

Whatcom County Water District No. 13
Public Water System 95914
Annual Water Quality Report 2025
Consumer Confidence Report for the Year 2025

Ukrainian (Українська): Це повідомлення містить важливу інформацію про воду, яку ви п'єте. Попросіть когось перекласти вам це повідомлення або поговоріть із людиною, яка розуміє його зміст.

Russian (русский): В этом сообщении содержится важная информация о воде, которую вы пьете. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести для вас это сообщение или поговорите с человеком, который понимает его содержание.

Spanish (Espanol): Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Pídale a alguien que se lo traduzca o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

We are pleased to present to you the 2025 Annual Water Quality Report. This report has been designed to inform you about the quality of the water that was provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We believe the information provides a valuable service to our customers.

Your drinking water is highly regulated by the EPA and is tested regularly. Keeping pace with upgraded water testing and more stringent federal standards is a challenge but one that Whatcom County Water District No. 13 strongly supports. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe source of drinking water.

Who We Are...

Whatcom County Water District No. 13 is a water utility with 470 active connections. Our Board of Directors consists of 5 elected community members who meet at the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center at 6:30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of every month to bring you good quality water. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this water utility, your water, or this report, we will be happy to answer them. **In case of emergency, please call our emergency line or after regular hours phone numbers at 360-982-5170 or 360-306-9301.**

Whatcom County Water District No. 13 water source consists of 2 groundwater wells. Water is pumped from these wells into two 150,000-gallon tanks. From the storage tanks, water is gravity fed throughout the distribution system to the consumers. Information about the source wells can be found at the Washington State Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water's website here:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/portal/odw/si/SingleSystemViews/SourceSingleSys.aspx>

Once you're at the website, you can find Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) data for your water system. WHATCOM COUNTY WATER DIST 13 - Water System ID - 95914

If you don't have internet access, we encourage you to use your public library system's internet service.

Presence of 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 water poses a health

risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects 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. 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).

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, radio-active material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

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) and the Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses, parasites, and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from various 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. They can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can occur naturally or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

Additional Information for Lead in Drinking Water: In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children. To help reduce potential exposure to lead: for any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at [Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water | US EPA](#).

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2025 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2025. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Terminology

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 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 allow for a margin of safety

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

ND: (Not Detected)

N/A: (Not Applicable)

ppm: (parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)): about the same as ½ an aspirin tablet dissolved in a full bathtub (50 gallons of water).

ppb: (parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)): about the same as 1 dissolved aspirin tablet in a 100,000-gallon swimming pool

ng/L: (nanograms per liter) also known as parts per trillion

pCi/L: (picocuries per liter of air) describes the radioactivity emitted per volume of water

S01: Source Well 1

S02: Source Well 2

Lead & Copper 90th Percentile: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level

Inorganic Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	WCWD #13 Water	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	.010	0	.001	.001	2017	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; run off from glass and electronics production wastes
Nitrate (ppm)	10.0	10.0	S01 0.69	0.69	2025	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tank sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	S02 1.18	1.18	2025	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tank sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Lead & Copper	AL	MCLG	WCWD #13 Water	Total # of Samples / # Exceeding AL	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Lead-at consumer's taps (ppb)	.015	0	.0021	10 / 0	2025	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper-at consumer's taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.0479	10 / 0	2025	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	WCWD #13 Water	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Herbicides	N/A	N/A	ND	S01 & S02 ND	2018	NO	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Pesticides	N/A	N/A	ND	S01 & S02 ND	2018	NO	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops

Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)	MCL (effective 2029)	MCLG	WCWD #13 Water	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
PFOA (ng/L)	4.0	N/A	Less Than	S01 & S02 2.0000	2025	NO	Runoff or leaching from firefighting foam; industrial discharge; wastewater treatment plants
PFOS (ng/L)	4.0	N/A	Less Than	S01 & S02 2.0000	2025	NO	Runoff or leaching from firefighting foam; industrial discharge; wastewater treatment plants
Radioactive Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	WCWD #13 Water	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Gross Alpha (pCi/l)	15	0	S01 & S02 1.06	1.06	2022	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta (pCi/l)	50	0	S01 & S02 0.76	0.76	2022	NO	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Radium 228	5	0	S01 & S02 .60	.60	2022	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	WCWD #13 Water	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	0	ABSENT	PRESENT/ ABSENT	2025	NO	Naturally present in the environment

Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation is about using water efficiently and not wastefully. Reducing your water use is inexpensive, quick, easy to accomplish, and benefits everyone. With greater competing water uses, conservation just makes sense. Simple things you can do include:

- adjusting sprinklers so that you water only where it is needed
- getting leaks fixed
- installing low-flow faucet and shower heads and reducing your showering time
- only run your dishwasher and washing machine when you have a full load
- turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth or shaving
- water your lawn and garden during the cooler morning or evening hours
- use a spray nozzle on your hose when washing your car

Water Conservation Rebates

Water conservation rebates are currently available for high-efficiency Water Sense dishwashers, toilets, Energy Star clothes washer upgrades, and Water Sense irrigation controllers. For more information about these rebates, please visit Whatcom Water Alliance at <https://www.whatcomwateralliance.org/rebates>.

How can I get involved?

Our Board of Commissioners meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center at 8251 Kendall Road in Maple Falls, WA. Please feel free to participate in these meetings. Your input is important to us!