



2024

DRINKING WATER REPORT

SOUTHWOOD WATER SYSTEM

State ID #82844H
Pierce County



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Washington Water Service (Washington Water) is committed to being a leader in providing communities and customers with traditional and innovative utility services. Washington Water 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 2024 Drinking Water Report is your annual update on the quality and safety of your drinking water. It includes the most recent water quality results through the monitoring period ending December 31, 2024, in accordance with state and federal regulations (not all testing is required every year). This report also provides access through references and telephone numbers to source water assessments, health effects information, and other water system topics. 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.

Most importantly, this report shows that your drinking water source meets all primary and secondary EPA and Department of Health standards.

We hope you find this information helpful.



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SOURCE WATER PROTECTION INFORMATION

Drinking water comes from groundwater (wells and springs) and surface water (rivers, lakes, streams). Protecting these drinking water sources is key to sustaining safe drinking water supplies for this and future generations.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT SOURCE WATER:

- Ensure that your septic system is properly maintained.
- Use chemical fertilizers and pesticides sparingly, if at all.
- Don't dump any hazardous waste on the ground. This includes: motor oil, pesticides, paint or paint cans, mothballs, flea collars, household cleaners, medicines, etc.

CHECK THE SWAP INFORMATION FOR YOUR WATER SYSTEM:

The Washington State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water has compiled Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) data for all community water systems in Washington. A source water assessment includes:

- A delineation (definition) of the source water protection area,
- An inventory of potential sources of contamination, and
- A susceptibility determination (how susceptible the source is to contamination).

An interactive map with data for your water system is available at: fortress.wa.gov/doh/swap/

WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM

Your water comes from twenty-eight groundwater wells ranging in depth from 63 to 471 feet. Chlorine is added for disinfection purposes and, in eleven wells, to oxidize and precipitate out naturally occurring iron and/or manganese. The water is then filtered for clarity. The system was optimized for corrosion control in 2012. This is done by adding sodium hydroxide at three wells to raise the pH of this slightly acidic groundwater, which reduces the water's corrosivity.

Washington Water's supply is supplemented by water from Lakewood Water District (ID #45550C, Pierce) and the City of Tacoma Water Division (ID #86800N, Pierce) through interties located along 176th Street East. Information on these water sources can be found in the water quality table.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please contact our office, either by phone at (888) 490-3741 or through the Contact Us link at www.wawater.com.

CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL

WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Imagine a water customer has a hose in their hot tub to fill it up. If the customer doesn't have a backflow preventer and the water system experiences a drop in pressure, water from the hot tub could be pulled into the water system and contaminate the water supply.

So that the high-quality water we deliver is not compromised in the distribution system, Washington Water has a robust cross-connection control program in place. Cross-connection control is critical to preventing activities on customers' properties from affecting the public water supply. Our cross-connection control specialists confirm that all of the existing backflow prevention assemblies are tested annually, assess all connections, and enforce and manage the installation of new commercial and residential assemblies.

REMOVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BACKFLOW

Backflow can occur when certain pressure conditions exist either in our distribution system or within the customer's plumbing, so our customers are our first line of defense. A minor home improvement project—without the proper protections—can create a potentially hazardous situation, so careful adherence to plumbing codes and standards will keep the community's water supply safe. Please be sure to utilize the advice or services of a qualified plumbing professional.

Many water-use activities involve substances that, if allowed to enter the distribution system, would be aesthetically displeasing or could even present health concerns. Some common cross-connections are:

- Garden hoses connected to a hose bib without a simple hose-type vacuum breaker (available at a home improvement store).
- Improperly installed toilet tank fill valves that do not have the required air gap between the valve or refill tube.
- Landscape irrigation systems that do not have the proper backflow prevention assembly installed on the supply line.

The list of materials that could potentially contaminate the water system is vast. According to the EPA, a wide variety of substances have contaminated drinking water systems throughout the country as a result of poor cross-connection control. Examples include:

- Antifreeze from a heating system.
- Lawn chemicals from a garden hose or sprinkler head.
- Blue water from a toilet tank.
- Carbonated water from a soda dispenser.

Customers must confirm that all plumbing is in conformance with local plumbing codes. Additionally, state law requires certain types of facilities to install and maintain backflow prevention assemblies at the water meter. Washington Water's cross-connection control staff will determine whether you need to install a backflow prevention assembly based on water uses at your location.

POSSIBLE CONTAMINANTS

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.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lake, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and 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 human activities. Prior to entering the distribution system, source water with constituents over maximum contaminant levels is treated to reduce levels to meet standards set by public health experts.

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 compounds, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

So that tap water remains safe to drink, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) 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 Washington State Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

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.

KEY DEFINITIONS

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 less than or equal to the AL or additional steps must be taken.

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant 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.

MMHOS/CM: A measure of specific conductance.

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.

N/A: Not applicable.

NEPHELOMETRIC TURBIDITY UNIT (NTU): A measure of water clarity.

NOT DETECTED (ND): The result is less than the SDRL.

PPB: Parts per billion ($\mu\text{g/L}$, micrograms per liter).

PPM: Parts per million (mg/L , milligrams per liter).

PPQ: Parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/L).

PPT: Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L).

RAA: Running annual average.

STATE ACTION LEVEL (SAL): The Washington State action level.

STATE DETECTION REPORTING LIMIT (SDRL): The minimum reportable detection of an analyte as established by DOH. If the test result is less than the SDRL, the contaminant is considered to be not detected.

SECONDARY MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (SMCL): These standards are developed as guidelines to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

MS/CM: Microsiemens/centimeter.

WADOH: The Washington State Dept of Health

Your water is tested for more than 150 contaminants for which state and federal standards have been set.

Tables 1 & 2 list all primary contaminants that were detected at or above the state detection reporting limit (SDRL), along with their respective MCLs. Primary MCLs (primary standards) protect public health by limiting the levels of these contaminants in drinking water.

Table 3 lists secondary contaminants of interest to many consumers, as well as any unregulated contaminant detections. Secondary contaminants have no known health effects but can affect the aesthetic properties of water (taste, odor, and appearance). Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to help EPA determine their occurrence in drinking water and potential need for future regulation.

See the [Potential Contaminants](#) web page for a complete list of contaminants we test for.

SOURCE CODES

The source codes indicate major sources of contaminants in drinking water.

AIM	Water additive used to optimize iron and manganese removal treatment and control microbes	RF	Runoff from fertilizer use
BD	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	RGE	Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
CH	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	RLN	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
DFA	Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	RO	Runoff from orchards
DMD	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories	RS	Soil runoff
EN	Erosion of natural deposits	SEA	Seawater influence
FL	Water additive which promotes strong teeth	SEW	Sewage
LN	Leaching from natural deposits	UR	Unregulated constituents with no source listed and that do not have standardized “source of substance” language
LX	Leaching from septic tanks	WI	Industrial wastes
NAT	Substances that form natural deposits		
NOM	Naturally occurring organic materials		

Equipment in water testing laboratories is so sensitive, it can detect constituents as small as 1 part per trillion. That is equivalent to 1 inch over 15 million miles.



2024 WATER QUALITY

TABLE 1: PRIMARY CONTAMINANTS

Inorganic Chemicals	Year Tested	Units	MCL	MCLG	Purchased Water			Violation?	Source
					Southwood Wells	Lakewood Water District	Tacoma Water ¹		
Nitrate ²	2022–2024	ppm	10	10	ND–5.3	ND–1.82	ND–4.6	No	EN, LX, RF, SEW
Arsenic	2021–2024	ppb	10	0	ND–4.0	ND–5.0	ND–1.7	No	EN, RGE, RO
Fluoride ³	2022–2024	ppm	4	4	ND–0.3	ND	0.54–0.96	No	DFA, EN, FL
Radiological	Year Tested	Units	MCL	MCLG	Purchased Water			Violation?	Source
					Southwood Wells	Lakewood Water District	Tacoma Water		
Gross alpha	2023–2024	pCi/L	15	0	ND	ND	—	No	EN
Radium 228	2023–2024	pCi/L	15	0	ND	ND	—	No	EN
Volatile Organic Chemicals	Year Tested	Units	MCL	MCLG	Purchased Water			Violation?	Source
					Southwood Wells	Lakewood Water District	Tacoma Water		
Trichloroethylene	2020	ppb	5	0	ND	ND	ND–1.4	No	DMD
Chloroform	2024	ppb	5	0	ND–1.7	ND	ND–0.72	No	DMD
Bromodichloromethane	2024	ppb	5	0	ND–1.0	ND	ND	No	DMD
Dibromochloromethane	2024	ppb	5	0	ND–0.5	ND	ND	No	DMD
Total trihalomethane	2024	ppb	5	0	ND–2.7	ND	ND	No	DMD
Disinfectant (an additive)	Year Tested	Units	MRDL	MRDLG	Highest Running Average		Range	Violation?	Source
Free chlorine residual ⁴	2024	ppm	4	4	0.73		0.20–1.50	No	AIM

¹ See Tacoma Water Quality Table

² Nitrate can vary seasonally and can be influenced by land use and surface activity upgradient of the aquifer and within the source's sanitary control area. One source exceeded 1/2 MCL in 2022 (5.5 mg/L). All others were less than 1/2 MCL. Please see Special Educational Information page on nitrate in drinking water, after the data tables.

³ Washington Water and Lakewood Water do not add any fluoride. Three of Washington Water's 28 wells have very low naturally occurring fluoride. Tacoma Water fluoridates most of its sources.

⁴ Highest running average and range listed is for the Southwood distribution system. These levels represent disinfectant levels in the distribution system which could be a combination of Southwood wells, City of Tacoma, and Lakewood water.

2024 WATER QUALITY

Disinfection Byproducts	Year Tested	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Running Average	Range of Detections	Violation?	Source
Total trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2024	ppb	80	N/A	ND–5.3	ND–7.8	No	BD
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2024	ppb	60	N/A	ND–3.3	ND–5.6	No	BD

TABLE 2: LEAD AND COPPER¹

Primary Contaminants	Year Tested	Units	AL	90 th Percentile	Samples > AL	Violation?	Source
Copper	2024	ppm	1.3	0.24	0 of 35	No	CH, EN
Lead	2024	ppb	15	2	0 of 35	No	CH, EN

TABLE 3: SECONDARY AND UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Secondary Contaminants	Year Tested	Units	SMCL	Purchased Water			Violation?	Source
				Southwood Wells	Lakewood Water District	Tacoma Water		
Iron ²	2022–2024	ppm	0.3	ND–2.4	ND	—	No	LN, WI
Manganese ²	2023–2024	ppm	0.05	ND–0.12	ND	—	No	LN
Chloride	2024–2024	ppm	250	2.6–8.9	5.2	—	No	RLN, SEA
Sulfate	2025–2024	ppm	250	ND–9.9	ND	—	No	RLN, WI
Sodium ³	2026–2024	ppm	N/A	6.3–25	10.9	—	No	EN, SEA
Hardness ⁴	2027–2024	ppm	N/A	31–66	42	—	No	EN
Conductivity	2028–2024	µmhos/cm	700	110–245	90.6	—	No	NAT, SEA
Turbidity	2029–2024	NTU	N/A	ND–1.6	ND	—	No	RS
Color	2030–2024	color units	15	ND	ND	—	No	NOM

¹ Samples are collected at customer kitchen or bathroom taps. Residences considered to be at highest risk for corrosion are selected for sampling (i.e., those with lead and copper in internal plumbing, based on specific EPA tiering criteria and available home construction details from county web sites). The number of homes sampled is based on population served by the water system. This testing is done every three years.

² SMCLs are guidelines only, set to control the adverse aesthetic effects that minerals like manganese can cause (staining of sinks and fixtures, color, taste, odor).

³ The EPA recommends 20 ppm sodium as a level of concern for consumers who must restrict their dietary intake.

⁴ When reading the hardness value, 0–75 ppm is considered “soft” water, 75–150 ppm is “moderately hard,” 150–300 ppm is “hard,” and >300 ppm is “very hard”.

2024 WATER QUALITY

Unregulated Contaminants	Year Tested	Units	SMCL	Purchased Water			Violation?	Source
				Southwood Wells	Lakewood Water	Tacoma Water		
Lead ¹	2022–2024	ppb	N/A	ND	ND	—	No	CH, EN
Copper	2022–2024	ppm	N/A	ND	ND	—	No	CH, EN

TABLE 4: PFAS CONTAMINANTS

PFAS Chemicals ²	Year Tested	Units	SAL	Your Water			Violation?	Source
				Range	Average			
PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid)	2024	ppt	10	ND–6.7	0.5		No	UR
PFOS (perfluorooctanesulfonic acid)	2024	ppt	15	ND–10.6	1.1		No	UR
PFHxS (perfluorohexanesulphonic acid)	2024	ppt	65	ND–2.5	0.2		No	UR
PFNA (perfluorononanoic acid)	2024	ppt	9	ND	ND		No	UR
PFBS (perfluorobutane sulfonate)	2024	ppt	345	ND–7.5	1.3		No	UR
PFHpA (perfluoroheptanoic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND–2.0	0.0		No	UR
PFHxA (perfluorohexanoic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND–68.4	3.4		No	UR
PFDA (perfluorodecanoic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND	ND		No	UR
PFUnA (perfluoroundecanoic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND	ND		No	UR
PFDoA (perfluorododecanoic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND	ND		No	UR
ADONA (4,8-dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND	ND		No	UR
9CI-PF3ONS (9-chlorohexanodecafluoro-3-oxanone-1-sulfonic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND	ND		No	UR
HFPO-DA (hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND	ND		No	UR
11-Cl-PF3OUdS (11-chloroeicosafluoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND	ND		No	UR
4:2FTS (4:2 fluorotelomer sulfonic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND	ND		No	UR
6:2FTS (6:2 fluorotelomer sulfonic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND	ND		No	UR
8:2FTS (8:2 fluorotelomer sulfonic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND	ND		No	UR

¹ Lead and copper are regulated at customer taps (see Table 2 for those results), not at the source, which is what these results represent. This is because lead and copper in drinking water do not typically come from the water source. They come from the plumbing that serves, or is inside, the customer's home, from corrosion of lead and copper-containing plumbing or fixtures, or the lead solder that connects copper pipes.

² Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a broad class of chemicals, which includes PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, and PFBS. SALs have been established for these five compounds. SALs are WADOH health-based regulatory levels. Studies indicate that long-term exposure to PFAS over certain levels could have adverse health effects, including developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy or breastfed infants; cancer; or liver, immunity, thyroid, and other effects. Washington Water is working closely with the WADOH and EPA to conduct extensive monitoring and identify the best available treatment technology for treatment of PFAS.

2024 WATER QUALITY

Your Water							
PFAS Chemicals ¹	Year Tested	Units	SAL	Range	Average	Violation?	Source
NFDHA (nonafluoro-3,6-dioxaheptanoic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND	ND	No	UR
PFBA (perfluorobutanoic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND–19.5	0.9	No	UR
PFHpS (perfluoroheptanesulfonic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND	ND	No	UR
PFMBA (perfluoro-4-methoxybutanoic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND	ND	No	UR
PFMPA (perfluoro-3-methoxypropanoic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND	ND	No	UR
PFPeA (perfluoropentanoic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND–146	3.6	No	UR
PFPeS (perfluoro-1-pentanesulfonic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND	ND	No	UR
PFEESA (perfluoro (2-ethoxyethane) sulfonic acid)	2024	ppt	N/A	ND	ND	No	UR
PFTTrDA (perfluorotetradecanoic acid)	2023	ppt	N/A	ND	ND	No	UR
PFTA (perfluorotridecanoic acid)	2023	ppt	N/A	ND	ND	No	UR
NEtFOSAA (2-(N- ethylperfluorooctanesulfonamido)acetic acid)	2023	ppt	N/A	ND	ND	No	UR
NMeFOSAA (N-methyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid)	2023	ppt	N/A	ND	ND	No	UR

¹ Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a broad class of chemicals, which includes PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, and PFBS. SALs have been established for these five compounds. SALs are WADOH health-based regulatory levels. Studies indicate that long-term exposure to PFAS over certain levels could have adverse health effects, including developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy or breastfed infants; cancer; or liver, immunity, thyroid, and other effects. Washington Water is working closely with the WADOH and EPA to conduct extensive monitoring and identify the best available treatment technology for treatment of PFAS.

Constituent	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Range of level Detected or # exceed AL	Regulation Met?	Potential sources of contaminant
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REGULATED AT THE GROUNDWATER SOURCES

Arsenic	10 ppb	1.7 ppb (2021)	0	0–1.7 ppb	Yes	Natural erosion
Nitrate	10 ppm	4.26 ppm (2024)	10 ppm	0–4.26 ppm	Yes	Agricultural uses, septic
Trichloroethylene	5 ppb	1.4 ppb (2020)	0	0–1.4 ppb	Yes	Industrial contamination

UNREGULATED AT THE GROUNDWATER SOURCES

Chloroform	Not regulated	0.72 ppb (2020)	not regulated	0–0.72 ppb Average 0.131 ppb	Not regulated	Industrial contamination
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REGULATED AT THE TREATMENT PLANT

Fluoride	4 ppm	.96 ppm	4 ppm	0.54–0.96 ppm	Yes	Treatment additive
Turbidity	1NTU	.034 NTU	not applicable	0.015–0.034 NTU	Yes	Soil erosion

REGULATED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Disinfection byproducts	Highest running annual average allowed	Our running annual average	MCLG	Range of level Detected	Regulation Met?	Potential sources of contaminant
Total trihalomethane	80 ppb average	13.2 ppb average	not applicable	5.6–36.6 ppb	Yes	Disinfection interaction
Haloacetic acid	60 ppb average	1.9 ppb average	not applicable	<1–3.57 ppb	Yes	Disinfection interaction
Bromate	10 ppb	0	0	0	Yes	Disinfection interaction
Chlorine residual	4ppm	NA	4 (MRDLG)	0.30–1.46 ppm	Yes	Treatment additive
Total coliform	< 5% positive	0.039%	0	1 of 2530 sites	Yes	Sampling technique

REGULATED AT THE CONSUMERS TAP

Lead & Copper ¹	90% of taps sampled must be below action level	90% of taps sampled were at or below this level	MCLG	# of sites above the action level	Regulation Met?	Potential sources of contaminant
Lead	15 ppb (AL)	ND	0	0 of 53 sites	Yes	Household plumbing
Copper	1.3 ppm (AL)	ND	1.3 ppm	0 of 53 sites	Yes	Household plumbing

¹ Sampled in 2022. Required once every 3 years.

ABOUT LEAD

Washington Water is compliant with health and safety codes mandating use of lead-free materials in water system replacements, repairs, and new installations. We have no known lead service lines in our systems. We test and treat (if necessary) water sources to confirm that the water delivered to customer meters meets water quality standards and is not corrosive toward plumbing materials.

The water we deliver to your home meets lead standards, but what about your home's plumbing? In Washington state, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used for in-home plumbing (for example, lead solder used to join copper plumbing, and brass and other lead-containing fixtures). Therefore, the Lead and Copper Rule is a critical part of our water quality monitoring program, and we follow it completely. This rule requires us to test water *inside* a representative number of homes that have plumbing most likely to contain lead and/or lead solder. This test, along with other water quality testing, tells us if the water is corrosive enough to cause lead from home plumbing to leach into the water. If the Action Level (the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers action which a water system must follow before it becomes a health concern) is exceeded, either at a customer's home or system-wide, we work with the customer to investigate the issue. If the problem is system-wide, we will implement corrosion control treatment at the source before the lead levels create a health issue.

Elevated levels of lead, if present, can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children. If your home's plumbing contains lead piping or pipe fittings, lead solder, or brass fixtures that may contain lead, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two 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 by a certified lab. 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Results of our lead monitoring program, conducted in accordance with the Lead and Copper Rule, can be found in Water Quality Tables 2 and 3.

In April 2024, the EPA adopted the final water quality regulation for certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

- MCL of 4 ppt for PFOS and PFOA.
- MCL of 10 ppt for PFHxS, PFNA, and GenX.
- Hazard Index of 1.0 combined for PFHxS, PFNA, PFBS, and GenX.

Water systems must begin monitoring for these PFAS within three years (2027), and must comply with the regulation within five years (2029).

At Washington Water, protecting our customers' health and safety is our highest priority, and we are committed to complying with all requirements set by the public health experts. We have been preparing for the EPA regulation and its potential impact on—and any treatment needed in—our systems, and already evaluated the impact of the proposed regulation so that we could be better prepared to comply with the final MCLs.

In 2021, the Washington State Board of Health adopted State Action Levels (SALs) for five PFAS compounds. The SAL is the level at which water suppliers should take action to reduce concentrations in order to protect human health, including for sensitive populations, and is based on the best available science at the time. The Washington Department of Health required that all Group A water systems test for PFAS in each drinking water well between 2023 and 2025. We tested all active sources in our Group A water systems in 2023 for 29 PFAS compounds, including the ones now regulated by the State and EPA, and have developed ongoing monitoring plans. As part of a larger company, we have the support, resources, and best practices to help us take appropriate actions required to confirm our water complies with the new regulations.

Your water system results are reported in Table 4: PFAS Chemicals. For additional information, visit doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/contaminants/pfas.

Additionally, we believe a comprehensive approach is needed to properly address the situation. We urged the EPA to establish a consistent, science-based standard as quickly as feasible, and strongly supported state legislation that will prohibit the sale and use of certain products that contain PFAS, require the certification of accurate testing methods for PFAS, and establish a publicly accessible database that houses the sources of PFAS entering water supplies. We have also filed lawsuits to hold PFAS manufacturers responsible—and ultimately prevent our customers from bearing the costs of treatment, to the extent possible—and are pursuing grants where available to further offset customer cost impacts.

As background, PFAS are manmade compounds that have been used to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food, and other materials (e.g., cookware) that are resistant to water, grease, or stains. These compounds are also used for firefighting at airfields, which is one way they have found their way into groundwater in certain areas.

Studies indicate that long-term exposure to PFAS over certain levels could have adverse health effects, including developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy or infants; cancer; or impacts on liver, immunity, thyroid, and other functions. Potential health effects related to PFAS are still being studied, and research is still evolving on this issue.

NITRATE

The major sources of nitrates in drinking water are runoff from fertilizer use and leaking septic tanks. Nitrate in drinking water at greater than 10 ppm is a health concern for infants of less than six months of age because it can disrupt the blood's ability to carry oxygen ("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 or you are pregnant and concerned about the current nitrate levels, you should seek advice from your health care provider.

You can help prevent groundwater contamination by having your septic tank checked periodically to make sure it is in good working order. Fertilize your lawn at the right time, pick the right product, and use the right amount. Wait until mid May or early June when heavy rains have passed so that less fertilizer will leach away. Use an organic or slow release fertilizer. When fertilizer nutrients are in slow release forms, they are available to plants over a longer period of time. This means that less nutrients are wasted or lost as pollutants.

ABOUT MONITORING WAIVERS

(Reduced Monitoring)

ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

Drinking water sources are sampled and tested a minimum of every six to nine years for an array of organic compounds including:

- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs): Human-made chemicals that are used and produced in the manufacture of paints, pharmaceuticals, and refrigerants. Typical VOCs are components of petroleum fuels, paint thinners, and dry cleaning agents.
- Synthetic organic compounds (SOCs): Human-made chemicals that are used as herbicides, pesticides, and in the manufacture of plastics.

Sampling frequencies for these groups of organic compounds can vary depending on the county in which your water system is located, whether the source has been granted a monitoring waiver, and whether there have been past detections of any of these organic contaminants.

Monitoring waivers are granted by the DOH and are based on a source's susceptibility rating (risk of contamination), water quality history, and information gathered from across the state.

If there are no detections of organic contaminants shown in the water quality data tables, there were none detected.

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS

Drinking water sources are sampled and tested a minimum of every six years for radioactive contaminants (radium 228 and gross alpha). These contaminants can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

If there are no detections shown in the water quality data tables, there were none detected.

Water is a precious, limited resource. In the Pacific Northwest, drinking water for our growing population competes with other uses that include agriculture, industry, recreation, and maintaining an adequate stream flow for fish.

Washington Water strives to be a leader in the water industry, and we encourage our customers to be good stewards of our water resources. We monitor the amount of water we withdraw from aquifers in Washington, and track water losses along with water sold to our customers to confirm compliance.

Washington Water also continues to invest diligently in our infrastructure to reduce the amount of water lost to pipeline leaks and are updating our assessment of the impacts of climate change on water supply and demand. Using water wisely will help make sure that we have enough water in dry years and for generations to come.

Water-use efficiency goals are established in accordance with WAC 246-290-830(6)(b).

DEMAND GOAL

Washington Water's company-wide water demand goal is an annual customer consumption of less than 117,300 gallons (or 0.36 acre feet) per year, per equivalent residential unit. Washington Water monitors demand and encourages conservation through a variety of resources. Washington Water's Customer Service Department alerts customers with unusually high consumption, and provides 13 months of consumption history on billing statements to all customers. See www.wawater.com/conservation for more information about how you can make a difference.

SUPPLY GOAL

To control use of our groundwater sources, Washington Water established a supply goal to withdraw a maximum of 130,340 gallons (or 0.40 acre feet) per year, per equivalent residential unit. This goal is a measure of operational efficiency and adequate maintenance of pumping, treatment, and distribution systems. The difference between the supply and demand goals allows for a maximum of 10% total distribution system leakage use company-wide. Washington Water gauges and records monthly source production, and identifies treatment backwash and system flushing volumes to regularly assess supply-side conservation efficiencies. Washington Water also annually evaluates our systems' water main repair history and distribution system water losses to develop capital improvement projects for water main replacements. See www.wawater.com/construction for current and recently completed main replacement projects.

SOUTHWOOD 2024 WATER USE RESULTS

- Total production: 2.041 billion gallons
- Total accounted usage: 1.384 billion gallons
- Total distribution system leakage: 32.2%

Important Contact Information

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Thanks for taking the time
to learn more about your
water quality.

Even more information awaits you at www.wawater.com.

Visit our web site to get information about your account, water-use history, water rates, and water system. You will also find water-saving tips and news about infrastructure improvements in your area.



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