

Is my water safe? From January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022 the City of Republic sampled and tested the public water system for coliform bacteria, disinfection by-products (TTHM and HAA5), and nitrates as required by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). We test for coliform bacteria twice monthly and check chlorine levels daily.

Do I need to take special precautions? Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplants recipients, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk of infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen infection risk by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800) 426-4791.

Where does my water come from? Our water sources are three drilled wells approximately 100 feet deep, penetrating and drawing water from the San Poil Aquifer producing approximately 1000 gallons per minute.

Source water assessment and its availability: In 2022 the City pumped 85,862,600 gallons of water and has a capacity of over one million gallons of water storage. The most recent testing cycles have shown the source water to be well within safe parameters of drinking water for lead, copper, nitrates, and coliform. Source water pH averages 6.9 before entering the corrosion control system.

Corrosion Control Treatment Information: The City of Republic has had a Corrosion Control Plant in full operation since 2004 and complies with the state regulations requiring testing for lead and copper in the distribution water system. Lead and copper samples were taken in July 2022 from 10 different locations with satisfactory results. The pH of the drinking water flowing in the distribution system averages 7.7.

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 are available by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791. The sources of drinking water, both tap, 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 human activity. Potential contaminants can include: microbial contaminants (such as viruses and bacteria that 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 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, that can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems, and radioactive contaminants, (which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.) To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the levels of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

How can I get involved? Our City Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at City Hall. If you would like to be on the agenda, please contact City Hall at (509) 775-3216. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please feel free to come to the next City Council meeting or contact our Public Works department at (509) 775-2929.