

## Think W.O.W. – Wise Outdoor Watering

### 5 Simple Ways to Save Water this Summer:

**Minimize water waste.** Up to fifty percent of the water applied to lawns is wasted due to overwatering, runoff, and evaporation.

**Water efficiently.** Water early in the morning, avoid watering on driveways and sidewalks, use soaker hoses, and consult an expert for advice on in-ground sprinkler systems.

**Grass-cycle.** Just cut it high, and let it lie. Grass clippings provide good moisture and nutrients to your lawn.

**Harvest rainwater.** Look for ways to manage rain water on your property, by redirecting downspouts to drain into gardens, or a rain barrel.

**Grow native.** Plants that are native (naturally found) in the area are adapted to the normal rainfall amounts, so you won't have to water them.



## Keeping Our Streams Healthy

In Olathe, storm drains connect directly to our streams. That means that the stormwater that runs off roads, parking lots, and other hard surfaces during rain events flows to the nearest creek without any treatment. A whole host of pollutants – ranging from trash to road salts and lawn chemicals – can be carried back to our streams during this process. This stormwater pollution can be a major source of pollution in Olathe's streams and lakes.

### What You Can Do

- Organize a litter cleanup. The City's Adopt-a-Street and Volunteers in the Parks (VIP) Programs can assist you with your efforts.
- Properly dispose of paint, pesticides and other household chemicals through the City's year-round household hazardous waste (HHW) program.
- Keep motor oil away from storm drains by collecting it for recycling.
- Reduce the need for lawn chemicals through natural lawn care practices (e.g., grass-cycling, composting, non-toxic alternatives). If you do apply chemicals, be sure it's not when a heavy rainfall is predicted.
- Report any incidences of illegal dumping, down a storm drain or anywhere else, to the City.

### How to Contact Us

Municipal Services Center (913) 971-9311  
1385 S. Robinson Dr. / P.O. Box 768  
Olathe, Kansas 66061  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

### Customer Service

To start, stop, or transfer water service (913) 971-9311  
Account information (bill payment) (913) 971-9311  
For water quality information (913) 971-5122  
Report a waterline break or other emergency (913) 971-9311  
After hours emergency (evenings/weekends) (913) 971-5151  
For more information, visit [www.olatheks.org/oms](http://www.olatheks.org/oms)

## EPA WaterSense Label

The City is a proud utility partner of the EPA's WaterSense Program, which encourages homeowners across the country to take a closer look at their water use to help conserve water for future generations and reduce costs on their water bills. Similar to the "EnergyStar" label for energy-efficient appliances, the WaterSense label provides consumers with an easy way to identify high-performing, water-efficient products. Look for the label on toilets and other household plumbing fixtures.



## Olathe Link

P.O. Box 768  
Olathe, Kansas 66051-0768

### Reader Feedback

Please send your comments to:  
Olathe Link  
P.O. Box 768  
Olathe, KS 66051-0768  
[linkcomments@olatheks.org](mailto:linkcomments@olatheks.org)  
913-971-8700

## Setting the Standard for Excellence in Public Service

This report is being mailed to you as a requirement of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

**NOTE:** Please share this report with others, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.



## AQUAFEST 2009 WATER – it's reason enough to celebrate!

Saturday, September 19\*, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cedar Lake Park, 15500 S. Lone Elm Road \*rain date September 26

## Olathe's 7th annual community water festival

Celebrate water as an important resource and a never-ending source of fun with FREE activities for all ages, including:

- Canoeing
- Fishing & Fly-fishing
- Hands-on water activities
- Arts & crafts
- Giant water slide
- How-to classes in:
  - painting with watercolors
  - designing a rain garden
  - managing bugs without pesticides
- And much, much more!

AquaFest is sponsored by the City of Olathe Municipal Services, Parks & Recreation, and Public Works Departments. For more information, call 971-9311 or visit [www.olatheks.org](http://www.olatheks.org).



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## CITY OF OLATHE NEWSLETTER

# Olathe

## LINK

### SPRING 2009

## SPECIAL EDITION



# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## Olathe's Water Is Safe!

This annual drinking water quality report demonstrates the City's ongoing commitment to providing safe, high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal standards. Included are details about where our water comes from, what it contains, and how it measures up to the state and federal standards.

## Olathe Voted Best Tasting Water in Kansas!

In September of 2008, during the 63rd Annual KSAWWA Conference (Kansas section of the American Water Works Association) in Kansas City, KS, Olathe drinking water was judged to be the best tasting water in the State of Kansas. The water was evaluated based on taste and smell by a panel of 5 judges. By winning the taste test in Kansas, Olathe is now eligible to submit a sample and compete for the best tasting water in the nation later this summer at the National AWWA Conference.

## Celebrating 125 Years of Drinking Water Treatment

The City of Olathe has been providing water to our residents and businesses for 125 of Olathe's 150 years. The first City of Olathe water was delivered to customers in 1884 with water drawn from Lake Mahaffie, which is now called Frisco Lake. In 1914, the City's first water plant was built to serve 1,200 customers and was operated by one employee. Over the years the City of Olathe has expanded its water treatment system as the community has grown. Today, the City of Olathe has over 34,000 water customers.

## Protecting Olathe's Source Water

Protecting our water resources is important to the quality of life of Olathe citizens, and the quality of our source water has a direct impact on the treatment costs for providing safe, quality drinking water. The City of Olathe, in partnership with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), has completed a source water assessment for our water supplies. The assessment results are available at [www.kdheks.gov/nps](http://www.kdheks.gov/nps). Visit the City's website ([www.olatheks.org](http://www.olatheks.org)) to learn more about ongoing source water protection efforts in the Lake Olathe Watershed.

## Testing for Your Safety

The quality of Olathe's drinking water is our number one priority. We run hundreds of tests daily – throughout the treatment process, the distribution system, and in our customers' homes – to ensure that we consistently produce water that meets or exceeds all state and federal standards for safe drinking water.

EN ESPAÑOL: Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (913) 971-9311.

# Ensuring Safe Drinking Water

## Sources of Drinking Water

Across the nation, the sources of drinking 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.



## Ensuring Safe Drinking Water

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Contaminants in bottled water are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA sets limits that protect the public in the same manner as tap water regulations. 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water prior to treatment include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- 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.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural and residential uses.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- 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.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791, [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Where does Olathe's water come from?

The City obtains untreated "raw water" from two sources. The City's primary source of water is from wells located along the Kansas River alluvial aquifer, which is pumped to Water Plant No. 2 for processing. **In 2008, the City delivered approximately 4.35 billion gallons of drinking water to Olathe residents, businesses, and visitors, all of which was treated at Water Plant No. 2.**

### What is a backflow preventer?

A backflow preventer is a device that prevents pollutants or contaminants from entering the City's water distribution system through a cross-connection during a drop in water pressure. In Olathe, all in-ground lawn irrigation systems and fire sprinkler systems are required to be equipped with an approved backflow prevention device that is tested and certified annually.

### Does the City Monitor our Drinking Water?

The City of Olathe laboratory staff collect drinking samples throughout the city to ensure its quality. The laboratory presently collects samples from 128 homes and businesses throughout the city to test for safety. The EPA's Total Coliform Rule requires that a specific number of samples be collected and analyzed for bacteriological safety. The lab also tests for many other items that assist in making sure the water is always safe to drink.

### What is meant by "water hardness?"

Water hardness is a measure of the calcium and magnesium salts in the water, and is usually expressed in parts per million (ppm) of dissolved calcium and magnesium carbonate. The term "hardness" comes from the fact that it is hard to lather soap in hard water. The City's water hardness averages 140-170 ppm, or 8-10 grains per gallon (gpg). This value is required to set your softener for proper operation.

# Summary of Water Quality

The EPA requires monitoring of over 100 drinking water contaminants. Listed below are only certain contaminants, many of which were undetected in Olathe's drinking water. The summary shows monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2008.



## Key to abbreviations

**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 risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

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

**WP1:** Water Plant No. 1

**WP2:** Water Plant No. 2

**DS:** Distribution System

**ppb:** Parts per billion

**ppm:** Parts per million

**ND (Not Detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**N/A:** Not applicable

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

**TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** A measure of the clarity of water.

**Picocurie per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of the radioactivity of water.

**MFL:** Million fibers per liter

**µMHOS/cm (micromhos per centimeter):** A measure of conductivity.

## Regulated Parameters

Parameter (units)	MCL	MCLG	City of Olathe Value			City of Olathe Range	Meets Standard	Possible Sources
			WP1	WP2	DS			
<b>Inorganic Compounds</b>								
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	N/A	ND	N/A	ND	✓	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder.
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	N/A	1.6	N/A	1.6	✓	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium (ppm)	2	2	N/A	0.09	N/A	0.09	✓	Discharge of drilling waters; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	N/A	ND	N/A	ND	✓	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries.
Cadmium (ppb)	5	5	N/A	ND	N/A	ND	✓	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; metal refineries discharge; waste batteries and paint runoff.
Chloramines (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	N/A	N/A	2.21	1.85-2.55	✓	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	N/A	2.3	N/A	2.3	✓	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	N/A	N/A	0.15	N/A	✓	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosions of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	N/A	0.58	N/A	0.27-0.92	✓	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0	N/A	N/A	5	N/A	✓	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Mercury (ppb)	2	2	N/A	ND	N/A	ND	✓	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills and cropland.
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	N/A	0.57	N/A	0.57-0.6	✓	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	N/A	2.6	N/A	2.6	✓	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Thallium (ppb)	0.5	2	N/A	ND	N/A	ND	✓	Leaching from ore processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories.
Asbestos (MFL)	7	0	N/A	N/A	ND	ND	✓	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits.
Total Organic Carbon (TOC) (removal ratio)	>1.0	TT	N/A	2.40	N/A	2.20-2.59	✓	Naturally present in the environment.
<b>Synthetic Organic Chemicals</b>								
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	N/A	0.47	N/A	0.47	✓	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
Alachlor (ppb)	2	0	N/A	ND	N/A	ND	✓	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
<b>Volatile Organic Chemicals</b>								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	60	N/A	N/A	N/A	23.2	10.4-48.6	✓	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	80	N/A	N/A	N/A	65	45.1-99.9	✓	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total Coliforms (in % of monthly samples)	<5	0	N/A	N/A	1.5	0-1.5	✓	Naturally present in the environment.
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	N/A	N/A	ND	N/A	99.7%-99.9% below 0.3 NTU	✓	Soil runoff.
<b>Radiological Contaminants</b>								
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	N/A	N/A	ND	N/A	✓	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.



## Unregulated Parameters

Unregulated parameters are monitored in the interest of the customer, and to assist regulators in developing future regulations.

Parameter (units)	Federal Level (Recommended)	City of Olathe Value		DS
		WP1	WP2	
Alkalinity (ppm)	N/A	N/A	141	N/A
Aluminum (ppb)	200	N/A	ND	N/A
Calcium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	52	N/A
Chloride (ppm)	250	N/A	39	N/A
Deethylatrazine (ppb)	N/A	N/A	ND	N/A
Iron (ppm)	0.3	N/A	ND	N/A
Magnesium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	11	N/A
Manganese (ppm)	0.05	N/A	ND	N/A
Metolachlor (ppb)	N/A	N/A	3.5	N/A
Nickel (ppm)	N/A	N/A	0.002	N/A
pH (standard units)	6.5-8.5	N/A	7.7	N/A
Phosphorus (ppm)	N/A	N/A	0.014	N/A
Potassium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	6.1	N/A
Silica (ppm)	50	N/A	12	N/A
Silver (ppm)	0.1	N/A	ND	N/A
Sodium (ppm)	100	N/A	33	N/A
Specific Conductivity (µMHOS/cm)	1500	N/A	550	N/A
Sulfate (ppm)	250	N/A	64	N/A
Radon (pCi/L)	300	N/A	50	N/A
Radium-226 (pCi/L)	1500	N/A	N/A	ND
Radium-228 (pCi/L)	1500	N/A	N/A	ND
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	500	N/A	310	N/A
Total Hardness (ppm)	400	N/A	180	N/A
Zinc (ppm)	5	N/A	ND	N/A

## For Customers with Special Health Concerns

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.

## Regulatory Update

The City of Olathe continually has to stay in compliance with existing as well as new drinking water regulations. Samples were collected from June through September of 2008 to comply with the Lead and Copper Rule. During this sampling, 50 homes were chosen that met the sampling criteria and the samples were collected by the residents. Sampling has recently been completed to comply with the new Disinfection Byproducts 2 Rule (DBP2) which required samples to be collected from 16 locations throughout the city's water distribution system for total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids. This first round of sampling ran for one year to determine the extent and duration of future monitoring. The next round of sampling is scheduled for 2012. Several items are on a list for potential regulation as part of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR2). The monitoring began in August of 2008 and will be completed in June of 2009. This is in addition to all of the other established rules that also require stringent monitoring through sampling and analysis.