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# 2020 Water Quality Report

## The Oak Park Water Company Water System

PWS ID #62675 F

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We are pleased to present this year's annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of your water and the services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

### Where does my water come from?

Your drinking water comes from ground water wells. Two wells at the depth of 200 feet supply our system with high quality ground water. The wells are located in the park and are designated by the Office of Drinking Water as SO1 and SO2.

### 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) includes 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, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, 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** 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, 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** 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, the Washington State Department of Health and the US Environmental Protection Agency prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington State Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

### Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, for example: those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 from their health care provider about drinking water. 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).

### Variations and Exemptions (Waivers)

A Source-Water Assessment and Well Head Protection Plan have been formed for our area to provide baseline data about the quality of water before it is distributed to consumers. This is important because it identifies the origins of contaminants within our area and indicates the susceptibility of our water system to such contaminants. To complete your understanding of your water supply, you may view a copy of Oak Park Water's assessment online at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/sw/assessment.htm> In view of the gravel operation in our area, Oak Park Water Company opted not to renew its State of Washington Waiver for testing of Synthetic Organic Chemicals and will do more extensive testing of Volatile Organic Contaminants due to the tow service operation across from Oak Park. We will continue to do a full battery of tests to ensure your water is safe from additional contaminants.

## Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year January 1 through December 31, 2020. 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 are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Contaminants	MCL:	MCLG or AL	Your Water	#Samples Exceeding AL	Sample Date	Violation or Exceeds AL	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
<b>Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) (ppm)</b>	10	10	<0.5	0	12/15/2020	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Lead – action level at consumer taps (ppb) 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Results</b>	15	15AL	<.001	0 of 10	10/1/2020	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Copper – action level at consumer taps (ppm) 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Results</b>	1.3 AL	1.3AL	.041	0 of 10	10/1/2020	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems: Erosion of natural deposits

### Unit Descriptions

**ppm:** parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

**ppb:** parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

**ND:** Not detected

### Important Drinking Water Definitions

**AL:** Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Lead & Copper 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile:** Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

**Variances & Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

### Information about Lead in Drinking water

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 Oak Park Water system 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 (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### Additional information about Nitrates

Nitrates in drinking water, at levels above 10 ppm, are a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

### **Tips for Car Washing**

- Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose that can be adjusted down to a fine spray so that water flows only as needed. Check hose connectors to make sure plastic or rubber washers are in place to prevent leaks.
- Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- Wash your car on the lawn so the run off will water your lawn at the same time.

### **Tips for Lawn care**

- More than 50 percent of residential irrigation water is lost due to evaporation, runoff, over watering, or improper system design/installation/maintenance.
- Don't over water your lawn. Lawns only need 1 inch of water per week. Buy a rain gauge so that you can better determine when to water.
- Water the lawn or garden early in the morning during the coolest part of the day. Consider installing an automatic timer. As days get longer or shorter, don't forget to adjust your watering schedule.
- Raise your lawn mower cutting height—longer grass blades help shade each other, reduce evaporation, and inhibit weed growth.
- Use a broom or blower instead of a hose to clean leaves and other debris from your driveway or sidewalk.
- Don't leave sprinklers or hoses unattended. Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden to remind you when to stop. A running hose can discharge up to 10 gallons a minute.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- To water sloping lawns, apply water for 5 minutes and then repeat 2-3 times.
- If water runs off your lawn easily, split your watering time into shorter periods to allow for better absorption.
- Don't water your lawn on windy days when most of the water blows away or evaporates.
- Use sprinklers for larger areas of grass. Water small patches by hand to avoid waste.
- Let your lawn go dormant during the summer. Dormant grass only needs to be watered every 3 weeks or less if it rains.

Este informe contiene informacion importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

**If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact**

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**Online: <http://www.dof.wa.gov/ehp/dw>**

**We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.**