

2021 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Water is a life-essential resource. Yet, at less than a penny a gallon, it costs very little compared to its value. Your water rates pay for everything it takes to operate our water system, from storage and treatment, to delivering the water to your tap. Your water rates also help pay for water system improvements that ensure we will provide high-quality drinking water for generations to come. This year's Drinking Water Quality Report illustrates the exceptional value of the clean, safe, great-tasting drinking water you receive.



TASTE VALUE QUALITY

An Overview of Your Water

From Spada to you: clean, safe drinking water at your tap

Your drinking water comes from the Spada Lake Reservoir, located about 30 miles east of Everett, at the headwaters of the Sultan River. Created in 1964, this 50 billion gallon storage facility collects rain and snowmelt from the Cascade Mountains, via the Upper Sultan River Watershed. This 80+ square mile watershed is one of the wettest in the continental United States, with an average annual rainfall of 165 inches—five times the rainfall in Everett. To protect the naturally pristine water in Spada Lake Reservoir, water quality in the Sultan Basin is carefully monitored, the watershed is patrolled, and human activities are limited to minimize the impact on water quality; security measures are evaluated and adjusted on an ongoing basis.

Who Oversees Your Water Quality?

Your drinking water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), who sets drinking water quality standards, establishes testing methods and monitoring requirements for water utilities, sets maximum levels for water contaminants, and requires utilities to give public notice whenever a violation occurs.

Who Tests Your Water?

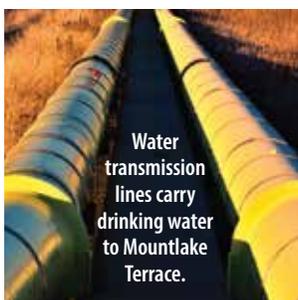
Your drinking water is tested 365 days a year by the City of Everett to ensure that high quality water is delivered to your home. Tests are done before and after treatment, and also while your water is in the distribution system.

How is Your Water Tested?

Over 200 compounds are tested for and not detected by the City of Everett; most of this monitoring occurs once every several years. The Tables on the following page list all contaminants detected in the most recent required water testing, along with the limits and goals set by the EPA and the State of Washington to ensure your tap water is safe. Not shown are more than 200 additional contaminants that were tested for, but not detected, in your drinking water. If you have questions about your water quality, feel free to contact us at 425-670-8264.

How Safe is Your Water?

Your water falls safely within state and federal guidelines and significantly below the EPA's levels.



2021 Water Quality Analysis Results

Detected Regulated Contaminants			EPA Regulations		City of MLT Results		
Parameter	Major Source	Units	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Allowed (MCL)	Range or Other	Avg. or Highest	Comply?

Total coliform bacteria monitoring tracks the microbial quality in the water distribution system. Mountlake Terrace collects approximately 20 samples per month or 240 per year. Not more than 5 percent of the monthly total can be positive for total coliforms. Two positive coliform test samples were collected in 2021, however after re-testing the samples the results were negative.

Residual Disinfectant Level (free chlorine)	Added as a disinfectant to drinking water	ppm	4.0 (MRDLG)	4.0 (MRDL)	0.6–0.9	0.7	Yes
Haloacetic Acids (5) (HAA5)	By-product of drinking water chlorination	ppb	N/A	60	21–48	32 ²	Yes
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	By-product of drinking water chlorination	ppb	N/A	80	31–62 ¹	45 ²	Yes

Haloacetic acids and trihalomethanes form as by-products of the chlorination process that is used to kill or inactivate disease-causing microbes. These results are from the four locations in Mountlake Terrace which are monitored to determine compliance with current regulations. ¹Range of results taken from all four locations. ²Highest locational running annual average of the four sites monitored.

City of Everett Results							
Fluoride	Dental health additive	ppm	2	4	0.5–0.8	0.7	Yes

The City of Everett adds Fluoride to your water in carefully controlled levels for dental health. Due to system maintenance, Everett reported three days during the year in which the daily average feed value was below the state minimum for dental health of 0.5ppm.

Turbidity	Soil erosion	NTU	N/A	TT	100%	0.08	Yes
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Turbidity is a measure of the amount of particulates in water expressed in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU). Particulates in water can include bacteria, viruses and protozoans that can cause disease. Turbidity measurements are used to determine the effectiveness of the treatment processes in removing these particulates. The EPA turbidity limit is 0.3 NTU.

Lead, Copper, and pH			EPA Regulations			City of MLT Results	
Parameter	Major Source	Units	Ideal Level/ Goal (MCLG)	Action Level (AL)	90th % Level	Homes Exceeding the Action Level	Comply?
Lead	Plumbing, erosion of natural deposits	ppb	0	15	.001	0 of 4 (0.0%)	Yes
Copper	Plumbing, erosion of natural deposits	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.043	0 of 4 (0.0%)	Yes

USEPA and state regulations require water systems to monitor for the presence of lead and copper at household taps every three years. Lead and copper monitoring is conducted by Everett and many of the water systems that it supplies including Mountlake Terrace in the combined service area as a regional group. The above data was collected in 2021 by the City of Mountlake Terrace. The next required round of sampling will be in 2024. The 90th% level is the highest result obtained in 90 percent of the samples collected when the results are ranked in order from lowest to highest. In the past, the results for water tested before it enters household plumbing were even lower than the tap results. This indicates that there is virtually no lead or copper in the water and that household plumbing may contribute to lead and copper at the tap.

pH	Soda ash is added to reduce water corrosivity by increasing pH and alkalinity	s.u.	Daily Avg 7.6	Min. Daily Avg. 7.3	Avg. 7.6	Min. 7.0	Yes
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The Washington State Dept of Health requires the City of Everett to operate the corrosion control treatment program at or above a minimum daily average pH of 7.4. pH is measured by the City of Everett six times per day (once every four hours). The average daily pH cannot be below 7.4 for more than nine days every six months. In 2020, the average daily pH dropped below 7.4 for one day.

Detected Unregulated Contaminants			City of MLT Results	
Parameter	Units	Ideal Level / Goal (MCLG)	Range Detected	Average Value
Bromodichloromethane	ppb	0	1.6–2.4	1.9
Chloroform (trichloromethane)	ppb	70	30–60	43
Dichloroacetic Acid	ppb	0	2–18	8
Trichloroacetic Acid	ppb	20	17–28	22

These substances are disinfection by-products for which no MCL standard has been set, but which must be monitored to determine compliance with the USEPA Stage 2 Disinfection By-products Rule MCLs for Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids (5).

Definitions:

Turbidity - Turbidity is a measure of particulates suspended in water in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) and is an important test in determining drinking water quality. Particulates in water can include bacteria, viruses and protozoans that can cause disease.

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.

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 water treatment technology.

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.

Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

Parts per Million (ppm)/ Parts per Billion (ppb) – A part per million means that one part of a particular contaminant is present for every million parts of water. Similarly, parts per billion indicate the amount of a contaminant per billion parts of water.

Not Applicable (N/A) - Means EPA has not established MCLGs for these substances.

Your Drinking Water is Tested 365 Days a Year



How the EPA Monitors Water Quality

All water sources (both tap water and bottled water) contain impurities. As water flows 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 occur or result from urban surface water, 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 surface water 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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 and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Treatment Polymers

During water treatment, organic polymer coagulants are added to improve the coagulation and filtration processes that remove particulates from water. The particulates that are removed can include viruses, bacteria and other disease causing organisms.

The USEPA sets limits on the type and amount of polymer that a water system can add to the water. In addition to the EPA limits, the State of Washington requires that all polymers used be certified safe for potable water use by an independent testing organization (NSF International). During treatment, Everett adds only NSF approved polymers and the levels used are far below the safe limits set by the USEPA.

Lead and Copper Monitoring

Our regional water supply does not contain lead or copper. However, it is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than other homes in the community as a result of your home's plumbing materials.

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. The City of Mountlake Terrace is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 2 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 1-800-426-4791 or online at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead



Keep Your Water Safe with Cross Connection Control

- Fire Sprinkler system
- Lawn irrigation system
- Water makeup lines (supplying a boiler or hydronic heating)
- Swimming pool*
- Hot tub / jacuzzi tub*
- Decorative fountain*
**if connected directly to your water line*

Keeping our water safe is a two way street. If you have any of the items listed at left on your property, we rely on you to protect those connections with a backflow prevention device to avoid cross-connection to the water supply.

A cross-connection is a point in a plumbing system where it is possible for a non-potable substance to come into contact with the potable drinking water supply. For homeowners, these commonly include irrigation systems, private fire sprinkler systems, boiler systems, and pool or pond equipment.

If you are an existing backflow customer, make sure your information is up to date for receiving reminders, and schedule your annual test in advance. If you have questions, or need a list of registered testers, call us at 425-670-8264.

Ensuring Adequate Supply

Water is a precious resource. Conservation helps ensure adequate supply to meet the needs of people, industries, businesses and farms, while also keeping fish and other aquatic life alive and well.

Everett provides water to the majority of water systems in Snohomish County and administers a regional water conservation program. The program is planned and developed with the water systems we serve, and funded from water system revenues.

More than \$7.9 million has been invested in regional water conservation activities since 2001. This includes such activities as school education, indoor and outdoor water conservation kits, rebates for water efficient clothes washers and toilets, leak detection, business water audits and school irrigation audits. Through these efforts, we have saved more than 5.6 million gallons per day (MGD)—enough water to fill nearly 133,000 bathtubs a day.

Conservation planning has occurred in six-year cycles as part of Everett's comprehensive water system plan. The first plan covered the period from 2001 through 2006, the second from 2007 through 2012 and the third from 2013 through 2019. The 2020 Comprehensive Water Plan will be a ten-year plan and should be issued in April 2021. The draft plan states that the regional conservation program goal for 2020-2029 will reduce the regional demand for water by approximately 1.8 MGD on an annual basis and will include school education and conservation kits, along with continued support of large water users. In 2020, 242 water conservation workshops were conducted in classrooms throughout Snohomish County, reaching more than 5,400 students. Water systems purchased more than 2,900 indoor conservation kits and 4,800 outdoor conservation kits. These activities saved an estimated 0.68 MGD regionally.

For conservation tips and information, visit everettwa.gov/conservation



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Your Opinion Matters!

Let us know how we're doing and what you think of your water. Call 425-670-8264, or email us at cityhall@mltwa.gov

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1-800-521-0323
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Planning a Project?



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**