

Our Water Quality Commitment:

You Can Count on Washington Water Employees to . . .

- ⇒ provide you with the highest quality water possible
- ⇒ sample, test and treat your water on a regular basis
- ⇒ work diligently to meet every water quality standard on every system, every day
- ⇒ maintain water distribution system reliability
- ⇒ provide you with the highest level of customer service possible

Important Phone Numbers:

Washington Water Service Company

P.O. Box 336
Gig Harbor, WA 98335-0336
Toll Free: (877) 408-4060
<http://www.wawater.com>

NW Regional Operations Mgr: Dan Brown

Washington State Department of Health

Northwest Office of Drinking Water
20435- 72nd Avenue South Suite 200, K17-12
Kent WA 98032-2358
(253) 395-6750
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/>



WASHINGTON WATER
SERVICE COMPANY

Rosario Water System State ID #74270J

2008 Drinking Water Report

Washington Water Service Company (WWSC) is committed to being a leader in providing communities and customers with traditional and innovative utility services. WWSC is proud of its service record and is staffed with courteous and knowledgeable water professionals who are dedicated to meeting your needs. While we are proud of our past record, we continually strive to improve upon the quality of services we provide to you, our valued customer.

This *2008 Drinking Water Report* is your annual update on the quality and safety of your drinking water. It includes the water quality monitoring results from the **most recent round** of testing done on your system, in accordance with state and federal regulations. This report also provides access through references and telephone numbers to source water assessments, health effects data and additional information about your water system. This allows you to make personal health-based decisions regarding your drinking water consumption and become more involved in decisions which may affect your health. We hope you find this information helpful!

Washington Water
Service Company

Toll Free: (877) 408-4060

Regarding “contaminants” in drinking water:

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

Sources of drinking water:

Common sources of drinking water—both tap and bottled water—include rivers, lakes and streams (surface water) and wells and springs (groundwater). As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. The water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Where does my water come from?

Your water comes from Cascade Lake in Moran State Park and is considered surface water. The water is pumped from the lake to a treatment plant where a series of chemical and physical processes remove contaminants from the water and clarify it. Ozone is added as a primary disinfectant, killing any microorganisms that may be present. Residual ozone is then removed by using ultraviolet light. Chlorine is added as a final step in the disinfection process. This treated water is pumped to a number of storage tanks from which it is then redistributed to the homes and businesses on the system by gravity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- ◆ ***Microbial contaminants***, such as viruses, parasites 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.
- ◆ ***Radioactive contaminants***, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- ◆ ***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.



Water Quality Data

How To Read The Tables:

Your water is tested for more than 100 contaminants for which state and federal standards have been set. **Tables 1 & 2** list all primary contaminants that were detected (in any amount) along with their respective Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Primary standards protect public health by limiting the levels of these contaminants in drinking water. **Table 3** shows the levels of secondary contaminants and common water properties of interest to many consumers. Secondary contaminants have no known health effects but can affect the aesthetic properties of water (taste, odor and appearance). Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (SMCLs) are guidelines only.

Terms and Abbreviations used:

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 treatment technology.

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 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 (e.g., chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide).

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, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Lead and Copper 90th Percentile Value: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. This must be \leq the AL or additional steps must be taken.

ppb: parts per billion **ppm:** parts per million
N/A: not applicable **NTU:** nephelometric turbidity unit

TABLE 1: Primary Contaminants Detected In Your Drinking Water

Contaminant	Units	Year Tested	MCL	MCLG	YOUR WATER	Compliant? (Y/N)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Disinfectant							
Chlorine	ppm	2007	MRDL= 4	MRDLG= 4	0.42 ^a	Y	Water additive used to kill microbes
Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs)							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5), ppb		2007	60	N/A	8.1	Y	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM), ppb		2007	80	N/A	20.9	Y	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Microbiological[†]					Highest Single Measurement ^f	Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting Turbidity Std of ≤ 0.30 NTU ^d	
Turbidity	NTU	2007	TT	N/A	0.26	100%	Y Soil runoff

TABLE 2: Lead and Copper Monitoring—Samples are collected at customer faucets. The number of homes sampled is based on population served by the system. Specific EPA-mandated criteria are used to select the homes:

Contaminant	Units	Year Tested	Action Level	No. of Homes Sampled	90th Percentile Value	No. of Homes Exceeding the A.L.	Compliant? (Y/N)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Copper	ppm	2006 ^e	1.3	5	0.27	0	Y	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	ppb	2006 ^e	15	5	3	0	Y	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

TABLE 3: Secondary Contaminants and Other Characteristics

Secondary Contaminant	Units	Year Tested	SMCL	YOUR WATER	Compliant? (Y/N)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Iron	ppm	2005 ^e	0.30	< 0.1	Y	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Manganese	ppm	2005 ^e	0.05	0.01	Y	Leaching from natural deposits
Chloride	ppm	2005 ^e	250	< 20	Y	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Seawater influence
Hardness	ppm	2005 ^e	N/A	90 ^f	Y	Erosion of natural deposits

^a Running annual average concentration in the distribution system. The range was 0.18 - 0.94 ppm chlorine.

^b All routine monthly bacteriological samples collected in the distribution system were absent of coliform bacteria in 2007. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We continuously monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Elevated turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms (bacteria, viruses and parasites). Turbidity can also interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth.

^c The turbidity maximum for any single sample is 1.0 NTU.

^d Filtered water turbidity must be ≤ 0.30 NTU in at least 95% of the measurements made each month. 100% of samples measured were < 0.30 NTU.

^e Most recent testing done, in accordance with the regulations. The source was granted a reduced monitoring frequency for Inorganic Chemicals testing (28 different compounds, including those listed in Table 3), required once every 3 years. See the "Monitoring Waivers" section at upper right.

^f Equivalent to 5.3 grains per gallon of hardness. 75 - 150 ppm hardness is considered "moderately hard" water.

Monitoring Waivers. The Dept of Health reduced the monitoring frequency for Inorganic Chemicals during the 2005-2007 monitoring period and waived the monitoring requirement for Synthetic Organic Chemicals altogether (herbicides, pesticides and insecticides). These waivers are based on the state's review of the source's water quality history and vulnerability to contamination by these kinds of compounds (industrial, agricultural, etc). Your drinking water source meets all applicable EPA and Dept of Health standards.

Sodium. Neither the EPA nor the WA State Board of Health have established an MCL for sodium but due to concern for consumers who must restrict their dietary intake, your drinking water is monitored for sodium every 3 years. The EPA recommends 20 ppm as a level of concern for those consumers who must restrict their intake. Sodium in your drinking water was last measured in 2005 at 8 ppm.

The Office of Drinking Water has compiled **source water assessment program (SWAP) data** for all community water systems in Washington. SWAP data for your system is available by accessing DOH's web site at:

<http://www4.doh.wa.gov/dw/swap/app/login.cfm?app=maps>

If you do not have access to the web, we encourage you to use the internet service available through the public library system.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those 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.

More information about contaminants found in water and their potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline or by visiting their web site listed below.

Safe Drinking Water Hotline
1-800-426-4791
www.epa.gov/ogwdw