Whatcom County
Water District #2

WATER QUALITY 2024

01 June 2025

Water District #2 is a reseller of water. All water sold by the District is purchased from the City of Bellingham and processed by the City's water treatment plant, located in Whatcom Falls Park. We have three locations where city water enters our system, Alderwood Ave., Curtis Rd and Marine Dr.

This report is a requirement of the Safe Drinking Water Act. It provides you with a summary of the monitoring results from your drinking water. Once again, our water purchased from the City of Bellingham met all standards for purity in 2024.

Your Elected Board of Commissioners

Pete Rittmueller, Yaprak Goertz
David Anderson

The commissioners meet at 10:00 a.m. once a month at the district office located at 1615 Bayon Rd.

You are cordially invited to attend.

Office Hours are from 8:30 to 12:00 a.m. Monday thru Friday. Call Lorrie Whitfield, Office Manager or Dave Olson, Operations Manager at (360) 733-5770 or email us at wcwd2@qwestoffice.net for meeting dates.

Web Site: www.wcwd2.com

Impurities and Your 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 of health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effect can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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, can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. The 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 (1-800-4826-4791).

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, 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 operation, and livestock, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and 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 the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink the 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) an the Washington State Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health

Elevated levels of lead in drinking water can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children, In Bellingham, fortunately, lead is not found in the treated water, but lead in drinking water can come from pipes and faucets in our customers' homes. The City of Bellingham and Water District #2 are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in customers' plumbing. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for at least 30 seconds before using the water for drinking or cooking. You can capture this water use on plants. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may opt to have your water analyzed by a local laboratory. To learn more about lead in water, go to: http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Definitions

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

Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants (e.g., chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide).

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 are set by the U.S. Environmental Health Agency.

2024 Water Quality analysis results

The City of Bellingham provided Water District 2 with the following page containing information in accordance with federal and state regulations.

The table below includes all results from contaminants that were detected or are above the state reporting level within the District.

Disinfection By-products: (DBP's) Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids-5 (HAA-5).

TTHM: Highest site 59.9 ppb. **TTHM max allowable:** Below 80 ppb

HAA: Highest site 10.1 ppb. **HAA max allowable :** Below 60 ppb

THMs and HAAs are formed as byproduct of the drinking water chlorination process.

Free Chlorine Residual:

Water District 2 takes daily samples within the district. All samples were under the maximum level.

Where: ppm = parts per million , ppb = parts per billion, MCL = maximum contaminant level
AL = Action Level

Reducing water use should no longer be thought of as *voluntary,* but rather a lifestyle change that is *necessary* throughout our community and our region.

Your districts goal over the next 5 years is to reduce unaccounted for water to under 8% and individual water use per household by approximately 2%. We encourage customers to use the ODD/EVEN water schedule, use Rain Barrels, and through public education with the help of the Whatcom Water Alliance program.

In 2024 we purchased 45 million gallons of water from COB and delivered 37.7 million gallons leaving about 11.4 % unaccounted for, most likely due to unidentified leaks.

We encourage you to call the Utilities Underground Location Center dial **811** at least two (2) business days before you dig, whether it is on the public right of way or your yard, where phone or electric wires may be buried.

Water District #2 **does not** locate water lines past the meter box, toward the residence.

Whatcom County Water District 2 was established in 1945. Materials used in the original construction were expected to last 50 to 60 years, but with the rising number of emergency repairs, it has been decided it is necessary to start making needed improvements to our system. After lengthy studies, consultations and discussions the board of commissioners have decided our next project is the replacement of Cliffside Dr. and Old Marine Dr. water mains. The project is scheduled to be executed in 2025. Please feel free to contact your board of commissioners with any questions and concerns as we continue to work on this capital project.

Water Shut Off Policy Water charges are the responsibility of the property owner and change of ownership or occupancy shall not affect this responsibility. Bills may be addressed to a person other than the owner upon request by the owner or authorized agent.

Water bills are mailed at the beginning of every other month (bi-monthly) and are due upon receipt. Current bills are past due after the due date shown on the bill. Subsequent water bills for current charges do not extend the due date of past due balances.

Water bills not paid in full by the due date are delinquent and subject to 10% (Ten Percent) late charge, per month on the past due balance.

Past due notices are mailed every other month (bi-monthly) opposite the billing month. Past due notices are due upon receipt and include late fees and the date after which water service may be shut off for non payment of a delinquent balance.
When a delinquent amount is greater than 90 days past due the district may suspend service after notice of the pending shut off has be mailed to the last known billing address on record. Adequate Shut Off Notice shall include any regular bill or past due notice showing the shut off date.

Accounts with a past due balance greater than $200.00 may have a lien attached to the property. The district will assess the current Turn-Off/Turn-On/Lien charges and in no case shall service be reconnected until all delinquent charges have been paid in full.

It is a federal crime to tamper with a public water system and tampering is subject to prosecution. Should any person turn on the water service without authorization after it has been shut off by the district for failure to pay delinquent charges, water service shall be shut off again and the account shall be assessed an initial Tampering Fee of $100 (One Hundred Dollars). All outstanding fees and delinquent charges must be paid in full before service is reconnected.

Leak Adjustment Policy

If your bill reflects water usage from a leak or break in the water lines on your side of the meter, including within your residence, and you would like Water District #2 to take this into consideration, please provide us with the following REQUIRED information in writing.:

Name, Service address and Account number where leak occurred, Description of leak and date repaired, Copy of repair bill or materials receipts. If there are no invoices or receipts available, a written assertion that the leak is now repaired is acceptable. Signature of customer.

Water leak adjustments are limited to one per account per year. The leak adjustment applies to one billing cycle only.

All requests for adjustment will be forwarded to the Commission for their consideration.

In accordance with federal and state regulations, the table below includes all results from contaminants that were detected or are above the state detection reporting limit.

		EPA Regulations		Bellingham Water Results		
Parameter (2024 or most recent)	**Units**	**Public Health Goal or MCLG**	**Maximum Allowable MCL**	**Bellingham Drinking Water Range or Reported Value**	**Average Value or Highest Result**	**In Compliance?**
Total Coliform Bacteria	% Positive	0	5% positive per month	2% positive in Aug due to a contaminated sample station. 0% positive all other months. No E. coli bacteria were detected.	2% positive in August.	Yes
Bellingham collects over 120 samples a month at locations throughout our water distribution system and analyzes these for coliform bacteria to ensure water purity. No more than 5% of these samples can be positive for total coliform bacteria and none can be positive for *Escherichia coli* (E.coli). No *E. coli* was detected in 2024.						
Free Residual Chlorine Levels	ppm	Detectible in 95% of samples	4.0 MRDL	Range:< 0.02 to 0.96 ppm	Average 0.42 ppm free available chlorine	Yes
Bellingham monitors chlorine levels continuously at the water filtration plant. Over 120 distribution system samples are also analyzed each month to ensure a disinfectant residual remains in treated water on its way to our customer's homes. We must be able to detect free chlorine in 95% of the samples we analyze in the distribution system.						
Haloacetic Acids-5 (HAA-5)	ppb	0	60	Range: 9 to 21 ppb	Highest site x̄ 14 ppb	Yes
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	0	80	Range: 9 to 40 ppb	Highest site x̄ 33 ppb	Yes
Haloacetic acids and total trihalomethanes are formed as byproducts of the drinking water chlorination process. The HAA-5 and TTHM results are from 8 representative locations in Bellingham's treated water distribution system. Compliance is based on a site-specific running average. The highest site average from 2024 is shown above.						
Turbidity	NTU	< 0.3	Treatment Technique	Range: 0.03 to 0.08 NTU At or below 0.3 NTU 100% of the time.	Highest value 0.08 NTU	Yes
The turbidity limit is 0.3 NTU. In 2023 no filtered water turbidity result exceeded 0.3 NTU so Bellingham met the Department of Health's limit 100% of the time. Treatment Technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.						
Lead (2023 sampling)	ppb	0	15^	3 ppb as the 90th percentile	< 1 to 7 ppb	Yes
Copper (2023 sampling)	ppb	1300	1300^	90 ppb as the 90th percentile	11 to 216 ppb	Yes
Lead and copper are monitored every 3 years in our customers' homes to assess the amount of corrosion occurring in home plumbing. The water sampled is the first draw of stagnant water in homes identified as having lead solder and copper pipe. There are no lead service lines in Bellingham. The lead service line inventory results can be accessed at this link: https://cob.org/services/utilities/water-distribution/service-lines. Sampling will next be conducted in 2026. ^The 90th percentile value of all samples collected.						
Inorganics without a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) with results above the state detection reporting level (SDRL):						
Hardness	ppm			20.4	20.4	Yes
Sodium	ppm			11.5	11.5	Yes
Inorganics without an MCL, having a SMCL*, with results above the SDRL:				**Bellingham Level 2024**	**SMCL Limit Allowed***	
Chloride	ppm			6.0	250	Yes
Manganese	ppb			1.2	50	Yes
Sulfate	ppm			5.9	250	Yes

*Secondary maximum contaminant levels (SMCL) are limits that are not based on health concerns but instead based on the aesthetic properties of water such as taste, color, & odor.

The Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule analytical results from City of Bellingham drinking water sampling are available from quarterly sampling conducted in February, May, August, and November 2024.

No detections were found of any of the compounds.

A "<" less than sign means that the compound was not found at the lowest level of detection indicated (MRL).

Unregulated Contaminant Rule 5 Compound	PFAS Abbreviated Name	Units [1]	MRL [2]	Bellingham Results
Perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	ppt	4	< 4
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	PFOS	ppt	4	< 4
Perfluorhexanesulfonic acid	PFHxS	ppt	3	< 3
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid	HFPO-DA (GenX)	ppt	5	< 5
Perfluorononanoic acid	PFNA	ppt	4	< 4
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	PFBS	ppt	3	< 3
Perfluorheptanoic acid	PFHpA	ppt	3	< 3
Perfluorhexanoic acid	PFHxA	ppt	3	< 3
Perfluordecanoic acid	PFDA	ppt	3	< 3
Perfluoroundecanoic acid	PFUnA	ppt	2	< 2
Perfluorododecanoic acid	PFDoA	ppt	3	< 3
4,8-Dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid	ADONA	ppt	3	< 3
9-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3- oxanonane-1-sulfonic acid	9Cl-PF3ONS	ppt	2	< 2
11-Chloroeicosafluoro-3- oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid	11Cl-PF3OUdS	ppt	5	< 5
1H,1H, 2H, 2H-Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid	4:2FTS	ppt	3	< 3
1H,1H, 2H, 2H-Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid	6:2FTS	ppt	5	< 5
1H,1H, 2H, 2H-Perfluorodecane sulfonic acid	8:2FTS	ppt	5	< 5
Nonafluoro-3,6-dioxaheptanoi c acid	NFDHA	ppt	20	< 20
Perfluorobutanoic acid	PFBA	ppt	5	< 5
Perfluoroheptanesulfonic acid	PFHpS	ppt	3	< 3
Perfluoro-4-methoxybutanoic acid	PFMBA	ppt	3	< 3
Perfluoro-3-methoxypropanoic acid	PFMPA	ppt	4	< 4
Perfluoropentanoic acid	PFPeA	ppt	3	< 3
Perfluoropentanesulfonic acid	PFPeS	ppt	4	< 4
Perfluoro(2-ethoxyethane) sulfonic acid	PFEESA	ppt	3	< 3
Perfluorotridecanoic acid	PFTrDA	ppt	7	< 7
Perfluorotetradecanoic acid	PFTA	ppt	8	< 8
N-ethyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid	NEtFOSAA	ppt	5	< 5
N-methyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid	NMeFOSAA	ppt	6	< 6
Lithium	Not a PFAS	ppb	9	< 9

[1] ppt = parts per trillion, or ng/L. ppb = part per billion, or µg/L.
[2] MRL = minimum reporting level, the minimum concentration of each analyte that can be measured & must be reported.