



Water Quality Report 2021

(ISSUED 2022)

Presented By

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Apache Junction Water District

The Apache Junction Water District (AJWD) is pleased to present the annual drinking water quality report (Consumer Confidence Report) for calendar year 2021. This report contains important information about the quality of your drinking water.

Este informe contiene información muy important sobre el agua usted bebe. Debe traducirlo o hablar con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Why Provide a Water Quality Report?

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality and its health effects.

If you would like to learn more about our system, how to help protect your drinking water sources, attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings, or any details presented in this report, please contact our office at (480) 982-6030. The Apache Junction Water District Board meets at 6:00 p.m. the third Tuesday in Council Chambers, located at 300 E. Superstition Blvd, Apache Junction, AZ 85119, unless otherwise noted. For a complete meeting schedule, visit <https://apachejunction.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>



Where Does AJWD Water Come From?

AJWD supplies well water (groundwater) pumped from the Eastern Salt River Sub-Basin Aquifer which flows southwesterly under Apache Junction and its surrounding areas. The groundwater is treated for arsenic removal where necessary, disinfected with chlorine, pumped into storage tanks and blended with Colorado River (surface) water. The surface water is transported through the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal system and filtered and purified at the Superstition Area Water Plant before being introduced into the distribution system.

AJWD can also receive treated CAP water from the City of Mesa through an interconnect for a backup supply of water, if needed.



Source Water Assessment

In 2004, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) completed a source water assessment (SWA) of our water system to identify potential sources of contaminants to our drinking water. In this assessment, ADEQ reviewed the adjacent land use that may pose a potential risk to our water sources.

Based on the SWA, ADEQ has given AJWD a low risk designation for our source water. A low risk designation indicates that most source water protection measures are either already implemented or the hydrogeological setting is such that it protects the source

water. This assessment report provides a one time evaluation of our source water.

What Could Be in Drinking Water Sources?

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 from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water 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 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 agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- ◆ **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- ◆ **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Should I Take Special Precautions for My Health?

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.

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.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the EPA and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and microbiological contaminants, call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Additional Health Information on Contaminants of Concern

- **Nitrate:** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods-of-time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, and detected nitrate levels are above 5 ppm, you should ask advice from your health care provider.
- **Arsenic:** If arsenic is less than or equal to the MCL, your drinking water meets EPA's standards. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.
- **Lead:** If present, elevated levels of 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 in plumbing. AJWD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in residential plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can reduce the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.





How to Conserve Water

How can you save water? Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- ◆ Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- ◆ Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair, and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- ◆ Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- ◆ Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- ◆ Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- ◆ Water plants only when necessary. Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- ◆ Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!

Visit the following sites for more information on water conservation:

- <https://www.epa.gov/watersense>
- <https://www.smarthomewaterguide.org/>
- <https://smartscape.org/smartscape-professionals-directory/>
- <https://www.amwua.org/plants>

Definitions and Acronyms

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

Action Level Goal (ALG)

Average (Avg)

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): Average of sample analytical results samples taken at a specific monitoring location during the previous 4 calendar quarters.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The level of disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of disinfectant added for treatment at which no known or anticipated adverse effect on health of persons would occur.

Milligrams per Liter (mg/L)

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

Not Applicable (NA): Sampling was not completed by regulation or was not required.

Not Detected (ND)

Parts Per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L).

Parts Per Billion (ppb): ppm x 1000

Pico Curies per Liter (pCi/L)

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

Regulated Drinking Water Contaminants

All Following Results Meet Regulatory Standards

AJWD [1]	City of Mesa [1]
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INORGANIC CHEMICALS

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Range (Highest Level)	Range (Highest Level)	Likely Source in Drinking Water
Arsenic (ppm)	10	0	1.9-3.7 (2.7 Avg)	1.2-10.8 (10.8)	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.120-0.120 (0.120)	0.005-0.11 (0.11)	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of drilling wastes
Chromium, Total (ppb)	100	100	ND	ND-24 (24)	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from steel mills
Fluoride (Naturally Occurring) (ppm)	4	4	0.32-0.32 (0.32)	0.12-1.11 (1.11)	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer factories
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	0.23-0.24 (0.24)	Nd-6.46 (6.46)	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaking from septic tanks
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	ND		Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Sodium (ppb)	3000	3000	89-90 (90)	53-190 (190)	Erosion of natural deposits

SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Range (Avg)	Range (Highest Level)	Likely Source in Drinking Water
Dibromochloropropane (ppt)	200	0		ND-26 (26)	Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, pineapples, and orchards

VOLATILE ORGANIC CHEMICALS

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Range (Avg)	Range (Highest Level)	Likely Source in Drinking Water
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	ND		Discharge from petroleum factories
Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	ND		Discharge from petroleum factories or chemical factories
Dichloromethane (ppb)	5	0		ND-0.5 (0.5)	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	5	0		ND-0.56 (0.56)	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	5	0		ND-0.54 (0.54)	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories

RADIONUCLIDES

Parameter [2]	MCL	MCLG	Range (Highest Level)	Range (Highest Level)	Likely Source in Drinking Water
Alpha Particles (pCi/L)	15	0	3.5-3.7 (3.7)	2.4-5.0 (5.0)	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	5	0	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits

DISINFECTANTS & DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Range (Avg)	Range (Highest Level)	Likely Source in Drinking Water
Free Chlorine Residual (ppm)	4	4	0.39-0.91 (0.65)	ND-1.68 (1.21)	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	800	800	0-70 (23)	ND-280 (280)	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)	MCL = 1	MCLG = 1	0.38-0.85 (0.57)	<0.01-0.38 (0.32)	Byproduct of chlorine dioxide disinfection
Bromate (ppb)	10	0		ND-8.9 (4.0)	Byproduct of water disinfection

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Range (Highest Annual Avg)	Range (Highest Annual Avg)	Likely Source in Drinking Water
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	LRAA = 60	NA	11.3-23 (21)	<2-30 (23)	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	LRAA = 80	NA	27.7-92.7 (58)	2-78 (54)	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

LEAD & COPPER

Parameter	AL	MCLG	Range (90th Percentile)	Range (90th Percentile)	Likely Source in Drinking Water
Lead (ppb)	15	15	ND-0.014 (0)	ND-7.7 (3.8)	Erosion; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	ND-0.13 (0.12)	0.01-0.24 (0.24)	Erosion; Corrosion of household plumbing systems

TURBIDITY

Facility	MCL	MCLG	Monthly Measurement % ≤ 0.3 NTU	Highest Monthly Measurement	Likely Source in Drinking Water
AJWD Superstition Area Water Plant	TT: At least 95% of monthly samples must be ≤ 0.3 NTU and No value can exceed 1 NTU		100%	0.3 NTU	Soil Runoff
City of Mesa City Zone Val Vista WTP			99%	1 NTU	Soil Runoff

TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA

System	MCL	MCLG	Highest Monthly #	Highest Monthly %	Likely Source in Drinking Water
Apache Junction Water District	< 1 Monthly	0	0	NA	Naturally present in environment
City of Mesa Distribution System	< 5% Monthly	0	1.8	<5%	Naturally present in environment

[1] All samples were taken in 2021 unless noted. [2] 2016 Data