is also included. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Some of the data contained in the report is more than one year old because EPA and State guidelines do not require that all contaminants be tested for on a yearly basis.

Terms and abbreviations used below:

Ppm – (Parts per million, or milligrams per liter)

Ppb – (Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter)

pCi / l – (Picocuries per liter; a measure of radioactivity)

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

ND – (No level of contaminant detected)

MCL – (Maximum contaminant level): The **Maximum Allowed** (MCL) 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. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, 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 EPA's described health effect for that contaminant.

MCLG – (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. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL – (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

INORGANIC Contaminants	Violation (y / n)	Ketchum Range of Detections	MCL	MCLG	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contaminants
Fluoride (ppm)	N	0.16 – 1.78	4	4	Sept. 2007	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (ppm)	N	0.0 – 1.49	10	10	Aug. 2009	Runoff from fertilizer use; leeching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

RADIOACTIVE Contaminants

Beta/photon emitters (pCi/l)	N	1.0 – 6.5	50 **	0	June 2003	Decay of natural and man made deposits.
Alpha emitters (pCi / l)	N	.03 – 10.3	15	0	June 2003	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium – 226	N	.09 – 0.3	5	0	June 2003	Decay and erosion of natural and man made deposits
Radium – 228	N	ND	5	0	June 2003	

*** EPA's MCL for Beta particles is 4 microrem / year. EPA considers 50 pCi / l to be the level of concern for beta particles.*

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Chlorine Residual (ppm)	N	.13 - .18	4	N/A	Quarterly	Water additive used to control microbes
-------------------------	---	-----------	---	-----	-----------	---

Disinfection By Products

Disinfection By Products	Violation (y/n)	Highest Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Sample Date: August 2009
Total Trihalomethanes(ppb)	N	5.7	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	N	0	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	90th Percentile	AL	MCLG	#of sites above AL	Violation Y/N	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	August '09	0	15	0	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	August '09	.69	1.3	1.3	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

The City of Ketchum Municipal Water System completed another year with no violations and the drinking water supplied by the City of Ketchum **met or exceeded all Federal and State requirements in 2009**. Although some contaminants have been detected, as depicted in the tables above, the City of Ketchum Municipal drinking water IS SAFE at these levels according to the EPA. Future water analysis for 2010 will include Disinfection By-Products, Nitrates, and Coliform bacteria. **Environmental advice;** be sure to dispose of all petroleum products and chemicals, as well as all over the counter and prescription drugs properly. Please do not dump them down your household drains or storm water runoff systems. This can disrupt the wastewater treatment process and potentially pollute our river and groundwater. Take them to your nearest recycling center instead, for proper disposal.