

# City of New Plymouth Consumer Confidence Report 2017



In this report, we strive to provide you with information about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We hope that with this information, you will be an ally in our efforts to preserve water quality, and be able to make informed choices and actions for the health of you and your family.

*Last year, the City of New Plymouth conducted quality tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 5 of those contaminants, and only 1 exceeded the EPA drinking water standards at the source!*

The following table provides all the information you need to understand your drinking water quality, showing the recorded **detection of the following constituents in your drinking water for the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.**

CONSTITUENT TABLE							
Constituent	Violation (Y/N)	MCL	MCLG	Lowest Level Detected	Highest Level Detected	Date Tested (mm/yy)	Typical Sources of Contamination
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Arsenic (ppb)	N	10	0	4	8	09/16	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronic production wastes.
Chromium (ppb)	N	100	100	3	3	08/13	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	N	4	4	0.32	0.37	09/16	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (ppm)	N	10	10	2.1	2.1	11/17	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium (ppb)	Y	50	50	8	52	09/16	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Sodium (in mg/L)	N	N/A	N/A	11.1	11.4	03/10	Road deicing chemicals; water treatment chemicals; domestic water softeners; sewage effluent.
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Total Coliform (TCR) # of samples	N	1	0	N/A	N/A	06/17	Naturally present in the environment.
<b>RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	N	15	0	7.97	7.97	09/16	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium (ug/L)	N	30	0	9	9	09/16	Erosion of natural deposits.

The City of New Plymouth utilizes three groundwater wells (**referred to as Wells #7, #8, #9**) to supply drinking water to our homeowners. As water travels through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances involved with human activity

It is our duty to inform you of one violation within the City of New Plymouth drinking water system. On 9/21/2017, a sample was taken from Well #7 containing levels of Selenium beyond the EPA standards. This sample was taken at the source point. The water from Well #7 is blended with the waters of New Plymouths two additional wells, reducing the Selenium levels to well within safe limits long before it reached consumer taps.

Drinking water may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems, ensuring its safety to public health.

To assist you in understanding the data presented in the constituent table, we are happy to shed light on the types of potential contaminants, units of measurement utilized for recording, and the regulations that guarantee the safety of your drinking water.

Contaminants that may be present in source water can include:

- **Inorganic contaminants:** salts and metals that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or agriculture.
- **Pesticides and herbicides:** may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- **Microbial contaminants:** viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife
- **Organic chemical contaminants:** synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants:** naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

These potential constituents are measured and recorded using these units of measurement:

- **Milligrams per Liter (mg/L):** Equivalent to one part per million (ppm), it corresponds to one minute in 20 years.
- **Micrograms per Liter (ug/L):** Equivalent to one part per billion (ppb).
- **Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L):** a measurement of radioactivity/radioactive substance per Liter
- **Parts per billion (ppb):** One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years
- **Parts per million (ppm):** One part per million corresponds to one penny in \$10,000
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Finally, we describe the regulations referenced in the table. These regulations are the health and safety standards to which your drinking water is held.

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



**Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.**

These individuals can include:

- Immuno-compromised persons such as persons undergoing chemotherapy
- persons who have undergone organ transplants
- people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders
- Elderly individuals
- infants and young children

These individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

*Additional Information for Arsenic:* While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. 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 health 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.

*Additional Information for Nitrate:* Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10ppm 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, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

*Additional Information for Lead:* Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of New Plymouth is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. Additional information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or EPA's website, <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

For additional information,  
please contact your water operator.

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



Water glass image found at: <https://www.ambientebio.it/rimedi-naturali/avete-mai-provato-a-bere-acqua-a-stomaco-vuoto-la-mattina-ecco-perche-iniziare-subito/>

Water droplet image found at: <http://www.smallsciencecollective.org/2010/11/free-water-vs-bottle-water.html>

Leaf image found at: <http://www.zastavki.com/eng/Nature/Nature/Seasons/Summer/wallpaper-7266.htm>

City of New Plymouth image found at: <https://www.npidaho.com/>

# What Can I Do to Help Protect My Drinking Water?



## Preserving Quality at the Source

*You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:*

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets. Animal waste can easily be carried into our streams, rivers, and lakes after one good rainstorm.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; fertilizers, pesticides, motor oil, and other chemicals have a significant impact on your drinking water quality
- Dispose of pharmaceuticals properly; for more information, please refer to [www.deq.idaho.gov/pharmaceuticals-disposal](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/pharmaceuticals-disposal)
- Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one.
- Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## Conserving Quantity in your Home

*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, versus up to 50 gallons per bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth and shaving saves up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Running your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full saves up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Fixing or replacing with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- 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 [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## Thank you for being a valued member of this drinking water community!

Your water bill is our connection to you as a water user. Your consistent payments are the reason we are able to maintain the City of New Plymouth's drinking water to the high standard that we do. We couldn't do it without you as a customer!