

# The Lewiston Orchards Irrigation District (LOID)



*is proud to provide you with water that meets or surpasses all the standards for safe drinking water. These health and safety standards are established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (ID DEQ). Our goal is to continue to provide you with safe drinking water and excellent customer service every day of the year.*

*To ensure the safety of your water, we monitor before, during, and after the treatment process. LOID's drinking water source consists of three groundwater wells and is monitored and tested regularly. We continually sample and test water from our distribution system. Test results are on file with the ID DEQ, the agency that monitors and regulates drinking water quality in Idaho.*

*This Water Quality Report provides important information about your drinking water including compliance with government standards during 2014. Please take a moment to review this information. If you have questions or would like additional information, please call the LOID offices at (208) 746-8235 or visit our website at [www.loid.net](http://www.loid.net) or you can call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.*

*Barney Metz, Manager  
Lewiston Orchards Irrigation District*

## How often does LOID test the drinking water?

The L.O.I.D. conducts over 500 bacteriological tests annually and tests for over 100 potential chemical contaminants.

The EPA sets maximum contaminant levels at a one-in-a-million level in most cases. This means that if a person drinks two liters (approximately half a gallon) of water containing a contaminant at the maximum contaminant level (MCL) per day for 70 years, the risk for developing an adverse reaction to the substance is one in one million.

Your drinking water comes from ground water. We have wells located on Warner Avenue (Well #3), near Mann Lake (Well #2), and in Hereth Park (Well #4). Well #1 at 1520 Powers Avenue has been out of production since 1998.

The L.O.I.D. Board of Directors meet at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month and at 7:00 a.m. for a work session on the Monday preceding the Wednesday evening meeting. Please feel free to join us in these meetings.

## What is water hardness?

Hardness refers to dissolved minerals (calcium and magnesium) in your water that are naturally found in our aquifer that interfere with the sudsing action of soap, the harder the water, the less the sudsing action. The hardness varies throughout the Orchards depending on which wells are operating. LOID's water hardness measures from 19-81 ppm. If you look at the table below, your water ranges from lightly hard to a few cases of moderately hard water. If you have questions, please feel free to contact our Water Production Supervisor at the LOIL offices, (208) 746-8235.

Grains Per Gallon	Miligrams Per Liter (mg/l) or Parts Per Million (ppm)	Rating
less than 1.0	less than 17.1	Soft
1.0 - 3.5	17.1 - 60	Slightly Hard
3.5 - 7.0	60 - 120	Moderately Hard
7.0 - 10.5	120 - 180	Hard
over 10.5	over 180	Very Hard

## What should I do if my water suddenly discolors?

Naturally occurring iron and manganese in the water cause rusty or discolored water. As water moves through the mains that supply your home, these minerals and sediment settle to the bottom and form deposits. A sudden flow change, a fire hydrant being turned on or a main break will disturb these deposits and sediments and temporarily discolor the water. Although it is aesthetically unappealing, this discoloration is not harmful and your water will clear with some flushing. If your water suddenly becomes discolored, wait 15-30 minutes, then turn your COLD water tap on your lowest bathtub or shower and let it run from 5-20 minutes. Normally this will clear your water and flush the sediment from your service line and plumbing. If this does not clear your line, please call us.

## Contaminants that may be present include:

*Both tap water and bottled water originate as surface water from rivers and lakes or as ground water from springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases,*

*radioactive material. Water picks up wastes from both human and animal activities. Surface water must be carefully filtered and disinfected to remove bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. Ground water is usually filtered naturally.*

## Contaminants that may be present include:

**Microbial contaminants** such as bacteria, viruses, and protozoa are very small living creatures that may be natural and harmless, or harmful if originating from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations or wildlife.

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

**Pesticides and Herbicides** may come from agriculture and residential uses.

**Radioactive contaminants** are naturally occurring, or can be a result of mining activities or gas and oil production.

**Organic contaminants** are usually man-made (synthetic) and vaporize (volatilize) easily. Petroleum products and degreasers are examples of gas station and dry cleaner waste transported by storm water and sewers.

*In order to ensure that the water is safe to drink, the*

*EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish the limits for bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. If bottled water and tap water meet the federal standards, they are both safe to drink. However, your tap water is substantially less expensive than bottled water and safely delivered to your home.*

**Some people may be more vulnerable** to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791.





## 2015 Drinking Water Report – 2014 Sampling Report

During recent years we have sampled and tested for a wide range of chemicals and have found very little contamination. Contamination is anything other than pure water. We sample total coliform bacteria at least 40 times monthly as an indicator of microorganisms that should not be present. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2014 calendar year or in our most recent test as noted. 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 a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling our office at (208) 746-8235 or the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### Terms and abbreviations used below:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** 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.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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.
- **Action Level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **na:** not applicable • **nd:** not detectable at testing limit • **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter • **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter
- **pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

Regulated Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Our Water	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant	Comments
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	3	0	2014	NO	Naturally present in the environment	Tested Monthly
Nitrate as N (ppm)	10	10	nd	2014	NO	Run off from fertilizer	Not Detected
Lead (ppb) (1)	0	15 AL	0.002	2012	NO	Home Plumbing	Normal
Copper (ppm) (2)	1.3	1.3 AL	0.030	2012	NO	Home Plumbing	Normal
Alpha / Radiation (pCi/L)	0	15	0.93 - 0.03	2013	NO	Erosion of natural deposits	Normal
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.55 - 3.10	2010	NO	Naturally occurring (1.0 considered ideal)	Good for Teeth
Chlorine (as Free CL <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	4	0.9 - 1.0	2014	NO	Water additive used to control microbes	Normal
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	11.2 - 1.54	2014	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination	Normal
Total Haloacetic	NA	60	0.0 - 1.08	2014	NO	By-Product of drinking water chlorination)	Normal
Arsenic (ppb)	NA	10	0.00 - 1.31	2010	NO	Erosion of Natural Deposits	Normal
Radium (Combined 226-228) (pCi/l)	0	5	0.02 - 0.9	2010	NO	Naturally Occurring Isotopes	Normal
Hardness (Combination of Calcium & Magnesium)	NA	NA	19 – 81 (ppm)	2005/2006		Naturally occurring	Normal
Sodium – (79ppm – 2001) unregulated – (20ppm recommended for low salt diet)							

**Total Coliform:** Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. A coliform bacterium found in two or more samples is a warning of potential problems and usually triggers a precautionary boil notice.

**About Nitrate:** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants less than six months of age. When levels approach 10 ppm, ask for advice from your health care provider about blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of well construction, usage, rainfall, and local contamination.

(1) This is the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of lead samples.

(2) This is the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of copper samples.

The Source Water Assessment (SWA) has been completed by DEQ and may be viewed at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/SWAReports/InternetQuery.cfm>