

Whittier 2006 Water Quality Report

Is my water safe?

We have conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 3 of those contaminants, and found only 1 at a level higher than the EPA allows. (For more information see the section labeled Violations at the end of the report.) This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

Whittier's water comes from three deep wells that are located in the park area.

Source water assessment and its availability

Source water assessments have been completed by the ADEC as a first step towards voluntary local source water protection efforts. Vulnerability rankings are assigned based on the susceptibility of the drinking water source, recent sampling results and the presence of potential contaminant sources - they do not necessarily indicate these contaminants will reach your source of water. Whittier Water System has received the following vulnerability rankings: "low" for the source. In addition, this water system has received a vulnerability rating of "medium" for bacteria/viruses, "medium" for nitrates/nitrites, "medium" for volatile organic chemicals, "low" for heavy metals, "medium" for other organic chemicals, and "medium" for synthetic organic chemicals. Completed source water assessments are available at ADEC's Drinking Water Protection Program at 555 Cordova St, Anchorage, AK; or the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services, 3150 C St, Anchorage, AK.

For more information, call the Drinking Water Protection Program at 907-269-7521.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 (EPA) 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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 storm water 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 storm water 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; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

Our water utility is making every effort to protect the water system from potential security threats. You, as customers, can also help. If you see any suspicious activity near the water storage tank, treatment plant, wells or fire hydrants, please contact us at (907) 240-2019 or the City of Whittier Police at (907) 472-2340. We appreciate your assistance in protecting the water system.

Violations and Exceedances

Lead - action level at consumer taps

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. We exceeded the Action Level for Lead in October 2004 and will continue to exceed until we resample with lower results. We are required to sample for lead every three years. We are performing a Corrosion Control Study to determine the best way to treat our water to prevent this in the future.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report and samples that showed a detectable level within the last four years, but were not sampled for during the calendar year. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u> or <u>MRDL</u> <u>G</u>	<u>MCL,</u> <u>TT, or</u> <u>MRDL</u>	<u>Your</u> <u>Water</u>	<u>Range</u> <u>Low</u> <u>High</u>	<u>Sample</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
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Inorganic Contaminants

Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.291	NA	2006	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
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<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your</u> <u>Water</u>	<u>Sample</u> <u>Date</u>	<u># Samples</u> <u>Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceed</u> <u>AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
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Inorganic Contaminants

Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.484	2004	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	19.8	2004	1	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Unit Descriptions

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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 contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

For more information please contact:

Gregg Hanson

Address:

P.O. Box 608

Whittier, AK 99693

907-472-2327

907-472-2435

pworks@ci.whittier.ak.us