

Our Water Quality Commitment:

You Can Count on Washington Water Employees to . . .

- ⇒ provide you with the highest quality water possible
- ⇒ sample, test and treat your water on a regular basis
- ⇒ work diligently to meet every water quality standard on every system, every day
- ⇒ maintain water distribution system reliability
- ⇒ provide you with the highest level of customer service possible

Important Phone Numbers:

Washington Water Service Company
P.O. Box 336
Gig Harbor, WA 98335-0336
Office: (253) 851-4060
Toll Free: (877) 408-4060
<http://www.wawater.com>

NW Regional Operations Mgr:
Dan Brown

Washington State Department of Health
Southwest Office of Drinking Water
P.O. Box 47823
Olympia, WA 98504-7823
(360) 664-0768
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/>



WASHINGTON WATER
SERVICE COMPANY

Foss Road Water System State ID #63918X

2009 Drinking Water Report

Washington Water Service Company (WWSC) is committed to being a leader in providing communities and customers with traditional and innovative utility services. WWSC is proud of its service record and is staffed with courteous and knowledgeable water professionals who are dedicated to meeting your needs. While we are proud of our past record, we continually strive to improve upon the quality of services we provide to you, our valued customer.

This *2009 Drinking Water Report* is your annual update on the quality and safety of your drinking water. It includes the water quality monitoring results from the **most recent round** of testing done on your system, in accordance with state and federal regulations. This report also provides access through references and telephone numbers to source water assessments, health effects data and additional information about your water system. This allows you to make personal health-based decisions regarding your drinking water consumption and become more involved in decisions which may affect your health. We hope you find this information helpful!

Washington Water Service Co.
Toll-free: (877) 408-4060

Regarding “contaminants” in drinking water:

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 the water poses a health risk. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Washington State Department of Health and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington State Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Sources of drinking water:

Common sources of drinking water—both tap and bottled water—include rivers, lakes and streams (surface water) and wells and springs (groundwater). As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. The water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Reminder:

Any hazardous material that you put onto the ground or in your septic tank could potentially pollute the groundwater. Please help the Foss Road Water System prevent groundwater contamination for this and future generations.

Where does my water come from?

Your water comes from one well and is considered groundwater. The water is pumped into the system from this well, which is 303 feet deep. Chlorine is added to the source water for disinfection purposes (to kill any bacteria that may be present).

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- ◆ Microbial contaminants, such as viruses, parasites and bacteria, which 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.
- ◆ Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- ◆ Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.



Water Quality Data

How To Read The Tables:

Your water is tested for more than 100 contaminants for which state and federal standards have been set. **Tables 1 & 2** list all primary contaminants that were detected (in any amount) along with their respective Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Primary standards protect public health by limiting the levels of these contaminants in drinking water. **Table 3** shows the levels of secondary contaminants and common water properties of interest to many consumers. Secondary contaminants have no known health effects but can affect the aesthetic properties of water (taste, odor and appearance). Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (SMCLs) are guidelines only.

Terms and Abbreviations used:

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.

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 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 (e.g., chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide).

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.

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

Lead and Copper 90th Percentile Value: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. This must be \leq the AL or additional steps must be taken.

ppb: parts per billion **ppm:** parts per million

N/A: not applicable

TABLE 1: Primary Contaminants Detected In Your Drinking Water

Primary Contaminant	Units	Year Tested ^d	MCL	MCLG	YOUR WATER	Compliant? (Y/N)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Disinfectant							
Chlorine	ppm	2008	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	0.09^b	Y	Water additive used to kill microbes
Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs)							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5), ppb		2007	60	N/A	20.7	Y	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM), ppb		2007	80	N/A	49.2	Y	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

TABLE 2: Lead and Copper Monitoring - Samples are collected at customer faucets. The number of homes sampled is based on population served by the system. Specific EPA-mandated criteria are used to select the homes:

Primary Contaminant	Units	Year Tested	AL	No. of Homes Sampled	90th Percentile Value	No. of Homes Exceeding the AL	Compliant? (Y/N)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Copper	ppm	2008	1.3	5	0.48	0	Y	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	ppb	2008	15	5	9	1 ^c	Y	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

TABLE 3: Secondary Contaminants and Unregulated Contaminants

Secondary Contaminant	Units	Year Tested ^d	SMCL	YOUR WATER	Compliant? (Y/N)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Iron	ppm	2007	0.30	< 0.1	Y	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese	ppm	2007	0.05	0.06	Y^d	Leaching from natural deposits
Sodium	ppm	2007	N/A ^e	14	Y	Erosion of natural deposits; seawater influence
Hardness	ppm	2007	N/A	70^f	Y	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminants^g						
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM), ppb		2007	N/A	54.6	Y	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

^a Most recent testing done, in accordance with the regulations (required every 3 years)

^b This is the running annual average. Range = 0.00 - 1.24 ppm chlorine.

^c See upper right corner of this report for additional detail regarding the 2008 lead results.

^d Secondary maximum contaminant levels (SMCLs) are guidelines only, to control the staining, scale build-up, and dirty, colored, turbid water that nuisance minerals like iron and manganese can cause. There are no known health effects associated with drinking water containing manganese at this level. Water system operations are managed so that the aesthetic effects of this nuisance mineral are kept to a minimum, as much as possible.

^e The EPA recommends 20 ppm sodium as a level of concern for consumers who must restrict their dietary intake.

^f Equivalent to 4.1 grains per gallon of hardness. 0 - 75 ppm hardness is considered "soft" water, 75 - 150 ppm is "moderately hard", 150 - 300 ppm is "hard" and > 300 ppm is "very hard".

^g Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards (note there is no MCL). The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. TTHMs are currently regulated in the distribution mains (not at the source, which is where this sample was taken). See Table 1 for those results.

Lead in Drinking Water. One of the five homes tested during routine lead and copper monitoring in June 2008 had a lead result of 16 ppb which exceeds the Action Level of 15 ppb. The other four homes showed no detectable lead, reported as "< 2 ppb". This resulted in a 90th percentile value of 9 ppb lead, which means the water system as a whole is compliant. The customer with the high lead result was contacted and a confirmation sample was collected which showed no detectable lead. It is possible to get an elevated lead result due to sampling error, new plumbing or fixtures in the home, loose particles captured in the faucet aerator or very low water use in the home (i.e., little regular flushing of the pipes), which is not representative of everyday water quality in the customer's home or homes, in general, on the system. However, because greater than 5% of homes tested exceeded the Action Level (1 of 5 is 20%), the EPA wants us to alert you that "lead levels at your home may be higher than other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. The use of lead solder to join copper plumbing was banned in 1988 but even 'lead-free' fixtures can still contain small amounts of lead. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your own water tested".

The Office of Drinking Water has compiled **source water assessment program (SWAP) data** for all community water systems in Washington. SWAP data for your system is available by accessing DOH's web site at:

<http://www4.doh.wa.gov/dw/swap/app/login.cfm?app=maps>

If you do not have access to the web, we encourage you to use the internet service available at your local library.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those 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 by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline or by visiting their web site (shown below):

Safe Drinking Water Hotline
1-800-426-4791
www.epa.gov/ogwdw