

# Prescott

## WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2021



PWS ID# AZ0413045

### Water Treatment



All water produced for distribution undergoes a level of treatment. The City of Prescott is fortunate to draw from high quality aquifers, therefore, the water requires minimal treatment. Water Operations selects a combination of three appropriate treatment processes to reduce the contaminants found in our groundwater and ensure the delivery of potable water that not only meets safe levels but surpasses state and federal regulations.

1

The first of the three processes utilizes chlorine for disinfection to prevent the development of bacterial contamination that could occur in the water storage and distribution system.

2

The second is an ADEQ approved Blending Plan to manage arsenic levels naturally occurring in some wells. A Blending Plan is a process that combines water from various wells with various arsenic levels to achieve a uniform potable water with the lowest detected levels of arsenic possible. This process allows the City to meet daily demands while keeping the levels of arsenic below the regulatory requirement.

3

The third of the three processes utilizes sorptive media for the removal of arsenic where water exceeds state quality requirements and blending is not feasible. Currently, the City has one production well with this type of treatment system which maintains arsenic levels below the federal action level standards.



### Water Sampling

The City of Prescott monitors and samples for over 100 substances and physical characteristics on a regular basis. Among them, the City pulls 53 Total Coliform tests per month at designated sites throughout the City. The Total Coliform bacteria test is a primary indicator of the suitability for consumption of drinking water which measures the concentration of Total Coliform bacteria associated with the possible presence of disease-causing organisms.

The City of Prescott pulls 10 Arsenic samples monthly to ensure Arsenic levels stay below Federal and State regulatory limits. Arsenic can enter the water supply from natural deposits in the Earth; here in the southwest the source is the volcanic and granitic rocks that groundwater moves through.





## A Note from Water Operations

As your water provider, we serve more than water. We provide customer service, reliability, peace of mind, and protect public health. Our job is to ensure that your safe supply of water keeps flowing not only today, but well into the future. It's all part of our service commitment to you and everyone in our community. The Water Quality Report is a comprehensive report issued by the City of Prescott Water Operations. This annual report identifies the sources of Prescott's drinking water, provides water quality information, and summarizes analytical tests of the City's drinking water supply for Calendar Year 2021. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. During 2021, water from the City system met all applicable federal and state drinking water health standards.

## Source of Water

Groundwater is the sole source of potable water in the City of Prescott. The City produces its water from seven production wells within the Prescott Active Management Area (AMA). These wells are drilled into the confined deep Lower Volcanic Unit of the aquifer underlying the Little Chino Sub-Basin. The water is pumped from the ground through one of the City's seven active wells and treated prior to entering the drinking water distribution system. The water is of excellent quality and the City's production capabilities are sustainable. The wells are pumped in different combinations to meet daily demand. The City's annual average daily demand is 6.52 MGD. In 2021, Prescott produced (pumped) 7,304 acre-feet of water from the wells and delivered this water to approximately 26,089 service connections through 566 miles of pipeline, 37 remote booster pump stations and 26 water storage tanks throughout the service area.

## Applicable Federal and State Requirements

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) require providers of drinking water to annually report the quality of water they deliver. The City of Prescott safeguards its water supplies and once again is pleased to report compliance with prescribed maximum contaminant levels and other water quality standards. The City regularly conducts testing beyond the minimum regulatory requirements to further assure the safety of our drinking water.

## Naturally Occurring Contaminants

A contaminant is any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in the water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these contaminants are 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 others may even have nutritional value at low levels.

## Source Water Assessment

Based on the information currently available on the hydrogeological settings of and the adjacent land uses that are in proximity of the water sources for the City's public water system, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has given the City a low risk designation for the degree to which the drinking water sources are protected. A low-risk designation indicates that most source water protection measures are either already implemented or the hydrogeology is such that additional measures will have little impact on protection.



## Where to Learn More about Your Drinking Water

Specific information about this report can be obtained by contacting:

### City of Prescott Water Operations

Office Location: 1481 Sundog Ranch Road, Prescott, AZ 86301

Phone: (928) 777-1118

Email: [water.operations@prescott-az.gov](mailto:water.operations@prescott-az.gov)

Hours of Operation: 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday—Friday

City of Prescott Website: <http://www.prescott-az.gov/water-sewer/water-operations/>

### Environmental Protection Agency

**Safe Drinking Water Hotline:** (800) 426-4791

**Website:** <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>

### Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

(800) 234-5677

**Website:** [www.azdeq.gov/envirom/water/index.html](http://www.azdeq.gov/envirom/water/index.html)

**Water related topics are discussed at City Council meetings** and in other forums in which the public can participate. Council meetings are posted at City Hall, 201 S. Cortez Street, Prescott, Arizona and on the City website.

Follow this link for City Council information:

<https://www.prescott-az.gov/city-management/leadership/council/>



## General Water Consumption:

Statistics show that U.S. consumers average between 100 to 160 gallons, per person, per day for all uses. Usage can vary greatly based on an individual's particular habits. Between 2 quarts and 1 gallon are consumed for cooking, drinking water and prepared beverages such as coffee and tea. The remainder includes household cleaning, bathing, laundry, outdoor watering and more. Most new low use toilets use about 1.5 gallons per flush, compared to older ones using about 4 gallons per flush. Showers can use anywhere from 2 to 5 gallons per minute and a bath can consume 35+ gallons per use depending on tub size. Outdoor usage generally accounts for the largest volume of water consumed especially during Spring and Summer months.

## Water Hardness:

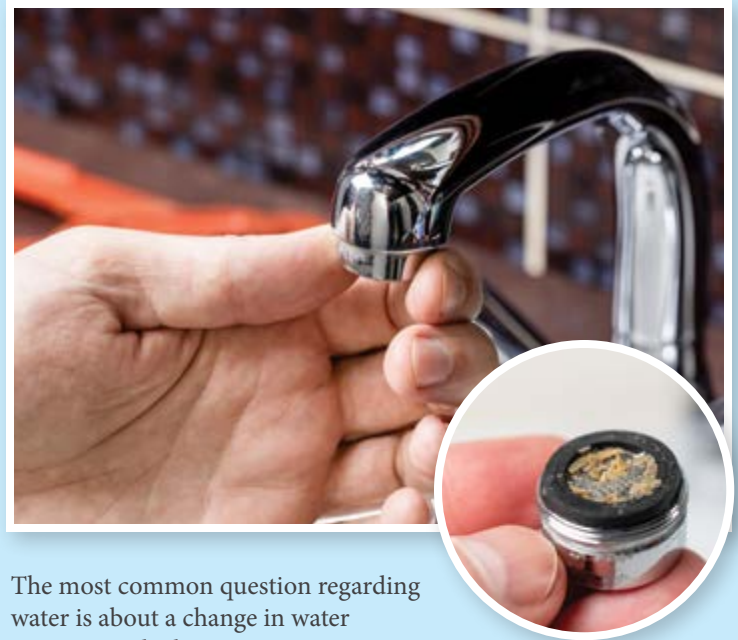
Hardness in drinking water is caused by calcium and magnesium which are two non-toxic, naturally occurring minerals in water. They enter water mainly through erosion and weathering of rocks.

**Water Hardness Scale**

Grains/Gal	mg/L & ppm	Classification
Less than 1	Less than 17.1	Soft
1 - 3.5	17.1 - 60	Slightly Hard
3.5 - 7	60 - 120	Moderately Hard
7 - 10	120 - 180	Hard
over 10	over 180	Very Hard

The more these two minerals are in water, the harder the water. Water hardness is usually expressed in parts per million (ppm) or grains per gallon of dissolved calcium and magnesium carbonate. The City's water is considered moderately hard, averaging 75 to 130 ppm, which equals 4.3 to 7.6 grains per gallon. In hard water, lathering of soap for washing is more difficult to do and cleaning becomes less efficient. As a result, more soap or detergent is needed to get things clean, be it your hands, hair, or your laundry. Dull hair, spots on dishes, glasses, faucets and film on shower doors can be related to water that is considered hard in nature.

## Water Pressure:



The most common question regarding water is about a change in water pressure to the house. Low water pressure to the home can be caused by many things: Mineral deposit build-up can reduce the flow in domestic pipes and faucet aerators may become plugged if not regularly cleaned and maintained. Another common cause of water pressure concerns can be related to the setting of a water pressure regulator valve (PRV). A PRV factory setting is 50 PSI. A previous homeowner may have adjusted the PRV setting to limit the pressure of water delivered from the municipal supply line. A failing PRV can cause low or high water pressure. It is important to understand that a PRV is a mechanical device that can fail over time or on occasion be defective directly from the manufacturer. A properly installed PRV ensures the pressure coming from the municipal supply line is reduced to an acceptable pressure.



## Shut-Off Valve:

Do you have a water leak and need to turn off water to your house? Do you know if you have a customer shut-off valve and where it might be located? The City water meter is generally located near the street at grade level in a rectangular concrete box with a metal lid. Customer shut-off valves are usually located behind the City's meter box in a separate concrete/plastic box or PVC pipe/tube as shown below in Fig. 1 and 2. Typical versions of what may be within the City's meter box and customer box is shown below in Fig. 3.

Homeowners/customers should always utilize the customer shut-off valve located in the customer box or tube to shut off water for the service. Alternate locations where a customer shut-off valve may be located are: in a box in close proximity to the home, in a crawl space where the service enters the building, in a water closet or by the water heater. When a customer valve is not available always contact Water Operations to shut off water at the City meter, (928) 777-1118.

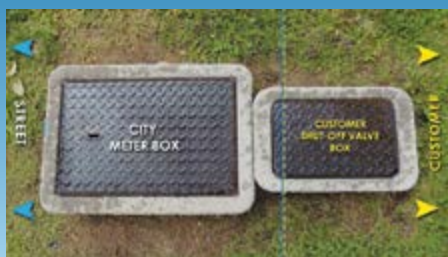


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

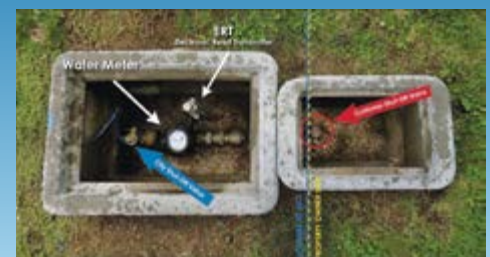


Fig. 3

## Possible Health Effects of Contaminants in Drinking Water

### Arsenic

If Arsenic is less than or equal to the MCL, your drinking water meets EPA's standards. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. For more information about Arsenic: [http://legacy.azdeq.gov/environ/water/dw/download/epa\\_arsenic.pdf](http://legacy.azdeq.gov/environ/water/dw/download/epa_arsenic.pdf)

### Chlorine

Some people who use water containing Chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing Chloramines well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort or anemia.

### Nitrates

Nitrates are inorganic substances that are monitored due to run off from fertilizer use. Nitrates in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. "High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome." The City of Prescott nitrate levels are well below the maximum contaminant level at 2.09 ppm. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, and detected nitrate levels are above 5 ppm, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

### Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is an emerging pathogen resistant to chlorination and can appear even in high quality water supplies. New regulations from the EPA require water systems to monitor Cryptosporidium and adopt a range of treatment options based on source water Cryptosporidium concentrations. The City of Prescott has not detected or had any occurrence of Cryptosporidium.

### Disinfection By-Products

Some people who drink water containing Total trihalomethanes and Haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of cancer.

### Barium

Some people who drink water containing Barium in excess of the MCL over many years may experience an increase in blood pressure.

### Copper & Lead

Copper is an essential nutrient however if present in drinking water, short term exposure to elevated levels of copper could cause gastrointestinal distress and prolonged use above the action level could cause liver or kidney damage in some people. If present, elevated levels of lead could cause health issues especially for pregnant women and young children. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development, slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Lead primarily comes from erosion of components associated with service lines and home plumbing. If your water has been sitting for several hours, flushing your tap for 30 seconds or more prior to drinking or cooking can minimize the potential for exposure. Information on lead in drinking water and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

### Radionuclides

They are a group of contaminants consisting of Alpha and Beta/Photon emitters, combined Radium 226 & 228 and Uranium. Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as Alpha, Beta or Photon radiation. Some people who drink water in excess of the MCL for this group of contaminants over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer or in some cases kidney problems. Radon gas is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that comes from the natural breakdown of Uranium. Although there is no federal standard for Radon in drinking water The City of Prescott does monitor the Radionuclide group and surpasses mandatory health levels established by the EPA and ADEQ. For more information on Radon: <https://www.epa.gov/radon>

### Contaminants & How They May Be Introduced

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals that can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations or wildlife.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

Pesticides and herbicides which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff or residential uses.

Radioactive contaminants, such as Radon, Alpha Emitters, Beta/Photon Emitters, combined Radium and Uranium that can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production or mining activities, decay or erosion of natural and man-made deposits.

Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic acids are the by-product of drinking water disinfection.



# Water Quality Data Report

The Water Quality Data Report Table contains the most recent results for regulated testing. The frequency of sample collection is determined by state and federal regulations and based on many different parameters such as type of water source, number of people served, as well as past and current analyses of the contaminant to be tested. Sample frequency can range between 1 month and 3 years. The City of Prescott is also required to test for unregulated contaminants. The data generated by these tests is used by the EPA to evaluate and prioritize contaminants on the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List. Regulated and unregulated contaminants will appear in this report if they are found during testing.

## Primary Drinking Water Standards - Mandatory Health-Related Levels Established by EPA and ADEQ

Water Samples Collected from Qualifying Homes Based on ADEQ Site Selection Criteria in Prescott, AZ

Parameter	Violation Y or N	AL	Number of Samples Over the AL	90th Percentile	Unit	Date
<b>Lead &amp; Copper</b>						
Lead Results - Homes	N	15	0	<5.0	ppb	2019
Copper Results - Homes	N	1.3	0	0.062	ppm	2019

## Regulated Substances - Measured from Water Leaving the Treatment Facilities

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level	Range	Unit	Date
<b>RadioChemical Monitoring</b>						
			<b>Highest Detected Level</b>	<b>Range</b>		
Gross Alpha	15	<15	9.7	1.8 - 9.7	pCi/L	2021
Combined Uranium 234, 235, 238	30	<30	14.9	9 - 14.9	ug/L	2019
<b>Inorganic Compounds</b>						
			<b>Highest Detected Level</b>	<b>Range</b>		
Arsenic	10	<10	8.1	1.2 - 8.1	ppb	2021
Barium	2	<1	0.039	<0.010 - 0.039	ppm	2021
Chromium	100	<15	13	<5 - 13	ppb	2021
Fluoride	4	<2	1.12	0.29 - 1.12	ppm	2021
Nitrate (as N)	10	<5	2.09	0.72 - 2.09	ppm	2021
Sodium	No MCL	N/A	40	15 - 40	ppm	2021
<b>Volatile Organic Compounds</b>						
			<b>Highest Detected Level</b>	<b>Range</b>		
Trichloroethylene	5	<0.5	0.6	<0.5 - 0.6	ppb	2021
<b>Disinfection Byproduct Monitoring</b>						
			<b>Highest Detected Level</b>	<b>Range</b>		
Total Trihalomethane (TTHM)	80	0	11.1	4.4 - 11.1	ppb	2021
Bromodichloromethane	N/A	<0.0005	0.0018	0.0007 - 0.0018	ppm	2021
Bromoform	N/A	<0.0005	0.0042	0.0018 - 0.0042	ppm	2021
Chloroform	N/A	<0.0005	0.0008	<0.0005 - 0.0008	ppm	2021
Dibromochloromethane	N/A	<0.0005	0.0042	0.0019 - 0.0042	ppm	2021
<b>Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL)</b>						
	<b>MRDL</b>	<b>MRDLG</b>	<b>Highest Detected Level</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chlorine	4.0	<4.0	2.13	0.42 - 2.13	ppm	2021
<b>Biological Monitoring</b>						
	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Entire Distribution System</b>		<b>Likely Source in Drinking Water</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Date</b>
Total Coliform - Tested monthly	0	Highest monthly number of positive Coliform samples: 0 in 53		Naturally present in the environment	Absent or Present	2021

## Unregulated Sampling Results: Water Samples Collected from Source Water

Parameter	PQL	Highest Level	Range	Unit	Date
<b>UCMR4 - Anions</b>					
Bromide	0.020	0.113	0.0761 - 0.113	mg/L	2020
<b>Water Samples Collected from Distribution System</b>					
<b>UCMR4 - HAA5</b>					
Bromochloroacetic acid	0.300	0.345	<0.300 - 0.345	ug/L	2020
Dibromoacetic acid	0.300	0.629	0.503 - 0.629	ug/L	2020



### Monitoring Requirements For City Of Prescott

During the 2021 calendar year, the City of Prescott met all of its monitoring requirements. Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have seen this information.

## Abbreviations & Definitions

**ADEQ (Arizona Department of Environmental Quality)** - State Regulatory Agency

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

**EPA (US Environmental Protection Agency)** - Federal Regulatory Agency

**HAA5 (Haloacetic acids 5)** - Five commonly found disinfection byproducts in drinking water.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level)** - The highest level of a contaminant allowed by the EPA in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**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.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level)** - The highest level of a disinfectant (chlorine) allowed in drinking water. There is convincing scientific evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is required for the control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal)** - The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**ND (Not Detected)** - Concentration too low to be detected

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units)** - A measure of water clarity

**pCi/L (Picocuries per liter)** - A measure of the radioactivity in water

**PPB (Parts Per Billion)** - Or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ), 1000 ppb = 1 ppm

**PPM (Parts Per Million)** - Or milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg/L}$ ), 1  $\text{mg/L}$  = 1 ppm

**PQL (Practical Quantitation Limit)** - The minimum concentration of an analyte (substance) that can be measured with a high degree of confidence that the analyte is present at or above that concentration

**UCMR4 (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule #4)** - Non-regulated compounds that can be found in water and are monitored for future regulatory agency evaluation

## What is a ppm

(parts per million) measurement?

## What is a ppb

(parts per billion) measurement?



### Parts per Million:

One car in bumper-to-bumper traffic from Cleveland to San Francisco



### Parts per Billion:

One pinch of salt in 10 tons of potato chips

