

# Water Testing

## Our Water Source

Like the rest of Portland, Reed College gets its water from two reservoirs in the protected Bull Run watershed 35 miles east of Portland and from 27 wells located near the south shore of the Columbia River.

## Why We Conduct Water Sampling

Both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Oregon Department of Human Services-Drinking Water Program set water quality standards. The primary standards, designed to protect public health, are called maximum contaminant levels (MCL). Secondary standards identify levels of substances that may affect the taste, odor, or color of water, may stain sinks and bathtubs, or may interfere with treatment processes. At Reed, we typically check for two primary contaminants – lead and copper – and one secondary contaminant – iron.

	<b>EPA Standard</b> (in parts per million, ppm)
Copper (Cu)	1.3
Lead (Pb)	0.015
Iron (Fe)	0.3

## How We Do It

Each year EHS staff take water samples of different taps around campus used by the Reed Community. Locations include multi-use, administrative, and educational buildings, as well as student housing. At least one day before sample collection, we place a sign on the water source asking that you not use it until the test is complete. The next day, we collect the first liter of water from the tap and send it to a laboratory in Portland to test for the presence of metals. If we get a high reading back from the lab for copper or lead, we will retest the water. EHS keeps a log of both sample locations and their results.

If you have questions or concerns about potable water on campus, please do not hesitate to contact EHS at ext. 7788 or 7931.