

SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA					
Alco Water Service had 523 samples collected for routine bacteriological quality testing in 2015.					
Microbiological Contaminants	Highest # of Detections (in a month)	# of months in violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria (Total Coliform Rule)	1 sample (1.89%)	0	More than 5.0% of monthly samples are positive	0	Naturally present in the environment

SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER						
In October of 2013, 30 samples were collected in consumers’ households and analyzed for lead and copper. Alco Water Service is required to perform this monitoring every three years by the Board. The following is a summary of the results:						
Lead & Copper (& reporting units)	# of samples collected	90 th percentile level detected	# of Sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (µg/l)	30	ND	1	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (mg/l)	30	0.970	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS						
Chemical or Constituent (& reporting units)	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (mg/l)	12/2013 to 3/2016	68	51 to 110	none	none	Salt present in the water; generally naturally occurring
Hardness (mg/l)	12/2013 to 3/2016	202	160 to 310	none	none	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium; usually naturally occurring

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS, DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCT PRECURSORS (FEDERAL RULE)						
Chemical or Constituent (& reporting units)	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (µg/l)	3/2015 to 12/2015	0.6	ND to 1.6	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (µg/l)	3/2015 to 12/2015	0.09	ND to 1.5	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (mg/l)	1/2015 to 12/2015	0.77	0.15 to 2.11	[4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[4 (as Cl ₂)]	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS				
Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated. Alco was chosen to participate in the USEPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR 3) event, the most recent UCMR event, and has participated in UCMR1 and UCMR2 in the past. Please note that these constituents are NOT currently regulated constituents.				
Chemical or Constituent (& reporting units)	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range of Detections	Notification Level
Boron (µg/l)	12/2013 to 3/2016	37	<100 to 220	1,000
Vanadium (µg/l)	6/2015	9.5	4.4 to 14	50
Molybdenum (µg/l)	6/2015	4.8	1.7 to 15	N/A
Strontium (µg/l)	6/2015	380	270 to 530	N/A

PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO MEET ALCO’S WATER USAGE REDUCTION GOAL OF 24% (AS COMPARED TO 2013 WATER USAGE), AS MANDATED BY GOVERNOR BROWN, THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD AND THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION!

Alco Water Service

System ID #2710001

Water Quality Monitoring

The Tables below list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. Although Alco Water Service had the water tested for hundreds of constituents, the following tables list only those that were detected. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Board allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

Any violation of an MCL or AL is asterisked.

Additional information regarding any violation is provided in this report.

Abbreviations Used in the Tables:

< means “less than”

N/A = Not Applicable

MFL = Million Fibers per Liter

ND = Not Detectable at testing limit

NTU = Nephelometer Turbidity Unit

µmhos/cm = micromhos per centimeter

pCi/L = picoCuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

µg/L = micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ppb)

mg/l = milligrams per liter or parts per million (ppm)

Definitions Used in the Tables:

- ❖ **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- ❖ **Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
- ❖ **Secondary Drinking Water Standard (SDWS):** MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.
- ❖ **Public Health Goal (PHG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.
- ❖ **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 are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).
- ❖ **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.
- ❖ **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** 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.
- ❖ **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Chemical or Constituent (& reporting units)	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Iron (µg/l)	12/2013 to 3/2016	5	<25 to 31	300	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Turbidity (NTU)	12/2013 to 3/2016	0.26	<0.1 to 0.46	5	N/A	Soil runoff
Zinc (µg/l)	12/2013 to 3/2016	37	<10 to 120	5,000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/l)	12/2013 to 3/2016	427	370 to 530	1,000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µmhos/cm)	12/2013 to 3/2016	730	630 to 910	1,600	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Chloride (mg/l)	12/2013 to 3/2016	102	82 to 150	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (mg/l)	12/2013 to 3/2016	37	12 to 100	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Chemical or Constituent (& reporting units)	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	2/2007 to 3/2015	1.563	0.521 to 2.66	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-228 (pCi/L)	1/2016 to 3/2016	0.223	ND to 1.34	5	0.019	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (µg/l)	2/2014 to 3/2016	5.6 *	2.8 to 17 *	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (µg/l)	12/2013 to 3/2016	51	34 to 89	1,000	2,000	Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (µg/l)	3/2015 to 3/2016	3.4	1.9 to 5.4	50	(100)	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/l)	12/2013 to 3/2016	0.46	0.24 to 0.66	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Hexavalent Chromium (µg/l)	6/2015	3.5	1.9 to 5.8	10	0.02	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (µg/l)	12/2013 to 3/2016	0.30	<0.2 to 0.27	AL = 15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (µg/l)	12/2013 to 3/2016	14	<10 to 86	100	12	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal factories
Nitrate (mg/l) (as nitrate, NO ₃)	3/2015 to 12/2015	12.2	5.5 to 21	45	45	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (mg/l) (as nitrogen, N) **	1/2016 to 4/2016	5.4 ***	1.4 to 7.2 ***	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (µg/l)	12/2012 to 3/2016	0.9	<1 to 3.2	50	30	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)

* While your drinking water meets the Federal and State standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 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.

* One well source exceeded the arsenic MCL for one sample and the Board required quarterly monitoring for the well source. The quarterly laboratory analyses demonstrated that the arsenic levels are under the MCL. While the one sample for arsenic was above the MCL, the system is not out of compliance, as the average arsenic for four consecutive quarters shows that the arsenic level continues to be under the MCL. As a result of this monitoring, the Board has reduced monitoring frequency to triennial for arsenic for this well source. Although the arsenic for this well source is under the MCL, the following educational statement is provided: “Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.”

** In January 2016, California’s drinking water regulations were revised, including a change in nitrate reporting units. The nitrate MCL is now expressed as “10 mg/L (as nitrogen)” instead of “45 mg/L (as NO3)”. **The MCL is not more stringent.** Until all monitoring data is uniform, Alco will report nitrate results for its well sources in the unit in which it was reported by the analyzing laboratories.

*** Although the nitrate level does not exceed the MCL, the following educational statement is provided per Board requirements: “Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant’s blood to carry oxygen, resulting in serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 45 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.”

SPLASH ZONE

MANDATORY WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES:

As the Drought Continues, Governor Brown Extends Reduced Water Use Mandates for ALL Californians

California has continued to suffer from a severe drought. Last year, Governor Brown instituted Mandatory Water Conservation Regulations to achieve a 24% total system-wide reduction in water usage by Alco's customers, as compared to 2013 total system-wide water usage. These regulations have been promulgated by the State Water Resources Control Board ("Board") and the California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC") who worked together to establish additional mandatory regulations for additional water use restrictions and to develop rate structures and other pricing mechanisms, including but not limited to surcharges, fees, and penalties, to maximize water conservation consistent with the Governor's statewide water restrictions. It is possible that these regulations may be modified as the year progresses, depending on the continued severity of the drought and the success of Californians to meet the Governor's water use reduction goals. Alco implemented the State's mandatory regulations in its Rule 14.1 and Schedule 14.1, which include penalties and surcharges for prohibited water use violations and for excessive water use. Presently, the Board (via CCR T23) and the CPUC (via its Resolution Nos. W-5000, W-5034 & W-5041) have determined that the following water use activities by California customers are not allowed:

1. **Watering outdoor landscapes in a way that causes water to "runoff" onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures.**
2. **Washing a vehicle, with a hose without a shut-off nozzle or other device that will immediately stop the flow of water when not in use.**
3. **Using drinking water to wash driveways and sidewalks.**
4. **Using drinking water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is recirculated.**
5. **Customers are not allowed to irrigate turf or ornamental landscapes during, and 48 hours following, measurable precipitation.**
6. **Customers are not allowed to irrigate turf or ornamental landscapes more than two days per week. For Alco customers, these two days are Thursday and Sunday. Irrigation on these days must be done prior to 6AM or after 9:30PM to avoid water loss due to evaporation or windy conditions.**
7. **Operators of hotels and motels must provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily and prominently display notice of this option.**
8. **Customers will be informed by their water utility when the utility is aware of leaks that are within the customer's control.**
9. **Restaurants and other food service establishments can only serve water to customers on request.**
10. **Customers are not allowed to irrigate turf, lawn or ornamental landscapes on public street medians with potable water.**
11. **Customers are not allowed to irrigate outside of newly constructed homes and buildings with potable water without a drip or microspray system.**



2015 Consumer Confidence Report
Alco Water Service
249 Williams Road
Salinas, CA 93905
(831) 424-0441 Phone

ALCO WATER SERVICE

Consumer Confidence Report 2015

It's that time of year again, when Alco shares important information about your water quality with you, our customers! Alco is a family-owned business and has served the community of East Salinas for over 80 years, since 1932! Alco continues to be a family and community oriented company, serving its customers with pride and professionalism. Alco monitors the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by State and Federal Regulations. This Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is a summary of the quality of the water provided to you by Alco Water Service and shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2015. There is a list of important definitions and abbreviations of reporting units included in the CCR for your convenience. If you have any questions about this information, please contact Thomas R. Adcock, Monday to Friday, 8AM to 5PM at (831) 424-0441. Any water related public meetings will be announced in water bill inserts or by direct mailing.

What's new with your water service?

DROUGHT EFFECTS: For the last two years, Alco and its customers have teamed together to reduce water usage in response to California's severe drought and reduced total water system water production by 18.8% in 2015, as compared to 2013. This year, as the drought continues, and because Governor Brown has extended water conservation regulations until early next year, it is necessary to become even more vigilant and continue to reduce water usage. We ask you to be even more aware of your water usage and reduce it whenever possible. We also ask that you report any water waste or water theft, as this not only wastes our valuable resource of water, but it results in additional costs to all ratepayers.

The mandatory regulations to reduce water use that were promulgated by the State of California are outlined on the final page of this CCR. However, please be aware that if water use reduction does not meet the 24% goal set for Alco, additional requirements and/or regulations may be instituted in the future. Alco will keep you updated as to your water conservation requirements and how they will affect you. Please look for updates in the mail or as bill inserts and do your best to conserve as much water as possible.

If you have any problems, questions, suggestions, or concerns, please call us during regular business hours, or leave a message after hours with our live answering service at (831) 424-0441. Also, you can visit us at our office or send us a note in the mail to Alco Water Service, 249 Williams Road, Salinas, CA 93905 or e-mail us at mail@alcowater.com. We look forward to hearing from you!



Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Where does your water come from?



In 2015, Alco Water Service had 6 active water sources and 3 standby water sources, all of which are groundwater wells. The wells draw from two aquifers in the two sub-areas of the Salinas Groundwater Basin; the Pressure Area & the East Side Area. Source Water Assessments were performed in 2002 and are available for review at the utility's office. The water sources are most vulnerable to sewer collection systems, agricultural drainage, gas stations, parking lots / malls / high density housing, parks, irrigated crops, fertilizer / pesticide / herbicide applications, agricultural / irrigation / water supply wells, and photo processing / printing. Due to a change in the Federal Arsenic Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) to 10 parts per billion (ppb) in 2006, Alco has 2 well sources designated as "standby" by the State Water Resources Board ("Board"), formerly known as California Department of Public Health ("CDPH"). In November 2008, California also adopted the Federal MCL of 10 ppb. The 2 wells will remain out of service in standby status while Alco develops a method to reduce the Arsenic levels from these wells to comply with the new Federal MCL. All of Alco's active well sources comply with the Federal and State of California MCL of 10 ppb for Arsenic. Additionally, Alco has 1 well source designated as "standby" by the Board in order for Alco to evaluate the Nitrate concentrations in the well's water. All of Alco's active and standby well sources comply with the Federal and State of California MCL of 45 ppm for Nitrate.

Laboratory testing:

Alco Water Service contracts with independent, state-certified laboratories to monitor the quality of the water it provides to you. This helps us to provide you with the best quality water possible and to conform to Board regulations. Alco Water Service also contracts with an independent sampler who collects all samples for monitoring purposes and delivers them to the independent laboratories directly. The laboratory water quality results contained in the table sections of this report are of detectable constituents only. This means that there was a detection of the constituent found in the water by the laboratory. The tables also include a list of the State and Federal standards so that you may compare the results of our water analyses to them. The water system tests for hundreds of regulated and unregulated constituents and submits the results to the Board. The constituents that do not appear on the table are non-detectable. This means that there was no detection of the constituent found in the water by the laboratory.

What can be found in water?

The sources of drinking water (both tap water & bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs & 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, & wildlife.
- ✓ *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts & metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil & gas production, mining, or farming.
- ✓ *Pesticides & herbicides*, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, & residential uses.
- ✓ *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic & volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes & petroleum production, & can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, & septic systems.
- ✓ *Radioactive contaminants*, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Board prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Additional Drinking Water Information

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 can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (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 (1-800-426-4791).

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 plumbing. Alco Water Service 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. 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 <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.