

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>

SW Regional Operations Mgr:
Paul Robischon

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

Inlets End Water System State ID #06705V

2011 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 *2011 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 Inlets End Water System prevent groundwater contamination for this and future generations.

Where does my water come from?

Your water comes from two sources and is considered groundwater. These two wells are 71 and 73 feet deep, both tapping the same underground aquifer. They are located on Tract A in Division 1 off of 13th Avenue. Currently, your water is not treated. However, test results have shown that the source water is corrosive to household plumbing and fixtures and that corrosion control treatment is required. Details are provided inside this brochure.

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.

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 **NTU:** nephelometric turbidity unit

Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOCs). Your drinking water source was tested for 17 different herbicides, 60 pesticides and 10 insecticides in 2006. There were no detections, in **any** amount, of any of these contaminants. No further SOC monitoring is required until sometime during the new 2011-2019 compliance period.

TABLE 1: Primary Contaminants Detected In Your Drinking Water

Primary Contaminant	Units	Year Tested	MCL	MCLG	YOUR WATER	Compliant? (Y/N)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Nitrate	ppm	2010	10	10	0.9	Y	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

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 ^a	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	10	1.4	2	N^b	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	ppb	2008	15	10	6	0	Y	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

TABLE 3: Secondary Contaminants (Inorganic Chemical and Physical)

Secondary Contaminant	Units	Year Tested	SMCL	YOUR WATER	Compliant? (Y/N)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Iron	ppm	2010	0.30	0.1	Y	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese	ppm	2010	0.05	< 0.01	Y	Leaching from natural deposits
Chloride	ppm	2010	250	5	Y	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sodium	ppm	2010	N/A ^c	< 5	Y	Erosion of natural deposits; seawater influence
Hardness	ppm	2010	N/A	53^d	Y	Erosion of natural deposits
Conductivity	umhos/cm	2010	700	84	Y	Substances that form natural deposits; seawater influence
Turbidity	NTU	2010	N/A ^e	0.1	Y	Soil runoff

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

^b Please see upper right corner of this report for details on the copper Action Level exceedance and of the additional steps being taken. **Health Effects of Copper in Drinking Water:** Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the AL over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the AL over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor. **Easy Way to Reduce Copper in Your Drinking Water:** As copper from plumbing corrosion can accumulate overnight, simply flushing the tap for 30-45 seconds prior to using the water for drinking or cooking reduces copper levels significantly.

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

^d Equivalent to 3.1 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".

^e 1.0 NTU is the state's drinking water response level, meaning additional sampling or steps **may** be required, if exceeded.

Lead and Copper are regulated by a treatment technique that is required to control the corrosivity of the water. If more than 10% of tap water samples exceed the lead and/or copper Action Level (AL), additional steps must be taken. The 90th percentile values from routine sampling performed in the past have never exceeded the ALs. However, due to reports of green staining and/or corrosion of household copper plumbing from some customers on the system, the routine sampling in 2008 was broadened to 10 of the 16 homes. Just two of the ten homes were slightly above the copper Action Level at 1.4 and 1.7 mg/L (none exceeded on lead). Additional testing of the source water itself confirmed that the water is corrosive and that treatment of the source water is required. WWSC is working with a licensed engineering consultant to select, design and construct a corrosion control treatment plant and will have it in service by the Dept of Health's **deadline of November 2012.** As of this writing (April 2011), two on-site pilot studies are underway. One involves dissolving calcium carbonate into the water and the other uses aggressive aeration of the water. Both of these treatment methods increase the water's pH, thereby reducing its corrosivity toward household copper plumbing.

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 at your public 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 from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or by visiting EPA's web site below. Information about other contaminants found in water and their potential health effects can be found there, also.

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