



**Pine-Strawberry Water  
Improvement District**

## 2015 Water Quality Report



### Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report, also referred to as a Consumer Confidence Report, as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This report offers a snapshot of the quality of water provided in 2015 and provides details on where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Over the last year, we conducted tests for more than 80 water contaminants.

The Pine-Strawberry Water Improvement District strives to create a community with a high quality of life where citizens can live, work and raise their families safely. As such, we are committed to providing you with information and we want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. Why? Because informed citizens are our best allies.

# Water Quality

## **Do I need to take special precautions?**

Some people, such as immuno-compromised people, may be more vulnerable to infections and contaminants in drinking water than the general population. These people include those undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and elderly and infants. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers.

The Environmental Protection Agency and Centers for Disease Control offer ways to lessen the risk of infection from *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants through the Safe Water Drinking Hotline, which can be reached at (800) 426-4791.

## **Where does my water come from?**

The Pine-Strawberry Water Improvement District (PSWID) is supplied exclusively by ground water pumped from the district's 26 wells, which draw from the Lower Verde watershed. The water is treated with chlorine as a preventative disinfectant, stored in a series of storage tanks and then pumped through a complex delivery system by booster pumps and pressure tanks through main transmission lines and service connections.

## **Source water assessment and its availability**

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) evaluates all water sources that provide to the public. The ADEQ issued PSWID sources with a low risk designation, indicating that most source water protection measures are already in place or the hydrogeology is such that the source water protection will have little impact on protection.

A Source Water Assessment Report from the ADEQ can be obtained at 1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007, or by visiting [www.azdeq.gov](http://www.azdeq.gov).

## **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

Drinking water, which includes 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 on contaminants and potential health effects are available at the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

The sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As the water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring materials 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 like 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 many 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 in 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. The Food and Drug Administration's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

## **Description of water treatment process**

Your drinking water is treated through disinfection, which involves the addition of chlorine or another disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

## **Cross-connection control survey**

The purpose of the cross connection control survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and ensuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below, please contact us so that we can discuss the issue and, if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if necessary.

- Boiler/Radiant heater, not including water heaters
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub, not including whirlpools
- Additional sources of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

## **Source water protection tips**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides, which contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.

- If you have your own septic systems, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly and take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed at [water.epa.gov/action/adopt](http://water.epa.gov/action/adopt) to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team at [water.epa.gov/type/watersheds/start.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/type/watersheds/start.cfm).
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

### Additional information for 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. PSWID 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 two 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 at the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## How can I get involved?

Comments and suggestions are encouraged, and are accepted by PSWID at (928) 476-4222 or [pswid.org](http://pswid.org). The public meeting schedule for 2016 is also available on the website.

## Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average household in the United States uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day? Making small, low-cost changes in your daily life can make a big difference. A few to consider include:

- Take a short shower. A 5-minute shower uses only 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shutoff water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving to save up to 500 gallons per month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead, which is inexpensive, easy to install and can save up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run the washer and dishwasher only when full, saving up to 1,000 gallons per month.
- Water plants and gardens only when necessary. Be sure to adjust the sprinkler so that it only waters the lawn.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Fixing or replacing these materials with a more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Educate those around you, especially children, on water conservation.

Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information on water conservation.



# Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these

substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. 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 one per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old.

You may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations in the water quality analysis table, so to help you better understand these terms, please see the following definitions.

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## Unit Descriptions

**ug/L:** Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water

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

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

**pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

**Positive samples/month:** Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive

**NA:** Not applicable

**ND:** Not detected

**RAA:** Running Annual Average

## Important Drinking Water Definitions

**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 (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.

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

**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 (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.

**MPL:** State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level



Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>								
<i>(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)</i>								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	13	4.8	16.5	2015	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	4	ND	7.7	2015	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	4	0.72 RAA	0.48	1.32	2015	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	3.4	ND	3.4	2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	1.6	ND	1.6	2014	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.33	0.094	0.33	2014	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	2.5	ND	2.5	2014	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.28	0.10	0.28	2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1.0	ND	1.0	2015	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)	NA	MPL	18	5.9	18	2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	0	0	NA	NA	2015	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	4.3	3.1	4.3	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	4.8	0.8	4.8	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Lead & Copper Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Lead – action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	6.1	2014	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper – action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.42	2014	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

## Contact Us

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