



# City of Lake Oswego 2026 Water Quality Report

The City of Lake Oswego’s 2026 Water Quality Report is based on data collected during the 2025 calendar year. The City prepares this report in accordance with Federal and State regulations to bring our customers the best available information about the water they drink.

Lake Oswego’s drinking water is tested every day and for the 2026 report, we can proudly announce there were no violations. More than 90 contaminants are regularly sampled for, both before and after the water is treated, to ensure it meets the more than 120 water quality standards for drinking water set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Oregon. All of the substances were either not detected or were detected at levels well below limits set by the EPA and State of Oregon for safe drinking water.

If you have any questions about this report or water quality, please contact 503-635-0280.

## Where does Lake Oswego’s water come from?

Lake Oswego’s drinking water originates in the Clackamas River watershed, which is one of the highest quality water sources in the state. This watershed encompasses 940 square miles and begins in the Mount Hood National Forest. Water is withdrawn from the Clackamas River in Gladstone, then pumped through a pipeline buried beneath the Willamette River to the Lake Oswego-Tigard Water Treatment Plant located in West Linn.

A Clackamas River Watershed Source Water Assessment was completed in 2019. The report is available at [www.deq.state.or.us/wq/dwp/docs/uswareports/USWA\\_00457LakeOswego.pdf](http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/dwp/docs/uswareports/USWA_00457LakeOswego.pdf). An additional Clackamas River Water Providers report can be found at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/d107e2dad24e4a5d9c28dad37a835c16>.

## Sources of Contaminants

The Safe Drinking Water Act defines the term “contaminant” as any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water. Therefore, the law defines “contaminant” very broadly as being anything other than water molecules. Drinking water may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Some drinking water contaminants may be harmful if consumed at certain levels in drinking water while others may be harmless. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA sets regulatory limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration sets limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the earth’s surface or through the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. Drinking water can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water throughout the United States include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from wildlife or septic systems e.g. coliform and giardia.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as farming, urban stormwater runoff, and home or business use.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can occur naturally, e.g. radon.

## Cyanotoxin Monitoring Rule

In 2018, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) developed a drinking water rule that requires many drinking water systems in the state to test for cyanotoxins, and notify the public about the test results.

Cyanobacteria naturally occur in lakes and streams. Under certain conditions, such as in warm water containing an abundance of nutrients, they can rapidly form harmful algal blooms (HABs). These blooms are capable of producing toxins known as cyanotoxins. Cyanotoxins are compounds that are capable of harming humans. The OHA has issued safe drinking water limits for the cyanotoxins microcystins and cylindrospermopsin. Lake Oswego’s results are listed below. During the 2025 testing, no cyanotoxins were detected in Lake Oswego’s water supply.

Algal Toxin	Health Advisory (Vulnerable Population)	Health Advisory (All Population)	Health Advisory (Recreational Advisory)	Sample Date	Raw Water
Total Microcystins	0.3 µg/L	1.6 µg/L	4 µg/L	2025	Not Detected
Cylindrospermopsin	0.7 µg/L	3 µg/L	8 µg/L	2025	Not Detected

# BY THE NUMBERS

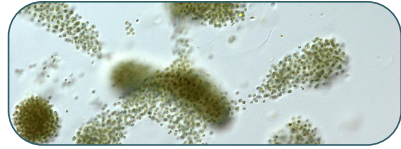
## Lake Oswego's Drinking Water Meets or Exceeds Every State and Federal Standard

The accompanying table shows the results of water quality testing for 2025. Every regulated substance detected in Lake Oswego's drinking water is listed.

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Lake Oswego Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Chlorine (CL <sup>2</sup> ) (ppm)	4	4	0.94 (average)	0.10	1.34	2025	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppm)	NA	0.0600	0.0042 (highest quarterly average)	0.0012	0.0074	2025	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes/ (TTHMs) (ppm)	NA	0.0800	0.0086 (highest quarterly average)	0.0024	0.0200	2025	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromate (ppm)	0	0.0100	0.0004	N/D	0.0010	2025	No	By-product of drinking water treatment with Ozone
<b>Microbiological</b>								
Fecal Coliform/E. Coli (positive samples)	0	0	0	Not Detected		2025	No	Human and animal waste
Total Coliform (% positive samples/month)	0	5	0	Not Detected		2025	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT <0.30 in 95% of samples	100% of samples meet turbidity standards	0.024	0.112	2025	No	Soil runoff, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic</b>								
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	Action Level=1.3	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile: 0.00 Homes exceeding AL: 0		2023	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	Action Level=15	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile: 0.00 Homes exceeding AL: 0		2023	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	

### Cryptosporidium

*Cryptosporidium* is a microorganism (protozoan) naturally present in surface water supplies throughout the world. Surface water supplies are particularly vulnerable if they receive runoff or pollution from human or animal waste. Since wildlife inhabit the Clackamas River Watersheds, managing agencies regularly monitor for *Cryptosporidium*. Occasionally, this monitoring detects low levels of *Cryptosporidium*.



New national standards further reduce the risks of illness from *Cryptosporidium*. Symptoms of infection include nausea, abdominal cramps, and diarrhea. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people have more difficulty and are at greater risk of developing severe, life-threatening illnesses. Immuno-compromised individuals are encouraged to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to avoid infection.

*Cryptosporidium* must be ingested for it to cause disease and may be spread through means other than drinking water.



## What else do we look for in Lake Oswego water?

The following list of chemicals and compounds are what we test for on a regular basis. Most chemicals are measured in parts per billion (ppb) or parts per million (ppm). None of these compounds were detected in Lake Oswego's drinking water.

**Volatile Organic Compound:** (21 compounds) manmade chemical compounds such as cleaning fluids, degreasers, and plastics.

**Synthetic Organic Compounds:** (30 compounds) manmade chemicals, including insecticides and herbicides.

**Inorganic Compounds:** (16 compounds) naturally occurring minerals and chemicals that are released into water through erosion and leaching of mineral deposits.

For a complete listing of all test results, go to the Oregon Drinking Water Service website:

<https://yourwater.oregon.gov/inventory.php?pwsno=00457>.

## Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

The Lake Oswego Tigard Water Partnership is complying with the fifth round of the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. The UCMR 5 aims to provide the EPA with data to understand the frequency that 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium are found in the nation's drinking water systems. A full list of contaminants tested and their results can be found here:

[www.lakeoswego.city/publicworks/drinking-water-and-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas](http://www.lakeoswego.city/publicworks/drinking-water-and-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas).

## No PFAS Detected in Drinking Water Supply

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), are a group of synthetic chemicals used in a wide range of consumer products and industrial applications. PFAS have been detected in air, water, and soil in and around manufacturing facilities. Due to their chemical structure, PFAS are very stable in the environment and are resistant to breaking down. PFAS move easily through the ground, getting into groundwater that is used for some water supplies or for private drinking water wells. When released into lakes or rivers used as sources of drinking water, they can get into drinking water supplies.

Due to their potential health effects, the EPA selected a group of 29 PFAS to be monitored under the UCMR 5. **The Lake Oswego Tigard Water Partnership has complied with sampling for this group under the UCMR 5 and has found no detectable amounts in our drinking water supply.**

For more information, call 503-635-0394 or email [watertest@lakeoswego.city](mailto:watertest@lakeoswego.city).

For a complete listing of all test results, go to the Oregon Drinking Water Service website:

<https://yourwater.oregon.gov/inventory.php?pwsno=00457>.

## Drinking and Bottled Water Notice

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. However, the presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the 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** at 1-800-426-4791.

## Special Notice for Immuno-Compromised Persons

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 persons, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline** 1-800-426-4791 or visiting [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

## Free Lead Testing

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. The City offers FREE lead testing to its water customers. Sample bottles and instructions can be picked up at the main reception desk at City Hall.

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Glossary: EPA Water Quality Definitions

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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 technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** 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 contamination.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU):** the standard unit of measurement used in water analysis to measure turbidity in a water sample. Turbidity is a measure of how clear the water looks.

**Parts per Million (ppm):** one part per million is equivalent to half of an aspirin tablet dissolved in a full bathtub of water (approximately 50 gallons).

**Parts per Billion (ppb):** one part per billion is equivalent to half of an aspirin tablet dissolved in 1,000 bathtubs of water (approximately 50,000 gallons).

**pH:** a scale that measures how acidic or basic drinking water (or another substance) is.

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

## Lead and Corrosion Safety

**Lake Oswego's water system meets State and Federal requirements for lead.** Results from customer sampling demonstrate that the system is optimized to prevent lead from getting into the 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 City of Lake Oswego 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.

## Service Line Inventory

**Lake Oswego's water system has no known lead pipes or connections.** The main source of lead in drinking water is typically from household plumbing or components associated with service lines on the back side of the meter.

In 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required all water providers to identify the material of every water service line by October 2024. Service lines connect the main water pipe to a home or building and include both a public portion (City responsibility) and a private portion (property owner responsibility). These lines may be made of plastic, galvanized steel, copper, or lead; lead service lines were banned in Oregon in 1985.

Since 2021, Lake Oswego has been conducting a system-wide inventory to determine whether service lines are lead, non-lead, or unknown. In September 2024, **the City submitted its results to the Oregon Health Authority, confirming that no known lead service lines exist in the distribution system**, based on statistical analysis of thousands of field-verified sites.

To access the lead line inventory, visit <https://yourwater.oregon.gov/leadcopper.php?pwsno=00457>.

## Corrosion Control Efforts

Lake Oswego's water system maintains a corrosion control program to minimize the leaching of metals such as lead and copper from pipes and plumbing materials. As part of this program, Sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) is added during treatment to elevate and stabilize the finished water pH. Maintaining an optimal pH reduces the corrosivity of the water and helps form protective scales on pipe surfaces, which limits the release of metals into drinking water. Water system operators routinely monitor pH, alkalinity, and other water quality parameters to ensure the effectiveness of corrosion control and compliance with regulatory standards.

## Using your New Smart Meter for Water Savings!

In 2025 the City completed a project updating more than 12,000 water meters throughout Lake Oswego to Advanced Meter Infrastructure, or Smart Meters. These meters provide near real-time water usage data and can help you monitor usage, track trends, and identify water leaks. To use this cutting-edge technology, customers need to simply register for Utility Online or login to their existing online account. Visit [lakeoswego.city/finance/pay-here-online-or-view-billing-history](http://lakeoswego.city/finance/pay-here-online-or-view-billing-history) for more information on how to sign up for online billing and leak alerts.

### MORE INFORMATION

[www.lakeoswego.city/publicworks](http://www.lakeoswego.city/publicworks)

Water Quality and Treatment:  
503-635-0394  
or [watertest@lakeoswego.city](mailto:watertest@lakeoswego.city)

Utility Billing: 503-635-0265  
Water Operations: 503-635-0280

Lake Oswego Tigard Water  
Partnership  
[www.lotigardwater.org](http://www.lotigardwater.org)

United States Environmental  
Protection Agency  
Safe Drinking Water Hotline  
1-800-426-4791  
[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

Clackamas River Basin Council  
[www.clackamasriver.org](http://www.clackamasriver.org)

Oregon Health Authority  
Drinking Water Services  
1-503-731-4010  
[www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/healthyenvironments/drinkingwater/pages/index.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/healthyenvironments/drinkingwater/pages/index.aspx)

Regional Water Providers Consortium  
[www.regionalh2o.org](http://www.regionalh2o.org)

Clackamas River Water Providers  
[www.clackamasproviders.org](http://www.clackamasproviders.org)

Get Involved  
You are invited to attend Lake Oswego City Council meetings and Lake Oswego Tigard Water Partnership Committee meetings. Visit [www.lakeoswego.city/citycouncil](http://www.lakeoswego.city/citycouncil) or [www.lotigardwater.org](http://www.lotigardwater.org) for meeting details.

### Take a Tour of the Water Treatment Plant!

We host public tours of our state-of-the-art water treatment plant. Visit [www.lakeoswego.city/publicworks/water](http://www.lakeoswego.city/publicworks/water) to register for a tour!

For a complete listing of all test results, go to the Oregon Drinking Water Service website: <https://yourwater.oregon.gov/inventory.php?pwsno=00457>



[www.lakeoswego.city](http://www.lakeoswego.city)

The City of Lake Oswego fosters a welcoming and inclusive community where all people have the opportunity to thrive and have equitable access to City services. For Americans with Disabilities Act or Civil Rights Title VI accommodations, translation/interpretation services, or more information call 503-635-0270 or Oregon Relay Service 7-1-1.

¿Hablas español? Le proporcionaremos una traducción de este document sin costo personal para usted.

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