

**Forks Municipal Water  
City of Forks  
2017  
Report to Consumers on Water Quality**

Dear Customer: We are pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the year 2017. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that utilities issue an annual "Consumer Confidence" report to customers in addition to the other notices that may be required by law. This report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. Forks Municipal Water is committed to providing you with a safe and reliable supply of water. Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water.

**The bottom line: Does Forks City water meet all federal and state regulations for drinking water? Absolutely.**

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular city council meetings occur on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at city hall at 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome. Find out more about Forks Municipal Water on the Internet at [www.forkswashington.com].

**Overview**

In 2017 Forks Municipal Water distributed a little more than 188.5 million gallons of water in the Forks area. That is up about 8.5 million gallons from 2016.

**Water Conservation:** It's important to conserve water in the late summer when possible. In 2017 we implemented voluntary water restrictions, but 2015 and 2016 we had mandatory water restrictions. It is always a good idea to conserve water.

**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG:** Call before you dig very important, we had water mains broken by construction equipment in the past year when people forgot or did not call 811 for Locates. We had a considerable amount of water storage lost due to those water main breaks.

**Cross Connections:** A cross-connection is an ACTUAL or POTENTIAL link between the potable water supply and a source of contamination (sewage, chemicals, gas, anything other than pure Potable Water. The most common cross connections around the house are caused by garden hoses. If a water main is broken it can cause something called backsiphonage. Backsiphonage is backflow in the opposite direction of the normal flow due to a partial vacuum in the piping system. If a property owner has a hose hooked up to potable water and the open end is submerged in a contaminant, (chemicals, pond, pool, hot tub, fertilizer sprayer, soap sprayer) that contaminant could be siphoned back into the water system if a water main break occurred. There have been many cases of the public becoming ill due to cross connections. Many commercial properties have backflow preventers installed and inspected. If you are concerned about a possible cross connection please contact the City.

**Water Leak Repair:** We understand that there are emergencies, but it is always best to call the City to have the meter shut off for leak repairs. Shutting off a meter incorrectly can cause damage, (valve damage and pipe damage) so having the water department shut it off prevents possible liability to the property owner and costly repairs. We can be contacted after hours by calling, 360-374-2223 ext. 4.

Our water comes from 5 wells, which are located from the Forks water compound at 300 Lupine Ave. to the radio station. Our water as pumped from the ground passes all state health standards for potable water. To ensure that it stays clean and safe, we add a very small amount of chlorine to kill any bacteria that could enter the system accidentally such as during a water main break or a back-flow situation. Chlorinated systems are required to maintain just a trace of chlorine through out the distribution system. We try to maintain a minimum of .2-ppm chlorine, which is comparable to one inch in 80 miles or one minute in ten years. In addition, we take at least 5 routine water samples per month and have them tested at an accredited lab for microbes such as total coliform, fecal coliform, and E-coli, contamination. According to lab tests in February 2017 the water we pump from the ground has .05 mg/L of natural fluoride. Washington State Dept. of Health recently lowered the recommended optimum fluoride level from 1.0 mg/L to 0.7 mg/L. So, the City now raises the fluoride level in the water to approximately .7 mg/L to help children grow healthy strong teeth. We test the fluoride level in the water at least 2 times each work day and we send 2 water samples to an accredited lab each month to be sure we are in compliance with all federal and state regulations for fluoride.

Once every nine years we send water to an independent lab and have it tested for at least 24 inorganic chemicals such as nickel, iron, and sodium. Every three years we test for over 60 volatile organic chemicals that are trihalomethanes such as styrene, chloroform, and butylbenzene and for 45 synthetic organic compounds such as naphthalene, pyrene, and PCB's. Every year we also test for nitrate contamination in the water. Chlorine and fluoride levels are monitored every workday in two different locations. Results from our latest testing are reflected in the tables below.

In the summer of 2015 the Forks Water Department took water samples from 20 homes and had it tested for Lead and Copper content. All of the samples passed easily. We have no lead water mains or service lines in our system. All new brass parts purchased in the last several years are made of no lead brass.

**(An important water question) Is water that meets Federal drinking water standards absolutely safe?**

Safety is relative not absolute. For example, an aspirin or two may help a headache, but if you took a whole bottle at once, you'd probably die. So, is aspirin safe? When setting drinking water standards, federal regulatory agencies use the concept of reasonable risk, not risk-free. Risk-free water would cost too much. So, the answer to the question is, no, drinking water isn't *absolutely* safe. But the likelihood of getting sick from drinking water that meets the federal standards is very small, typically one chance in a million.

One difficulty the US Environmental Protection Agency has when trying to determine reasonable risk relates to the problem called susceptible population. Not all people who drink water are the same from a health point of view, that is, some people are more susceptible to getting sick than others. For example, only babies three months old or younger are affected by nitrates in drinking water, so for that contaminant they are the susceptible population: They are susceptible to getting sick from too much nitrate in their drinking water. The standard for nitrate therefore was chosen to protect these infants. With other contaminants, identifying the susceptible population is not as easy. Are they the elderly, those undergoing cancer treatment, those in nursing homes, all babies, those who are HIV positive, or others? For each standard the federal regulatory agencies must balance the risk to all these groups against the cost of treatment and arrive at a standard that will protect as many people as possible and that can be afforded. This is called "the greatest good for the greatest number." (Plain Talk about drinking Water) third edition. Pages 165 166

**How to Read This Table**

The table below shows the results of our water-quality analyses for the last five years after testing for over 175 contaminants. Every regulated contaminant that we detected at or above the SRL in the water is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, (MCLG), the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement. Definitions of MCL and MCLG are important.

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

**Minimum Detection Level or MDL:** The minimum level of a contaminant at or above which the testing laboratory must report detection.

**Key to Table**

AL = Action Level

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

MDL=Minimum Detection Level

MFL = million fibers per liter

Ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb= parts per billion, or micrograms per liter

SRL = State Dept. of Health minimum reporting level

Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Amount Detected	SRL	Major Sources	Violations
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**Inorganic  
Contaminant**

Fluoride, F	4/21/16	mg/L	4	0.7	2.2	.2	Erosion of natural deposits; Additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and Aluminum factories.	NO
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**Water Quality Table Footnote**

1. Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL of 4 mg/L, for many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.

**OVER**

**Unregulated Contaminants**

Forks Municipal Water did not test for Radon

**NOTE**

Please do not plant trees or large shrubs over water mains or near water meters. We have had numerous water main breaks due to tree roots. These problems are costly and time consuming and often result in damage to lawns and other landscaping.

**Required Additional Health Information**

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled 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 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 radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 storm 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, storm water runoff, and residential uses.

(D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). This report was prepared by the Forks Water Dept. For more information, call Forks Municipal Water at (360) 374-5412. Learn more about the Forks Municipal Water system at [www.forkswashington.com].

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

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