



# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023



*Presented By*  
**City of  
Washougal**



PWS ID#: 934000



## Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of 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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, 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. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Washougal has two sources supplying our drinking water. Our main production facility is located on the west end of town at 411 Third Street. Production at this site started in 1942 with Well SO5. Through the years, as demand increased, four additional wells were drilled: SO6 in 1947, SO7 in 1954, S11 in 1983, and S13 in 2007. Our second source, primarily used in the summer, is located in Upper Hathaway Park at 2801 I Street. Here we have one active well, SO4, drilled in 1931. Combined, these two sources provided roughly 606 million gallons of clean drinking water last year.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (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 <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

## Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

According to the SWAP, our water system had a susceptibility rating of medium. If you would like to review the SWAP, please feel free to contact our office during regular office hours at (360) 835-2662.



## QUESTIONS?

The City of Washougal is dedicated to providing our community and all its visitors with drinking water of the highest quality. For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact Ryan Baker, Public Works Operations Superintendent, at (360) 835-2662 or [ryan.baker@cityofwashougal.us](mailto:ryan.baker@cityofwashougal.us).



## Substances That Could Be in Water

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the Department of Health prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Washington Department of Agriculture 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



## What Are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit <http://bit.ly/3Z5AMm8>.

## Water Treatment Process

Our treatment process consists of two steps. First, chlorine is added as a precaution against any bacteria that may enter the system through line breaks or low-pressure events. We carefully monitor the residual chlorine levels, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste. Next, sodium hydroxide is added to adjust the pH in an effort to minimize the natural corrosion of pipes and plumbing fixtures. After treatment, the water is pumped to sanitized reservoirs, the distribution system, and your home or business.



## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chlorine (ppm)	2023	[4]	[4]	0.7	0.4–1.2	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Conductivity (µmho/cm)	2021	700	NA	140	98–140	No	Naturally occurring
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2023	15	0	2.59	2.59–2.59	No	Naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	2021	NA	NA	36	24–36	No	Naturally occurring
Magnesium	2021	NA	NA	2.8	2.0–2.8	No	Naturally occurring
Nitrate (ppm)	2023	10	10	2.2	0.75–2.2	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2023	5	0	0.559	0.559–0.559	No	Erosion of natural elements
Sodium (ppm)	2021	NA	NA	11	9.2–11	No	Naturally occurring
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2022	80	NA	3.2	1.5–3.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU)	2021	TT	NA	0.31	ND–0.31	No	Naturally occurring

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	1.3	0.30	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0	3.2	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

### SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2014	250	NA	2.66	ND–2.66	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2021	1.0	NA	0.070	0.022–0.070	No	Erosion of natural deposits
pH (units)	2023	6.5-8.5	NA	7.2	6.83–7.73	No	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2014	250	NA	3.91	ND–3.91	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

### UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2022	0.97	0.59–0.97	Disinfection by-product
Calcium (ppm)	2021	9.9	6.2–9.9	Naturally occurring
Chloroform (ppb)	2022	1.6	0.94–1.6	Disinfection by-product
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2022	0.64	ND–0.64	Disinfection by-product



## BY THE NUMBERS

 **5.1 TRILLION**

The dollar value needed to keep water, wastewater, and stormwater systems in good repair.

 **2**

How often in minutes a water main breaks.

 **1.7 TRILLION**

The gallons of drinking water lost each year to faulty, aging, or leaky pipes.

 **12 THOUSAND**

The average amount in gallons of water used to produce one megawatt-hour of electricity.

 **47.5 TRILLION**

The amount in gallons of water used to meet U.S. electric power needs in 2020.

 **33**

The percentage of water sector employees who will be eligible to retire by 2033.

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** 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.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**ppb (µg/L) (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (mg/L) (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level):** These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

**µmho/cm (micromhos per centimeter):** A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

## Safeguard Your Drinking Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain it to reduce leaching to water sources, or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use U.S. EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with others in your neighborhood. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people, "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.