

## IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

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 for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider.

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

**GET INVOLVED** by attending City Council and Council Study Session Meetings. These meetings are a great opportunity to learn about city business, events, and activities, and to speak with your councilmembers. Agenda packets are posted online at: <https://www.cityoforting.org/government/city-council>.

You may also watch meetings by accessing the City Website. Please allow a week for CCTV to post.

### To Report a Problem

Public Works Dept. 360-893-9039  
Emergency After-Hours 253-377-0262



# Annual WATER QUALITY REPORT

For Reporting Year 2025

PWS ID 645003

**Orting Water Department** is proud to present its 2025 Water Quality Report. During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic or synthetic organic contaminants. PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), which are new to the monitoring schedule, include testing for approximately 18–40 additional analytes. All test results met or exceeded both EPA and State drinking water standards. This Report provides a snapshot of the quality of the water we supplied during the past year and is intended to help you better understand your drinking water system. Included in this report are details about where your water comes from, and how it compares to applicable EPA and State standards. We are committed to providing safe, reliable, and great-tasting drinking water through continuous monitoring, routine maintenance, and ongoing investment in our water infrastructure. Our goal is to protect public health and maintain transparency by keeping you informed about the quality of your 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or by visiting <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants>.

## WATER SOURCE INFORMATION

The City of Orting relies on multiple groundwater sources to meet its water supply needs. To protect these life-sustaining groundwater supplies, the U.S. EPA and the Washington State Department of Health require public water utilities to develop a wellhead protection program as a part of their comprehensive water plans. The wellhead protection program equips local utilities with a proactive program for preventing groundwater contamination.

**Susceptibility assessments**, which determines the susceptibility of each source to contamination, is a vital element of any successful plan. The susceptibility rating is moderate for Wells #1 and Well #2, low for Wells #3 and #4, and high for Wingate Springs and Harman Springs.

The two springs are located outside the City limits. Springwater is chlorinated at each source for disinfection, serving customers south of City limits. This spring water eventually mixes with well water to serve customers within City limits. Water at Wells #1, #3, and #4 are chlorinated to protect against microbial contaminants and filtered to remove iron and manganese before entering the water main or storage tanks. Well #2 is off-line and maintained for emergency purposes only.

# SAMPLING RESULTS

## DEFINITIONS

Substance	Level Detected	MCL/g	MCL	Violation	Potential Source
<b>Inorganics</b>					
Arsenic (mg/L)	0.0041	0.010	0.010	NO	Natural Erosion
Iron (mg/L)	< 0.10	0.1	0.3	NO	Household Plumbing
Copper (ppm)	< 0.662	0.01	1.3	NO	Household Plumbing
Lead (ppm)	0.0031	0.001	0.0015	NO	Household Plumbing
Nitrate (ppm)	0.6	10	10	NO	Agricul. use, Septic
PFAS (ng/L)	ND	2	2	NO	Cleaning Products, certain types of fire fighting foam, stain resistant fabric, non-stick cookware
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>					
TTHMs (ug/L)	7.47	0	80	NO	Disinfection By-Products
HAA5 (ug/L)	5.06	0	60	NO	Disinfection By-Products
Chlorine (ppm)	0.61	4/MRDL	4.0 MRDL		Treatment Additive
<b>Radio Active Elements</b>					
Gross Alpha	0.91	0	15	NO	Natural Erosion
Radium 228	0.3	0	5	NO	Natural Erosion

**Monitoring Wavers** —The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has reduced the monitoring requirements for Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC's) & Volatile Organics (VOCs) for all City of Orting water sources because the sources are not at risk of contamination. The last sample collected for VOCs were found to meet all applicable EPA and DOH standards. All of the test results were non-detect meeting DOH standards. Pesticides and Herbicides are Non-Detect.

### Concentration Units:

**PPM**=Parts Per Million: One part contaminant per million parts water.  
**PPB**=Parts Per Billion: One parts per billion, one part contaminant per billion parts water.  
**mg/L**=milligrams per Liter: one part of material in one liter of liquid.  
**ug/L**=microgram per Liter: millionth of a gram.  
**ng/L**=nanograms per liter: One billionth of a gram.

### Regulatory standards:

**MCL**=Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water  
**MCLG**=Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health  
**MFL**=Million Fibers per Liter: Samples with values higher than (7) MFL are above the EPA MCL and must be reported.  
**MRDL**=Maximum Residual Disinfectant: There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.  
**MRDLG**=Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.  
**TT**=Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.

# REGULATED TEST LEVELS AND INFORMATION ON WATER QUALITY

## Arsenic

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set drinking water standards for arsenic to reduce the risk of health effects from long-term exposure to low levels of arsenic in drinking water. Your drinking water currently meets EPA's revised drinking water standards for low levels of arsenic. The EPA's standards balance the current understanding of arsenic's possible health risks against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The EPA continues to research the health effects for low levels of arsenic. This mineral is known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and linked to other health risks such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

## Copper

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in exceeding the action level over a relative short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their physician.

## 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 Orting is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of material used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential 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 for lead in drinking water, test methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotlines (800) 426-4791 or at: <https://www.epa.gov/lead/lead-drinking-water>

Additionally, As part of our effort to identify and reduce lead piping, the City has inventoried its water service lines, classifying them as either non-lead, lead, galvanized, or unknown. To view this inventory, please visit the City's website at <https://www.cityoforting.org/government/public-works/water-department> and click the Lead Service Line Inventory link, in the Resources section.

**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 minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

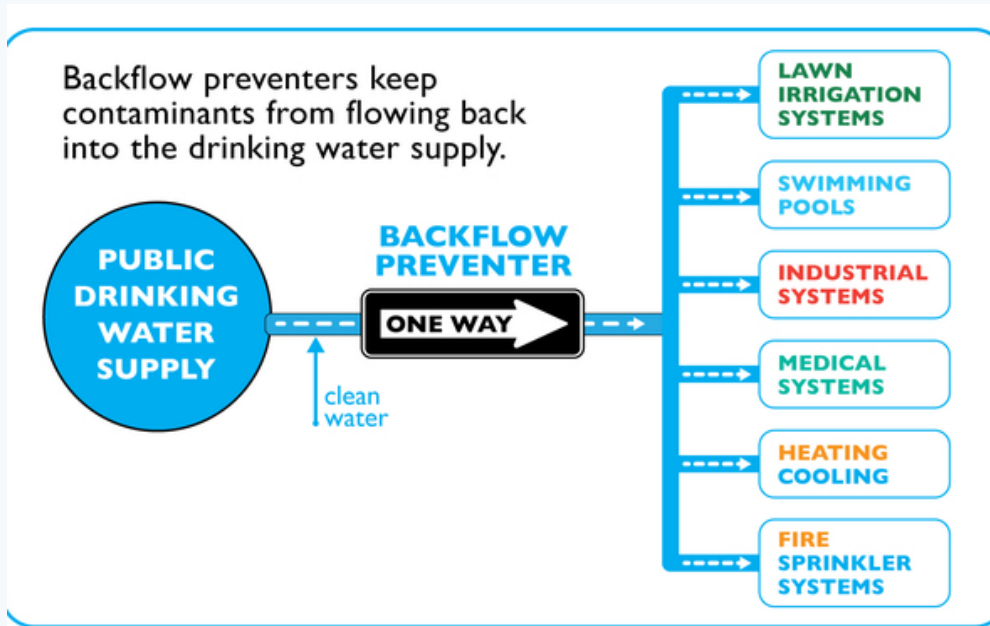
**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage plants, septic systems, agricultural and livestock operations, and wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which may be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoffs, industrial or domestic discharges, oil and gas productions, mining or farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides** may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture and residential applications.

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, can also come from fuel stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring.



**Cross-connections** that could contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment or systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, farms, factories, and irrigation systems) or near auxiliary water supplies & water sources of questionable quality.

Community water supplies are continually jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as **backflow prevention assemblies**, are installed and maintained. The City of Orting encourages all landowners with farms and wells, as well as homeowners with irrigation sprinkler systems, to call Orting Public Works for more information at (360) 893-9039.

Please read about Washington State law requirements in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-290-490 and Orting Municipal Code (OMC) 9-1E-6.

## Brown Water

Manganese occurs naturally in Orting’s drinking water and is typically responsible for the occasional “brown water” customers may experience. Fire hydrant use or sudden changes in water flow direction can disturb and stir up naturally occurring sediment within the water system.

If you notice discolored water, we recommend waiting until it clears before using it for drinking or cooking. In most cases, the water will clear on its own. You may also try running cold water for several minutes to help flush your service line. If the water does not clear, please contact Orting Public Works for assistance at (360) 893-9039.

### Common causes of Brown Water

- **Rusty Pipes**, especially if they’re old or made of iron, can lead to rust particles mixing with the water.
- **Sediment Buildup** in pipes and water heaters.
- **Faulty Filtration Equipment**: A broken or malfunctioning water filter can allow sediment to pass through, causing brown water.
- **Iron Bacteria**: In some cases iron bacteria can cause water to turn brown, especially in well water.
- **Water Softener Issues**: Such as a malfunctioning water softener or a build-up of iron and manganese.
- **Changes in Water Pressure**: Sudden changes in water pressure can dislodge rust and sediment from pipes, causing brown water.

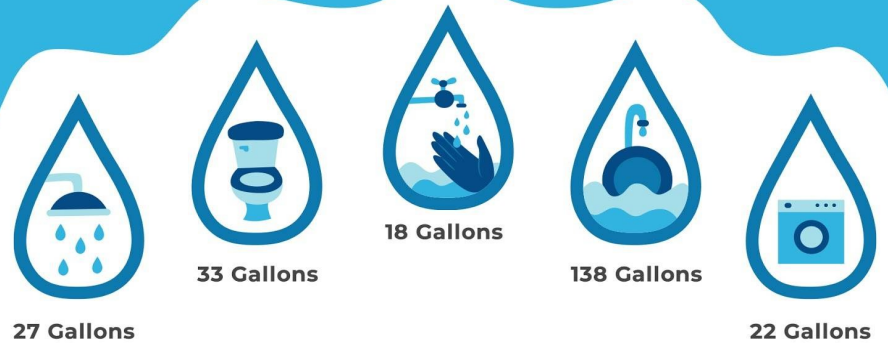
**Important Note:** While brown water is not a health hazard, it can indicate a plumbing or system issue that may need to be addressed. If you have concerns about the quality of your water, it is best to contact your local water department or a qualified professional for further evaluation.

## USING THE WATER METER TO CHECK FOR WATER LEAKS

1. Turn off all water using devices (taps, dishwasher, sprinklers, evaporative cooler, washing machines, etc.) inside and outside your home.
2. Find your water meter. It is most often in front of your house near the sidewalk.
3. Remove the meter box lid. Some meter box lids have a 'flip lid' in the center. If so, open this instead of removing the entire lid. Be careful when lifting the box lid, to prevent injury to yourself or damage to the meter or meter lid.
4. Verify that your meter's serial number matches the number on your billing statement.
5. Lift the meter cap lid to reveal the dial on the meter face. This dial monitors water use. Your meter is usually read in thousands of gallons, which is generally indicated by the white dials. If the triangle (flow indicator) or needle moves while all water devices inside and outside the home are shutoff, water is flowing through the meter and you have a leak. While some leaks, such as a dripping faucet, are easy to see, many are hidden. A leaky toilet is one of the biggest water leaks found inside a home.

Meters may vary. Some flow indicators are located on the center of the dial hand. The CIP meter upgrades are changing from manual read meters to radio read with digital screens. This help ensure accuracy for each water user and reduces possible reading errors by staff. During the change out, you may experience a minor interruption to service.

## How Much Water is Wasted at Home?



## THINGS YOU CAN DO AT HOME TO

# CONSERVE WATER



Monitor your monthly water bill



Run the dishwasher only when it's full



Turn off the faucet when lathering hands



Do not leave running water while brushing your teeth



Water the garden early in the morning or late in the evening



Regularly check hoses and faucets for leaks