

Rhododendron Water Association

Consumer Confidence Report for the year 2025

Is my water safe?

Last year, as in recent years past, Rhododendron Water Association (RWA) tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. RWA vigilantly safeguards its water supply and once again, we are proud to report that our system has not violated any maximum contaminant level (MCL) during the year. We are also proud to be listed by the Oregon Health Authority (Drinking Water Division) as an **Outstanding Performer**, an award RWA received in May of 2023.

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).

Where does my water come from?

The Rhododendron Water Association obtains its source of water from Henry Creek with a diversion structure located in Mount Hood National Forest in the foothills of Zig Zag Mountain. The water is treated using Slow Sand filter or, during high demand, using the Multimedia (sand) filters and Rosedale brand cartridge filters to remove turbidity, Cryptosporidium and Giardia. Sodium Hypochlorite (NaOCl) is added to provide disinfection residual throughout the distribution system.

Source water assessment and its availability

The State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed a Source Water Assessment and the summary can be viewed at the following web site:<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/dwp/docs/swasummary/pws00702.pdf>

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). The sources of drinking water (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. These include: A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. D) Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Lead Service line inventory, Rhododendron Water Association conducted a lead service line inventory by evaluating 405 meters connections older than 1985, the material type was determined by visual means, no lead service lines were found a total 405 service lines were evaluated, 405 were determined to be non-lead.

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. Rhododendron Water Association is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Rhododendron Water Association, David Jacob 503-310-9262. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

How can I get involved?

Attend the Annual General Membership Meeting, which is usually held every year in May on a date determined by the Board. You can also help us keep costs down by reporting leaks and other maintenance issues to our main office at 503-622-5000 or our Water Master, David Jacob; Cell 503-310-9262.

Other Information

