

# Marcola Water District

## 2020 Safe Drinking Water Report

(Summarizing our water quality data from 2019)

Marcola Water District  
 P.O. Box 8  
 Springfield, OR 97477  
[www.RWDonline.net/Marcola](http://www.RWDonline.net/Marcola)

Marcola Water District strives to provide top quality water to every tap and we ask all customers to help us to protect the water sources that we share.

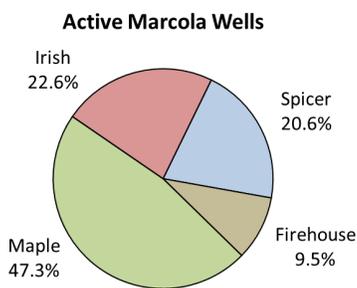
This report shows that **Marcola's water meets or exceeds all federal and state guidelines for water quality.** The enclosed information is provided to inform and educate you about your water and your water utility.

We have contracted with Rainbow Water District to manage our water system for us. If you have questions about this report, or about our water utility in general, please call our Superintendent, Jamie Porter, at 541-746-1676.

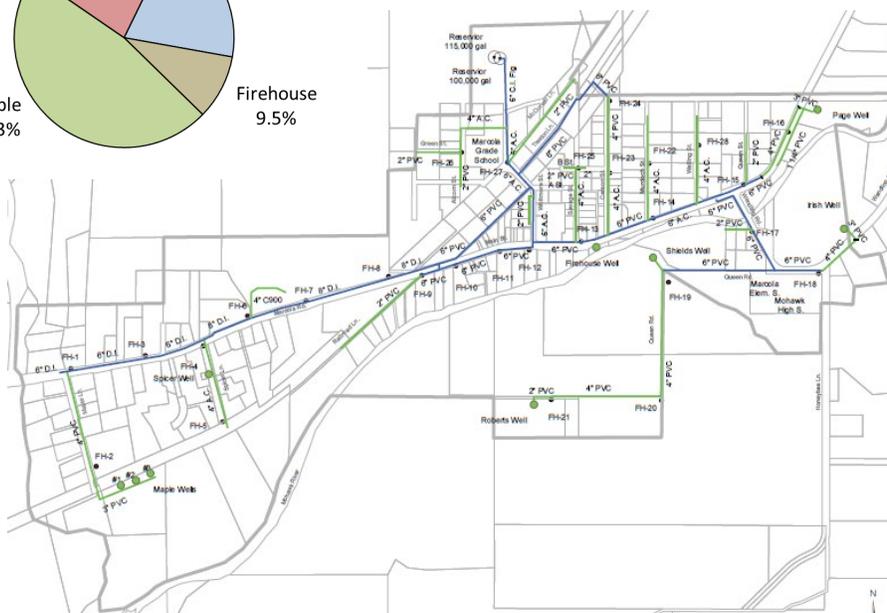
The Oregon Health Authority inspects water systems every 3-5 years. No significant deficiencies or rule violations were identified during a water system survey on October 3, 2018 and Marcola system facilities were found to be operated and maintained by knowledgeable and competent staff. We are extremely pleased to have again earned an **Outstanding Performance Award** from the state.

Meetings of the Board of Commissioners, your elected representatives, are held on the third Wednesday of every month, beginning at 6:00 pm, at the Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District, 92068 Marcola Road.

Marcola Water District relies on groundwater for our normal water supply. Water is pumped from underground and stored in two hilltop reservoirs. These reservoirs maintain pressure in the piping system as water use fluctuates throughout the day, and they provide an emergency reserve for fire protection.



Marcola's water is currently supplied by **five wells: Firehouse, Irish, Spicer, Maple 1 and Maple 3.** Four other wells were not used last year due to water quality concerns: Roberts, Shields, Page, and Maple 2. The graph shows the approximate percentage of the total water produced in 2019 that came from each well location.



We do not add fluoride to the water. We have added chlorine since 1999, to disinfect the water and provide protection from bacteria.

We began additional treatment at Spicer and Irish Wells in 2003, to raise the pH. This makes our water less corrosive and lowers the level of dissolved lead and copper at customer's faucets. (Lead and copper can leach from solder used in older plumbing.)

We sample the water at our wells and at system monitoring points on a regular basis, to look for harmful chemicals or bacteria and to verify the water system is operating properly.

## Marcola Water System Fast Facts

Average flow, gallons per day: 50,000 (winter) and 125,000 (summer)  
System size: about 245 connections serving 600 people  
Supply/Storage: 5 active wells, with 215,000 gallons in 2 reservoirs

Typical 2019 monthly bill assuming 10 units of usage and ¾" meter:  
\$33.00 base rate + \$11.00 usage (10 units x \$1.10/unit) = \$44.00

Only a small amount of our annual budget (about 10%) comes from property taxes. The majority of water operations comes from the monthly water bills.

Marcola Water District was voted into existence on September 13, 1940.

### About our water source:

Three different aquifers have been recognized as supplying groundwater to Marcola's various wells, including an alluvial aquifer, a volcanic (Rhyolite/Basalt) aquifer, and a fractured sedimentary rock aquifer.

A *Source Water Assessment* that evaluates risks to our groundwater was completed in July 2002. Copies of this report may be reviewed or purchased for the cost of reproduction at the Rainbow Water District offices which are located at 1550 N. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Springfield.

### Here is what the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says about drinking water contaminants:

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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 the water poses a health risk.

Drinking water sources (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 material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Marcola Water District is supplied entirely by groundwater wells during normal operations.

To ensure safe drinking water, the EPA regulates the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water to provide the same protection for public health.

### Contaminants that may be present in source water may include:

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

Some people may be more vulnerable than others to contaminants in drinking water. Immuno-compromised persons such as organ transplant patients, persons undergoing chemotherapy for cancer, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, infants and some elderly, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their personal health care providers. Call 1-800-426-4791 (the Safe Drinking Water Hotline) for EPA & Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants, and for more information about water contaminants and their potential health effects.

### A note about lead in 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 mainly from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Marcola Water District 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

# MARCOLA WATER DISTRICT CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT DATA

## TESTING AT WELLFIELD ENTRY POINTS TO THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (2019 or most recent results)

Chemical	Category	Range Detected (Year Tested)	In Compliance?	Federal Limit*	Federal Goal*	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	Regulated Inorganic	ND - 2.7 ppm (2019)	Yes	10 ppm	10 ppm	Fertilizer runoff, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	Regulated Inorganic	2.4 - 6.8 ppb (2019)	Yes***	10 ppb	0 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	Regulated Inorganic	0.0026 - 0.0196 (2019)	Yes	2 ppm	2 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	Regulated Inorganic	ND - 0.0012 (2019)	Yes	0.1 ppm	0.1 ppm	
Synthetic Organics	Regulated SOCs	ND (2016)	Yes	varies	varies	Byproducts of industrial processes
Volatile Organics	Regulated VOCs	ND (2016)	Yes	varies	varies	Byproducts of industrial processes
Combined Radium Combined Uranium Gross Alpha	Regulated Radionuclides	ND (2012,2018)	Yes	5 pCi/L 30 ppb 15 pCi/L	0 pCi/L 0 ppb 0 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium**	UNREGULATED Inorganic	6.6 - 36.5 ppm (2019)	Yes	No MCL. 20 ppm is advisory only	n/a	Fertilizer runoff, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits

## TESTING AT ROUTINE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM LOCATIONS (2019 or most recent results)

Chemical	Contaminant Category	Range Detected (Year Tested)	In Compliance?	Federal Limit*	Federal Goal*	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	Regulated Microbiological	5.6% positive ** (18 samples in 2019)	Yes	no more than 1 positive sample per month	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and E.Coli Bacteria	Regulated Microbiological	0.0% (18 samples in 2019)	Yes	no positive samples	0	Human and animal fecal waste
Chlorine	Disinfectant	0.38 - 0.74 ppm (2019) RAA = 0.56	Yes	4 ppm	4 ppm	Water additive used to control microbes
Asbestos	Regulated Inorganics	ND (2014)	Yes	7 MFL (million fibers per Liter)	7 MFL (million fibers per Liter)	Decay of asbestos cement in water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	Regulated Inorganics	.054-.386 ppm (2019) 90th percentile summary is 0.262 ppm	Yes 0 sites > AL	Action Level = 1.35 ppm	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	Regulated Inorganics	ND - 2.0 ppb (2019) 90th percentile summary is 1.0 ppb	Yes 0 sites > AL	Action Level = 15.5 ppb	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Trihalomethanes & Haloacetic Acids	Disinfection Byproducts	ND (9/24/19)	Yes	80 ppb 60 ppb	0	Byproducts of the disinfection process

**Definitions:** **Not Detected (ND)** indicates the contaminant was not detected at levels above the laboratory's reporting capability.

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** is 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** is 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.

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

One **Part Per Million (ppm)** corresponds to one penny in \$10,000 or about one minute in 2 years. Measurements in ppm indicate only one milligram of contaminant per liter of water. One **Part Per Billion (ppb)** corresponds to one penny in \$10,000,000 or approximately one second in 32 years. It takes 1,000 parts per billion to equal one part per million. **Picocuries Per Liter (pCi/L)** is a measurement of radioactivity, a trillion times smaller than one Curie.

**Running Annual Average (RAA)** is computed using monthly or quarterly results and is a value used to determine compliance.

**Notes** - Some contaminants are monitored less than once per year. Data shown are the most recent monitoring done in compliance with regulations.

\* Federal Limits may be either the MCL or the MRDL. Federal Goals may be either the MCLG or MRDLG. Maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) are the highest levels of chemicals that the EPA has determined to be acceptable for life-long consumption. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated chemicals, a person would have to drink 2 liters (about 8 glasses) of water every day at the MCL for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the undesirable health effects.

\*\* Only 1 detection in 18 distribution system samples. No detections in 15 triggered or source water assessment samples collected at wells prior to treatment.

\*\*\* Arsenic was within limits for all active wells. Arsenic was detected at the federal limit in Page Well during 2018, but this well is not operational.

## FAQs – Frequently Asked Questions about Marcola’s Water

Q. *Why does my bill increase in the summer?*

A. In addition to our base rate (In June 2019 this rate was \$33.00 per month for most customers, depending on meter size), we charge \$1.10 for each unit of water used. One “unit” of water equals 748 gallons. During the summer you may wash your car, hose off your sidewalks, fill the wading pool or water the lawn and garden. As you use more water during the warmer months, your bill goes up.

Q. *How do Marcola’s water rates compare to other utilities?*

A. Our rates are somewhere in the middle when compared with the rates of other communities in western Oregon. The rates each year depend on the cost of pumping, storing, treating and delivering water. Each year the Budget Committee meets in April and May to review expenses and upcoming projects and determines whether rates need to be adjusted. This may occur because of new regulations adopted by state or federal health officials that require additional lab testing and investment in new treatment technologies, or because of increases in the cost of things like gasoline and electricity that make it more expensive to perform the repairs and scheduled maintenance activities that keep the water system fully operational. Your monthly water bills cover the cost of normal operation, and allow us to hire staff, buy electricity and chlorine, keep up with technology and procure parts and supplies to pump and treat groundwater. A portion of the amount received is set aside each year to save for future replacement of wells, piping and storage reservoirs that are subject to increasing age and regulations.

Q. *Can I track my water use? How do I know if I have a water leak?*

A. You may read your own water meter at any time during the month. Your water meter is usually in the front yard by the road, housed in a concrete or plastic meter box with a concrete and metal lid. If you lift the metal lid and look in the box, you will see your meter, which has a display like a car odometer. Read just the black numbers on a white background, and you can keep track of how many units you are using. Remember that each unit equals 748 gallons.

On the face of most water meters, near the odometer-style numbers, will be a red triangle or black star-shaped “leak detector.” Make sure you are not using any water in the house and watch the leak detector for a few minutes. If the leak detector is spinning you are using water somewhere and might have a leak. Call the Rainbow office at 541-746-1676 and we can give you more tips on where to look and how to tell if you have a leak. Any leak on your side of the meter, between the meter and your house, is your responsibility to repair. If it appears there is a leak on the street side of the meter, please let us know so we can investigate and take care of any leaks that are our responsibility.

Q. *Can I pay my bill over the phone or internet? Where do I pay?*

A. We accept cash, checks, and money orders. You may pay in person, or send your payment by mail or sign up for a **free ACH** debit from your checking account. We also allow you the option of paying by credit or debit card. (We use another company, *Official Payments*, to provide this service. They will charge you \$2.05 to process the transaction. See the PAY NOW button at [www.rwdonline.net](http://www.rwdonline.net) for more information.) We are located at 1550 N. 42nd Street, Springfield. (Look for the white tanks on 42nd Street, between Olympic and Marcola Road. Our driveway is adjacent to the westbound Highway 126 on-ramp.) Our office is open 8am-5pm, Monday through Friday. A mail slot on the front of the building may be used for after-hours payments.

Q. *How much should I water my lawn and garden?*

A. Grass needs to have a deep root system to survive and flourish. The amount that is needed depends on the temperature and rate of evaporation. View our website for wise watering tips and to subscribe to the Green Grass Gauge weekly advisory email sponsored by the Eugene-Springfield Regional Water Providers. See [www.RWDonline.net/ggg.html](http://www.RWDonline.net/ggg.html) for more information.

Q. *Where does my water come from? How is it treated?*

A. All of Marcola’s water comes from wells, with the groundwater naturally filtered as it is pumped from the ground. We add a small amount of chlorine as a disinfectant, and some soda ash to raise pH in some of the wells that have more acidic water. We do not add any fluoride. The pH of Marcola’s water typically runs from 7.2 to 7.8, depending on which wells are running.

Q. *What is a backflow device, and why do I need to get it tested?*

A. Water should flow from Marcola’s piping system to you, and never in the opposite direction. A backflow device is installed between the public and private systems to protect against reverse flow situations. Backflow devices are required for items such as irrigation (sprinkler) systems, boilers, swimming pools, and rooftop solar water heaters. To ensure that the device is functioning properly and only allowing flow in one direction, water providers work with property owners, plumbers and licensed contractors to install and test these devices.

Q. *Is my water hard or soft?*

A. Water is referred to as “hard” if it contains high mineral content. While the mineral content varies at our different wells, most of Marcola’s water is considered “soft.” Mineral content, particularly sodium, is slightly higher during the summer months when additional wells are running to meet seasonal demands.