

Westsound Water Association

Annual Water Quality Report for 2023

PWS ID: 45014R





A Message From Your System Manager

Dear Community,

This is your annual report about your drinking water quality, also called a Consumer Confidence Report or CCR. Having clean, safe water is one of the most important services we provide, and we want you to be as informed as possible about your drinking water.

This report is intended to provide peace of mind and confidence in your drinking water. Here we explain where your water comes from, the results of sampling that we have performed, and what we are doing to protect you and your family. This report covers activity in 2023 **Please Note we had a Coliform Monitoring Violation May 2023 and Lead and Copper Rule violation in 2023..**

If upon reading this report, you have any questions, or don't feel that peace of mind, please reach out. You may contact me at 360-420-1363 and garysale@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Gary Sale

About Your Water



Where Your Drinking Water Comes From

The water we provide to you comes from our well field, which is groundwater, and all our wells are located within our well field off Boddington lane

We Protect the Source

Making the water safe to drink starts by protecting the place it comes from. We work with the state DOH and the scientists at the lab to analyze samples of water at its source to look for possible pollutants.



What Is in Your Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, 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 from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses 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.
- 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.
- Radioactive contaminants, which 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 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Sampling and Testing

We take more than a dozen samples across our water system. We're looking for bacteria, metals, and chemicals to make sure the water continues to be safe to drink.

Bacteria

We look for bacteria regularly, as required by law, and there are three locations in the water system where we take samples for analysis. More thorough testing, evaluation, and action is required if bacteria is found in any of the samples. **Note: We had a treatment technique trigger in May 2023 We had a Total Coliform positive in a routine sample. I installed a replacement single purpose sample tap which remedied the issue.**

Disinfection by-products (Trihalomethane (THM) or Haloacetic Acids (HAA))

Every three years we look for byproducts of the disinfection process. When chlorine, the disinfectant we use to protect against the water of bacteria and viruses, starts to break down in the water, it can form new compounds. These compounds, trihalomethanes (THM) and haloacetic acid (HAA), have been known to cause cancer at high levels. The legal limit for drinking water is 80 parts per billion and 60 parts per billion respectively. We test for these compounds at a point that represents the longest detention time in the water system.

Lead and Copper

We take water samples from five different homes in our system every three years to test them for lead and copper. More information about lead and copper can be found on the following page.

NOTE: I collected the required samples but 4 of the 5 samples collected were beyond the required time period of June –September. Our samples were out of the required time period by less than a week and it is important to note that WSWA has never had a lead and copper exceedance which is not surprising

considering our system was built after the amendment to the SWDA of 1986 reducing and prohibiting lead in the installation or repair of any public water system. We will sample in 2024 during the required time frame.

Your Water Meets All Standards

In the table on page five, you will find all the substances that we sampled in your drinking water. Here, we would like to highlight a few substances that we pay close attention to in our water because of their potential effects on public health:

Lead

Tested throughout the WSWA system. Testing is done every 3 years. Most recent tests were done in Sept & Oct 2023.

Amount We Found Totalled	15.6 ppb
Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Zero ppb
90 th Percentile	6.65 ppb
Action Level	15 ppb
Highest Amount Detected	12 ppb
Source	Member Residences
Violation	See above

Copper

Tested throughout the WSWA system. Testing is done every 3 years. Most recent tests were done in Sept & Oct 2023.

Amount We Found Totalled	0.609 ppm
Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Zero ppm
90 th Percentile	0.196 ppm
Action Level	1.3 ppm
Highest Amount Detected	0.198 ppm
Source	Member Residences
Violation	See above

Total Trihalomethanes¹

Tested at the longest detention point in the WSWA system in Sept 2023

Amount We Found	26.8 ppb
Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Zero ppb
Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	80 ppb
Source	Distribution
Violation	No

Total Haloacetic Acids

Tested at the longest detention point in the WSWA system in Sept 2023.

Amount We Found	4.6 ppb
Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Zero ppb
Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	60 ppb
Source	Distribution
Violation	No

¹ Compliance is based on the running annual average at each location (LRAA). The Highest LRAA reflects the highest average at any location and the Range Detected reflects all samples used to calculate the running annual averages.

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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.

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level: This is the highest level allowed of a pollutant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close as possible to the goal using the best available technology.

PPM: Part Per Million = 1 drop of water in a hot tub

PPB - Part Per Billion = 1 drop of water in an Olympic size swimming pool

Stay Informed About Your Water

Monthly Board Meetings

We need your understanding and support to be successful, so we hope you will get involved with us all the ways you can on projects, programs, and policies. You are welcome to attend our board meetings. A meeting agenda, date, time and location are emailed to each member prior to the meeting. We always make time to hear from members and answer questions so please join us to learn more about what we're working on. Your input is important to us

All board members contact information can be found on our website westsoundwater.org

Your Role in Water Quality

Check Your Home or Business' Plumbing for Lead and Copper

We work hard to provide high quality water when it arrives on your property. Once the water we provide passes through the meter on your property however, it is

exposed to a whole new environment in your home that we have no control over. But you do.

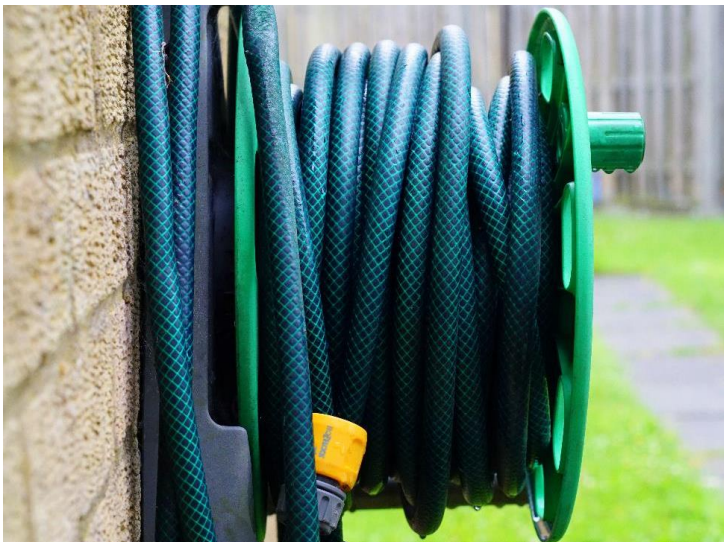


Some of the things that can change the water quality on your property include your plumbing and pipe material, how long you go without running the water, and whether or how you connect outdoor hoses to your home's water supply. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. WSWA is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by

identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact WSWA water system manager. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead> (opens in a new window).

Run Water After Vacation

Another factor that affects water quality in your home is how “stale” the water is. When you leave your home or business for a long time, as you may when you take a vacation, the water in the pipes and plumbing doesn't move. When water has been sitting in the pipes for days, bacteria can grow, and if you have lead or copper plumbing, those metals can start to seep into the water. The best thing to do when you get back from being away after a long time is to run the water on full blast for 30 seconds to two minutes before using it for drinking or cooking. And always use cold water for cooking, to draw in fresh water from the outside.



Safely Connect Outdoor Hoses

A third factor that can influence water quality in your home are connections to your water outside your home. The outdoor spigot connection to a hose provides a potential way for pollutants to enter your plumbing. If you use the hose to spray chemicals on your yard by connecting the nozzle to a spray bottle, or if you have a sprinkler system connected, there is the potential for chemicals from the bottle or the lawn to be accidentally sucked back into your internal plumbing.

To prevent this from happening, we require as per our Cross Connection Program, that you have a device installed to prevent that from happening.

Look Out for Special Populations

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. 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.

Additional Resources

- Information on lead in drinking water: www.epa.gov/safewater/lead (opens in a new window)
- Requirements of the Water Quality Report (also known as the Consumer Confidence Report): http://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/201405/documents/guide_qrg_ccr_2011.pdf (opens in a new window)
- The Safe Drinking Water Act: www.epa.gov/sdwa (opens in a new window)
- CDC Guide to Understanding your CCR: http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/public/understanding_ccr.html (opens in a new window)
- American Water Works Association: <http://www.awwa.org> (opens in a new window)
- Water Environment Federation: <http://www.wef.org> (opens in a new window)
- Groundwater Information: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis> and <http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/> (opens in a new window)
- Washington State health department: 1-253-395-6750 | <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/drinking-water>

Table of Water Data for 2023

The samples were taken in 2023 unless noted otherwise.

Lead and Copper – Tested at the point of longest detention in WSWA system. Testing is done every 3 years. Most recent tests were done in Sept & Oct 2023

Item Detected	EPA's AL - for a representative sampling of customer homes	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	90% of customers' homes were less than	Violation	Source
Lead from member residences	5	Zero ppb	6.65 ppb	No	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper from member residences	5	Zero ppm	0.196 ppm	No	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level: This is the highest level allowed of a pollutant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close as possible to the goal using the best available technology.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The goal level of a pollutant in drinking water. Below this amount, there is no known or expected health effect.

PPB - Part Per Billion = 1 drop of water in an Olympic size swimming pool

PPM - Part Per Million = 1 drop of water in a hot tub

Definitions

ACRONYMS	DEFINITIONS
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: This is the lowest amount of cleaning chemical drinking water should have, because it is the lowest amount needed to make sure bacteria and viruses can't live.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: 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.
Level 1 Assessment	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
Level 2 Assessment	A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
mg/L	Number of milligrams in one liter of water
pCi/L	Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	Not applicable
ND	Not detected
NR	Monitoring not required, but recommended
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units: Turbidity is measured with an instrument called a nephelometer. Measurements are given in nephelometric turbidity units.
PPM	Part Per Million= 1 drop of water in a hot tub
PPB	Part Per Billion = 1 drop of water in an Olympic size swimming pool
PPT	Part Per Trillion (ppt) = 1 drop of water in a lake that's 6 square acres

