

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. 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.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.00457	NA		2008	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	0.573	NA		2008	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.0589	NA		2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.425	NA		2008	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (ug/l)	NA		0.387	NA		2008	No	Pollution from mining and refining operations; natural occurrence in soils.

Water Quality Data Table Terms

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.
TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variations and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA: not applicable
Variations and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

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.
MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level.

The 2008 Annual Water Quality Report



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**PREPARED FOR CUSTOMERS
OF THE HERRING BAY
WATER USERS
ASSOCIATION**

Is my water safe?



Your water system is currently operating under a Boil Water Notice until suitable treatment is provided. This means that your drinking water is untreated. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation does not recognize Boil Water Notices as an acceptable long term alternative to proper treatment, but has allowed a short term notice to be in effect until its system is connected to the Mountain Point Water System with its filtration and disinfection standards. Untreated water is raw water that has not been chemically treated, filtered, or boiled to eliminate infectious bacteria, viruses, and parasites (such as Giardia lamblia).

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). In the mean time, there are a few ways for you to treat raw water to make it safe to drink.

The most certain treatment is to bring your water to a rolling boil for one minute. A far less reliable treatment is the use of water filters and disinfection, and tests are not uniform in the industry, so only purchase from reputable dealers, and check product literature to ensure that the filter is labeled according to filter manufacturing standards as at least an Absolute 1 micron filter, or one labeled as meeting American National Standards Institute (ANSI/NSF) International Standard #53 for cyst removal. For disinfection, add 8 drops of bleach or 20 drops of tincture of iodine per gallon of water and let stand for 30 minutes.

Where does my water come from?

The Herring Bay Public Water System uses surface water as its source of drinking water from Whitman Creek.

Source water assessment and its availability

There is currently no source water assessment report finalized with the State of Alaska.

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).

Two hidden hazards you should know about are diseases resulting from drinking untreated raw water. These diseases are Giardiasis and Cryptosporidiosis, and their effects on you can be quite severe, and for some, life threatening.

Giardia cysts and Cryptosporidium oocysts are carried in the feces of humans and animals which could contaminate surface waters which should be suspected of harboring these organisms.

How can I get involved?



The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Public Works Department along with the Mountain Point Water System are monitoring your water. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough has joined the FlashAlert™ Newswire System. This newswire distributes emergency messages such as breaking news, weather closure, and water quality information. The Mountain Point Water System has a web page where you can view their information and monitor changes and there's even an RSS version of the page that many web browsers, RSS reader programs and even Outlook can monitor and pull in and view. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough has opted to enable the public to subscribe to the messages posted, receiving the information as emails, or cell phone text messages via the free service **Twitter**. There is no cost to the public for viewing the information or subscribing to messages offered. Visit www.flashalert.net and see what we're talking about.

There is also an advisory board consisting of eight members from the South Tongass Service Area. Board meetings are scheduled on the first Wednesday of selected months at 5:30 PM in the Borough Assembly Chambers located at 1900 First Avenue, Ketchikan, Alaska. Please visit the Ketchikan Gateway Borough's website at: <http://www.borough.ketchikan.ak.us/news/news.htm> for dates and times of service area meetings. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough's Public Works Department may be contacted at (907) 247-5541.

Surface water treatment rule filtration and disinfection violations

Since your water system has no filtration or disinfection, it is required to operate under a Boil Water Notice. Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. The two monthly samples that were collected for February and July 2008 were both positive for Total Coliform bacteria.

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. Herring Bay Water Users Association PWSID #121475 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.