



## **2023 City of Cle Elum Consumer Confidence Report: Water Quality**

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report provides water quality data to the public in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency Federal Clean Water Act and Consumer Confidence Report requirements.

Federal and State drinking water standards require monitoring and reporting of specific water-quality parameters. For each parameter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established a maximum contaminant level (MCL) “below which there is no known or expected risk to health.” Furthermore, the EPA requires that only State-certified laboratories using approved standard methods are permitted to be used when analyzing water samples for public water systems. This report is based upon data from the 2022 calendar year from treated water-quality results at the water treatment plant as well as samples collected from the City’s water distribution system and residences.

The City’s excellent drinking water originates with the high-quality sources of the Yakima River and the Cle Elum River well field and quality is further refined in our modern water treatment plant. The City of Cle Elum Treatment Plant uses a multi-barrier approach in turning the raw Yakima River water into tap water. This consists of gates and screens at the Intake Station, disinfection to inactivate harmful organisms, and treatment to enhance the formation of larger particles that can be readily filtered by the plant’s multi-layer filters.

The entire treatment process is continuously and closely monitored by State certified water treatment plant operators 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Samples from each phase of the process are tested according to a strict daily schedule at the plant’s laboratory, independent laboratories conduct additional tests.

On October 25, 2021 the Washington Department of Health performed a Routine Sanitary Survey of the water treatment system in accordance with WAC 246-290-416 and found no deficiencies at the water sources or treatment plant; these surveys are very comprehensive and occur every 3 to 5 years.

The City of Cle Elum’s drinking water continues to meet or exceed all Federal and State requirements and we are committed to providing you with the highest quality water possible.

## **Water Use Efficiency Goal: 2022-2028**

The City of Cle Elum adopted a water conservation goal as a result of Washington State's 2007 Water Use Efficiency Rule. The WUE rule requires the City's goal be re-established at a minimum of every six years and progress towards the goal be reported annually to the State and City customers.

Goals established in 2022 include:

- Reduce average residential water consumption by two (2) gallons per service per day over the next ten-year period.
- Add the WUE message on water bills for single-family residential customers.
- Add the WUE message on water bills for multi-family residential customers
- Include WUE program and conservation tips on the annual water quality report
- Conservation-based water rate structure.
- Provide WUE program and water conservation tips on the City's website.

### **2022:**

Water Produced: 446,855,000 gallons

Water Consumed: 295,705,947 gallons

Lost or unaccounted: 151,149,053 gallons (33.9%)

## **Water conservation: It all starts with you**

Water conservation, using water efficiently and avoiding waste, is essential to ensure that we have adequate water today and into the future. Water is a finite resource and the supplies on Earth today are no more than what was here at the beginning of the planet. It is up to all of us to use the water we have wisely, and it is as simple as each of us making small changes. By being smarter about our water use, not only can we save water, energy, and money, we can help our rivers, too. When we use water more efficiently, we leave more water in rivers and streams to support fish, wildlife and recreation.

### **Water conservation tips**

- ✓ Check faucets for leaks, a small drip from a leaky washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day.
- ✓ Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket, every time you flush, 1 to 7 gallons of water is wasted.
- ✓ Check your toilets for leaks, put a little food coloring in your toilet tank, if, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired; most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install.
- ✓ Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators; "low-flow" means it uses less than 2.5 gallons per minute.
- ✓ Showers can use five to ten gallons every minute so be efficient.
- ✓ Consider replacing your 3 to 7 gallon per flush toilet with a "low flush" model, which use 1 to 1.6 gallons per flush.
- ✓ Insulate your water pipes with pre-slit foam pipe insulation; you'll get hot water faster plus avoid wasting water while waiting for it to run hot.
- ✓ Turn the water off while you brush your teeth or shave and save over two gallons a minute.

- ✓ Use your dishwasher and clothes washer for only full loads for optimum water conservation.
- ✓ When cleaning a partial load in your clothes washer, adjust the water level to match the size of the load.
- ✓ Consider replacing old clothes washers with new Energy Star rated washers which use 35 - 50% less water and 50% less energy per load.
- ✓ Consider planting drought-resistant lawns, shrubs and plants and group plants according to their watering needs.
- ✓ Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants, this will slow evaporation of moisture and increase the ability of the soil to retain moisture.
- ✓ Water your lawn only when it needs it; water in the early morning or evening, and try to avoid watering on windy days. This will limit the amount of water that is evaporated by the sun or blown onto sidewalks and driveways.
- ✓ Properly aim your sprinklers to water only the intended areas.
- ✓ Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.

### **About Drinking Water**

All drinking water, including bottled water, may be expected to contain small amounts of contaminants. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material and can pick up substances from the presence of animals or human activity. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

### **Contaminants that may be present include:**

- Microbiological contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from 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, storm water runoff and residential use.
- Organic chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production. These can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which may be naturally occurring, or be the result of mining or oil and gas production.

### **Polymer Statement:**

During water treatment, organic polymer coagulants are added to improve the coagulation and filtration process that removes particulates from water. The particulates that are removed can be 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 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, the City of Cle Elum adds only NSF approved polymers and the levels used are far below the safe limits set by the USEPA

### **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe

### **Additional Information for Lead**

Lead plumbing was banned in 1985. 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 Cle Elum 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)**

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large family of human-made chemicals in use since the 1950s to make a wide variety of stain-resistant, water-resistant, and non-stick consumer products. Some examples include food packaging, outdoor clothing, and non-stick pans. PFAS also have many industrial uses because of their special properties. In Washington State, PFAS have been used in certain types of firefighting foams utilized by the U.S. military, local fire departments, and airports.

Some of the most common and best studied PFAS, such as perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), have been removed from most products because of health and environmental concerns. These long-lasting chemicals continue to be released into our environment from older products and discarded materials. Newer PFAS compounds have replaced older PFAS compounds and at least some appear to pose similar problems.

The City of Cle Elum conducted PFAS sampling in June of 2022 and is happy to report that there was none detected in any of the samples analyzed.

More information regarding PFAS can be found on the Department of Health website:  
([PFAS | Washington State Department of Health](#))

## City of Cle Elum Drinking Water Quality

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The attached table lists the results of the City of Cle Elum water quality analyses performed for the 2022 calendar year for all required regulated contaminants. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels.

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Potential Sources
<b>Disinfectant &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>								
Chlorine (ppm)	4.0 MRDLG	4.0 MRDL	See Range	0.46	2.58	Daily	No	Disinfection agent
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	NA	60	8.05	ND	8.05	Annual	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	7.87	ND	7.87	Annual	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL=1.3	From 10 houses	0.0004	0.157	6/15/21	No	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	0	AL=15	From 10 houses	0.001	0.003	6/15/21	No	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	<0.14	NA	NA	10/3/22	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	0	15	-0.248	NA	NA	10/18/21	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	0	5	0.0084	NA	NA	10/18/21	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	0	1	ND	NA	NA	2 Per Month	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Unit Descriptions</b>								
<b>Term</b>			<b>Definition</b>					
ppm			ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)					
ppb			ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)					
positive samples/month			positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive					
NA			NA: not applicable					
ND			ND: Not detected					

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
MCLG	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	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.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.

**For More Information Contact:**

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