

# City of Homer Drinking Water Monitoring Results

The City of Homer routinely monitors your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table below shows the results of our monitoring from January 1st to December 31st, 2020, unless otherwise noted. The State requires monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

**2020 test results indicate excellent water quality that meets and exceeds all Federal and State requirements.**

2020 Water Quality Test Results						
Contaminant	Sample Date	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants (Locational Running Annual Average)</b>						
Total Trihalomethanes	2020	No	46.58 LRAA BW 45.45 LRAA Spit Range: 34-54	ug/L	80	N/A
Total Haloacetic Acids	2020	No	25.60 LRAA BW 34.78 LRAA Spit Range: 17-43	ug/L	60	N/A
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
Gross Beta	2013	No	2.4	pCi/L	50	0
Radium 226/228	2013	No	0.043		5	
Gross Alpha	2013	No	0.85		15	
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
Turbidity	8/23/20	No	0.08	NTU	0.3	N/A
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Barium	2011	No	26.5	ug/L	2000	2000
Chromium	2011	No	0.453	ug/L	100	100
Total Thallium	2011	No	0.0839	ug/L	2	0.5
Nitrate	2016	No	0.159	mg/L	10	10
Arsenic	2012	No	0.221	ug/L	10	0
Lead*	2017	No	0.0077	mg/L	.015	0
Copper*	2017	No	0.16	mg/L	1.3	1.3
<b>Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring</b>						
Manganese	10/21/15	No	36	ug/L	N/A	N/A
Strontium	10/21/15	No	38	ug/L	N/A	N/A
Chlorate	10/21/15	No	79	ug/L	N/A	N/A

### Units of Measure:

**Ppm or mg/L**  
Parts per million or milligrams per liter: parts per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

### pCi/L

Radioactive measurement: 1 trillionth of a Curie.

\*Violation determination is based on the 90th percentile. Results of 20 samples ranged from non-detected to 0.00373 ppm of lead and 0.0143 to 0.157 ppm of copper.

### Ppb or ug/L

Parts per billion or micrograms per liter: parts per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

### Definitions:

#### MCL

*Maximum Contaminant Level:* 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.

#### MCLG

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

#### LRAA

*Locational Running Annual Average:* the average and range of sample analytical results from Best Western (BW) and Spit locations during the previous four calendar quarters.

#### N/A

Not applicable.

#### AL

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

#### TT

*Treatment Technique:* a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. For example, we are required to use filtration technology to remove turbidity from our water.

#### Turbidity

Suspended material or cloudiness measured in NTUs.

#### NTU

*Nephelometric Turbidity Unit:* Units of turbidity indicated by an instrument that measures refracted light through a water sample.

Questions? Call Public Works at 907-235-3170.

## Substances that may be found in your drinking water

**The sources of any drinking water**—tap and bottled water alike—include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. While the City of Homer has taken steps to protect the land in the Bridge Creek Reservoir's watershed, as water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive material. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

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

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

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

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

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

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or by the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To protect public health, water treatment plants reduce these contaminants to safe levels established by regulation. However, 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.

## System Wide Water Flushing

In an effort to deliver the highest quality water possible to our customers, the City of Homer, Public Works Department will be flushing the water system from May to Oct. You may experience low water pressure at times. If your water becomes cloudy or discolored, flush water until color returns to normal. If water does not become clear call the Public Works at 235-3170.



## Special Information for Vulnerable Populations

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons with organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections.

These people should seek advice from their health care providers. Guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available by calling the EPA/CDC Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 800-426-4791.

## Customer Meter Change Out

The City of Homer is currently in the process of upgrading all the water meters within the system. The change out has been phased over a 5 year period, with an expected completion date in 2022.

The new Orion ME Water meters have some unique advantages over our past models. They can hold six months of readings, allowing you and the Meter Tech to more easily figure out water issues.





We are committed to providing you with a clean and dependable supply of drinking water. We are proud to report that water delivered to our customers meets or exceeds all federal and state standards.



City of Homer Water Utility  
Department of Public Works  
3575 Heath Street  
Homer, ALASKA 99603  
PWS ID#: AK240456

## OCCUPANT / RESIDENT

Homer, Alaska 99603

## THINK BEFORE YOU FLUSH!

### Irresponsible flushing impacts our homes, wastewater infrastructure and wallets

No matter what it says on the packaging, most of our everyday personal healthcare products must never be thrown down the toilet. Many of these products don't break down like toilet paper. Instead they collect in our domestic and municipal waste water pipes and form blockages. Plumbing pipes in homes and businesses are not designed to handle this type of waste either and can easily become blocked.

Blockages that build up in sewer systems are called **fatbergs**. Fatbergs form like snowballs. When things like wet wipes and sanitary products get flushed down the toilet and oil and grease get thrown down the sink, they all congeal together and gradually form a hard mass.

The idea of a sewer system is that waste keeps moving through it. But when fatbergs grow large, they slow the movement of waste or even block it entirely, causing sewage to back up to the surface.

Another colorful (and apt) name, **ragging**, describes the clogging and damage caused to pumps by sewage related litter, especially wet wipes that people flush down the toilet.

At Homer's Wastewater Treatment Plant, sewage litter adds to the volume of solid matter which has to be carefully, expensively removed. Even dental floss should not be flushed down the toilet as it can collect in filters during the treatment process and cause machinery to break down.

At home and the treatment plant, irresponsible flushing results in costly maintenance, repairs, flooding and environmental pollution.

**Most products should be treated as waste and put in the trash, not flushed down the toilet.**

