

# Water Quality Report 2024



PWS ID# 80915



## Safe and Reliable Drinking Water for *Your Family*



The City of Snohomish is committed to delivering high-quality drinking water to ensure the health and safety of our community. Safe, reliable water is essential not only to the well-being of your family but also to the overall strength and resilience of our city.

This annual report provides a comprehensive overview of the quality of your drinking water—from its pristine source in the Cascade Mountains to the tap in your home. Every day, our Public Works water staff work diligently behind the scenes to supply hundreds of millions of gallons of clean water at an affordable cost. Their dedication to protecting and maintaining this vital resource helps ensure that everyone in Snohomish can rely on safe, dependable water whenever it's needed.

Much of our city's original water system, particularly in the older neighborhoods, was installed in the 1920s and 1930s and is now reaching the end of its useful life. In 2024, we updated our twenty-year capital improvement plan to prioritize water main replacements in the areas most in need. We've also focused on installing new valves throughout the system, which will improve our ability to isolate sections for repairs and maintenance—minimizing service disruptions and enhancing overall system reliability.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to preserve and improve this essential service for both current and future generations.

Nova Heaton, *Public Works Director*

Snohomish has high quality water.

# Where does it come from?

The City of Snohomish has two sources for providing drinking water: the City of Everett and Snohomish County PUD #1.

Approximately 90% of our water is purchased from the City of Everett with the remainder purchased from Snohomish County PUD. The City of Snohomish is still responsible for operation and maintenance of 35 miles of pipe in the water distribution system.



## **CITY OF EVERETT** (City of Snohomish Customers)

The City of Everett's water is supplied from Spada Reservoir, which was created in 1965. The Spada Reservoir holds about 50 billion gallons of water and is located 30 miles east of Everett in the Sultan Basin Watershed. From Spada Lake, the water flows through about 7 miles of tunnels and pipelines to Chaplain Reservoir where the City of Everett water treatment facility is located. Chaplain Reservoir holds about 4.5 billion gallons of water. The City of Everett's water is supplied to the City of Snohomish through four connections to Everett's No. 5 transmission line across the north end of town.

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY PUD #1 SUPPLY:** (Transmission Line Customers) Snohomish County PUD #1 water is produced from two wells located at their treatment facility. The water from these wells receives treatment for iron and manganese removal and is chlorinated. Fluoride is added to match levels found in the City of Everett drinking water. The water from this treatment facility is then blended with water received from the City of Everett in the distribution system. Snohomish PUD water is supplied to the City of Snohomish through a system intertie located on Robe Menzel Road & North Carpenter Road.



## IT MAY BE TIME TO RE-THINK BOTTLED WATER

Microscopic pieces of plastic are everywhere. Now, they've been found in bottled water in concentrations 10 to 100 times more than previously estimated. Water bottles can be susceptible to contamination because of the prolonged contact between the water and the plastic packaging material.



### COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

You are invited to participate in our public City Council meetings and voice your compliments or concerns about our drinking water. We meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at 105 Cedar Avenue, Snohomish, Washington 98290, in the downstairs meeting room of the historic Carnegie Building.

**SAMPLING RESULTS:** During the past year, hundreds of water samples have been taken in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. Although all of the substances listed here are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water.

**CITY OF SNOHOMISH**

Analyte	Year	MCL	MCLG	Average	Range	Violation
Chlorine (ppm)	2024	4	4	0.71	0.10 - 1.74	No
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2024	60	NA	32.8	25.0 - 54.7	No
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2024	80	NA	43.4	19.3 - 72.6	No
Total Coliform (% Positive)	2024	5% month	0	0	NA	No

Total coliform bacteria testing is used to monitor microbial quality in the water distribution system. The City of Snohomish collects 12 coliform samples per month from dedicated sites within our service area. In 2024, no positive coliforms were detected.

Analyte	Year	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile	Homes Exceeding AL	Violation
Copper (ppm)	2024	1.3	1.3	0.080	0 out of 109	No
Lead (ppb)	2024	15	0	4	2 out of 109	No

These are results from Everett's regional compliance. The City of Snohomish was required to contribute three local samples.

Analyte (Unregulated)	Year	MCL	MCLG	Average	Range	Violation
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2024	NA	0	1.9	0.8 - 3.0	No
Chloroform (ppb)	2024	NA	70	41.5	18.5 - 69.6	No
Monochloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2024	NA	20	2.3	0.0 - 2.5	No
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2024	NA	0	9.1	2.6 - 15.5	No
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2024	NA	20	23.2	17.4 - 27.8	No

These substances are individual disinfection by-products for which MCL or MCLG standards have not been set, but must be monitored to determine compliance with the USEPA Stage 2 disinfection by-products rule MCL's for Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids.

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY PUD #1**

Analyte	Year	MCL	MCLG	Average (ppb)	Range	Violation
Turbidity (NTU)	2024	TT	NA	0.01	0.01 - 0.05	No
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	4	2	0.64	0.35 - 0.85	No

\*\*\*Turbidity measures particulate in water (NTU) to assess treatment effectiveness. These particulates may include bacteria, viruses, and protozoans. The EPA limit is 0.3 NTU; in 2024, all samples met this standard. The Everett treatment plant targets filtered water turbidities of 0.10 NTU or less.

Analyte	Year	Daily Avg	Min Daily Avg	Average	Range	Violation
pH (SU)	2024	NA	NA	7.4	6.5 - 9.9	No

**CITY OF EVERETT**

Analyte	Year	MCL	MCLG	Average	Range	Violation
Turbidity (NTU)	2024	TT	NA	100%	0.05	No
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	4	2	0.5 - 0.8	0.7	No

\*\*\* Fluoride is added to the water in carefully controlled levels to support dental health.

Analyte	Year	Daily Avg	Min Daily Avg	Average	Minimum	Violation
pH (SU)	2024	7.6	7.3	7.6	7.2	No

Soda ash is added to reduce water corrosivity by increasing pH and alkalinity. The Washington State Department of Health requires Everett to operate corrosion control treatment at or above a minimum daily average pH of 7.4. Everett measures pH 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 2024, the average daily pH was below 7.4 for two nonconsecutive days from the east clearwell discharge point and one day from the west clearwell discharge point.

**TABLE DEFINITIONS**

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

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

**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 contamination.

**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.

**NA:** Not applicable

**ND:** Not detected

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

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

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water.

**Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)** form as by-products of the chlorination process that is used to kill or inactivate disease causing microbes.

**Turbidity:** A measurement of the amount of particulates in water 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 used to remove these particulates.

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.

**Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR5)**

The City of Everett collected quarterly samples at the entry point to the water distribution system according to the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Rule (UCMR5). These samples were tested for 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium. No PFAS or lithium were detected. The full results for the UCMR5 are available at [everettwa.gov/WQsummary](http://everettwa.gov/WQsummary).

The City of Snohomish is required to collect quarterly samples at the entry points to the distribution system in 2025 under the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). The testing will include 29 per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium. No PFAS or lithium was detected in the January or the April 2025 testing. A complete report will be included in next year's water quality report once testing is complete.

**Message from the EPA**

All 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 Environmental Protection Agency's 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/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: (1-800-426-4791).

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 Snohomish 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 two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking 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 or at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead>.

**WATER USE EFFICIENCY UPDATE 2024**

Everett provides water to the majority of water systems in Snohomish County and administers a regional water use efficiency program. The program is planned and developed with the water systems they serve, and funded from water system revenues. More than \$8.8 million has been invested in regional water conservation activities since 2001. Our current water use efficiency program includes such activities such as school education, indoor and outdoor water conservation kits, leak detection kits and support, and commercial indoor/outdoor water audits. Through these efforts, we have saved more than 8.96 million gallons per day - enough to fill more than 211,570 bathtubs daily.

In 2024, 396 workshops were conducted with school classes throughout Snohomish County, reaching 10,200 students. Water systems provided 1,950 conservation kits, 1,025 kitchen aerators and 5,330 outdoor conservation items.

These activities saved an estimated 0.69 million gallons per day regionally.



**Water Conservation School Program Summary for the City of Snohomish**

Name of School	Lesson Name	No. of Classes	No. of Students
Cascade View Elementary	Water You Know	4	100
Machias Elementary	Water You Know	16	400
Cascade View Elementary	Water You Know	2	50
Emerson Elementary	Water You Know	5	125
Machias Elementary	Water You Know	6	150
	Total	33	825

# What *are* these things?

The water crew has installed these sample stands throughout the city.

Sample stands are tapped directly off the water main at strategic locations. They are used to collect water samples to comply with Department of Health regulations.

The samples are taken twice a month and analyzed for coliform bacteria which would indicate possible contamination or concern. We also monitor pH, chlorine residual, and temperature.

If there was a verified concern about one of our samples, we would be required to notify the public and take immediate corrective action.



## Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)

**Never pour FOG down your drain.**

Instead, cool it, can it and put it in the trash. FOG in your pipes can solidify, backup, and cause costly repairs and damage to your house and the public sewer system.





## What does it mean to flush a water main, and why are you doing it?

Last year, the city water department flushed nearly five miles of water main. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning or “scouring” the interior of water distribution mains (pipes) by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains. Distribution mains convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood.

Flushing helps maintain water quality. The water entering distribution mains is very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in distribution mains if they are not properly managed. Flushing the mains removes sediments and helps to freshen water that can get caught in dead ends.

When you see a ‘Water Main Flushing in Progress’ sign in your neighborhood, it means that some part of the area is being flushed.

Sometimes during flushing, some sediment may get into your home’s plumbing. If this happens, please be patient and allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity. During this time, you should avoid using hot water to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

We are environmentally responsible by de-chlorinating the water before it enters our storm drains, streams, lakes, and rivers.



## Safeguard Your Sips

### Prevent Cross Connections with Your Garden Hoses!



Garden hose cross connections mix drinkable water with non-drinkable substances, posing contamination risks. Preventing such connections is vital for water safety! Add a vacuum breaker!