



ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT
CALENDAR YEAR 2023

The City of Scio is proud to present the Annual Water Quality Report. This report represents the results of the 2023 drinking water program. The report is a required mandate and meets the specifications set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This report is intended to increase public awareness of drinking water, how it gets from its source to your homes and businesses, and what tests are applied to detect contaminants.

Tap Water: To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA sets limits on the quantity of certain contaminants which, when contained to low levels, remain non-harmful to the user on a public water system. Presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate a health risk. For more information about contaminants and their potential health effects call EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline @ 1-800-426-4791 or log onto <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline>.

Scio’s Water Source: Scio’s water source stems from two artisan groundwater wells running approximately 300’ deep. The water is pumped to a reservoir in lines that serve to fill and to draw from the reservoir. Water is pumped to individual residence from the reservoir. There are rare occasions when a user can get a mixture of water directly from the well, blended with reservoir water. Regardless, of which source the water comes from the water is free from any harmful contaminants.

Water Testing: As required by both Federal and Oregon State laws, the City of Scio routinely tests for water contaminants. A “testing schedule” is used to ensure that all tests are performed in accordance with both federal and state laws. The City of Scio’s water testing schedule is as follows:

City of Scio Water Testing Schedule					
Analyte or Group	Sampling Interval	Samples Required	Current Monitoring Period	Last Sample Date	Year to be Tested
NITRATE	Yearly	1	1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023	12/19/2023	2024
LEAD & COPPER	3 Years	10	1/1/2025-12/31/2025	9/30/2022	2025
ARSENIC	9 Years	1	1/1/2023 – 12/31/2031	11/15/2022	2031
IOC	9 Years	1	1/1/2023 – 12/31/2031	4/9/2019	2031
NITRITE	9 Years	1	1/1/2023 – 12/31/2031	11/15/2022	2031
RAD - GROSS ALPHA	6 Years	1	1/1/2020 – 12/31/2025	4/19/2016	2025
RAD - RADIUM 226/228	9 Years	1	1/1/2017 - 12/31/2025	4/19/2016	2025
RAD - URANIUM	9 Years	1	1/1/2023 – 12/31/2031	12/6/2022	2031
SOC	3 Years	1	1/1/2023 – 12/31/2025	12/6/2022	2025
VOLATILE ORGANICS	3 Years	1	1/1/2023 – 12/31/2025	12/13/2022	2025

**** Note not all tests are required annually****

Water Quality Tests for January 1 to December 31, 2023					
Facility ID	Date of Test	Contaminate Tested	Result (ppm or mg/L)	Maximum Contaminate Level (MCL)	
EP-A	12/19/2023	Nitrate	Non-Detect (ND)	10.0	mg/L

As illustrated by the table above, the city water was well below the Maximum Contaminate Level for substances tested in 2023.

The Public Works Department is diligent with its measures to ensure water safety for Scio residents. All water test results are on file at Scio City Hall and can be reviewed upon appointment. **The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that the City of Scio’s water is SAFE for consumption at all testing levels.**

Maximum Contaminant Levels: More commonly referred to as “MCLs” are standards that are set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for drinking water quality. An MCL is the legal threshold limit on the amount of a substance that is allowed in public water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The most common sources of contaminants stem from the following:

- Naturally occurring chemicals and minerals (for example, arsenic, radon, uranium)
- Local land use practices (fertilizers, pesticides, livestock, concentrated animal feeding operations)
- Manufacturing processes.
- Sewer overflows.

By comparing the list of contaminants above, to the City of Scio’s testing schedule, one can see that the City of Scio has and continues to monitor and test for the most common sources of contaminants. To learn more about Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) log on to <http://ci.scio.or.us> or call Scio City Hall @ 503-394-3342.

Oregon Willamette Valley Water and Soil Substances: Common “natural substances” found in Willamette Valley artisan water well systems are iron, manganese, and sulfur. While these natural substances are not, in and of themselves, harmful they can create annoyances due to the smell and adverse taste impact to the water.

Iron — At sufficient concentration, iron can adversely affect the taste of water and beverages and can leave rust-colored stains on laundry, plumbing fixtures and porcelain.

Manganese — Manganese, while less abundant than iron, can cause similar problems such as a bitter metallic taste in water and leaves visible dark/black “specks” in ice cubes. Manganese can also produce staining and cause the water to have a brown or black discoloration.

Sulfur — Sulfur is notorious for the “rotten egg” type of smell in water. At low temperatures, these gaseous particles are less likely to cause problems. As the weather warms and the reservoir temperature increases, problems resulting from sulfur can increase.

**** The city is not required to test for any of the three substances mentioned above****

Ways to ease problems associated with iron, manganese and sulfur: Flush all water pipes, both within the residence and city water pipes. As the water table lowers in the late summer and early fall, the city cannot flush as often due to the reduction of water levels. The city will, however, respond to problems called in during this time of the year. If you experience issues related to these substances after you have flushed your residential pipes and outdoor hoses, please call 503-394-3342 and report your address and the problem and we will do what we can to mitigate the problem.

How to protect your water sources: Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source by:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizer and pesticides as they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Install backflow preventers to reduce the risk of cross connections to the public water supply if you have the following on your property:
 - Sprinkler Systems
 - Accessory Wells
- Pick up after your pets.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.

Refrain from pouring any substances, other than water, into an open water basin.

To report pollution or ask a question about an environmental concern, call the spill hotline at 503-823-7180.

When you conserve water, you save money: Did you knowthe average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Here are some ways to lower your water costs by conserving on water.

- Take short showers
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving
- Use a water-efficient shower-head
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely.
- Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.

For more information visit: www.epa.gov/watersense.

What You Need To Know About Mercury

There is an ever growing need to increase one's awareness of mercury and the impact it can have on our quality of life. Mercury is a natural occurring element found in air, water and soil. Over exposure to mercury, even in small amounts, may cause serious health problems to the unborn child and people of all ages.

Education about Mercury is broad and opinions differ on the negative and positive effects it can have on our environment and human development. In an effort to educate our water users, we are providing the following Environmental Protection Agency website www.epa.gov/mercury/basic-information-about-mercury which gives the reader access to fact sheets and data relating to the subject of mercury and how it fits into our living environment.

- What is Mercury
- Emissions of Mercury into the Air
 - o Emission from Power Plants
 - o Other Causes of Mercury Air Emissions
 - o Trends in Air Emissions
 - o Mercury Emissions around the Globe
- Common Exposures to Mercury
- Health Effects Associated with Exposures to Mercury
- Ecological Effects of Mercury Exposure
- Consumer Products that Traditionally Contain Mercury

If you have any questions about this report or concerns regarding your city water, please call Scio City Hall at 503-394-3342. A staff member will be available to assist you or redirect your question to the appropriate agency. If you have a “water emergency” during regular business hours call 503-394-3342 for assistance. If you have a “water emergency” during closed hours, call 503-394-3342 and press 1 for assistance.

Regular Business Hours

Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon