Your drinking water is brought to your home by Spokane County Water District #3. SCWD#3 operates 8 independent water systems in Spokane County and is dedicated to making sure that every drop of water delivered to your tap is clean and safe for your family. Water District Board Meetings are held weekly on Tuesday mornings at 9:00am.

Spokane County Water District #3
1225 N. Yardley Street
Spokane, WA 99212-7001

Making sure that communication flow freely between the district and customers is very important to us. Keep yourself, and us, in the know and up to date with these tips:

1) If you haven’t done so already, sign up to be notified whenever local emergencies arise. Visit www.ALEARTSPOKANE.org to learn more and sign up.

2) Keep meter boxes free of large vegetation to allow accurate reads every time.

3) Be sure to obtain a permit before using a fire hydrant for any use.

Your water is provided by wells that pump water from underground sources in and around your community. The water is recharged by precipitation. Wells are closely monitored and maintained. The water is naturally filtered by surface plants and soil. However, natural systems can only do so much so we must all treat the groundwater with care to keep our drinking water clean for everyone to enjoy.

As water travels over land surfaces or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material. Water can also pick up substances resulting from human activity or the presence of animals. Contaminants that may be present in water can include: disinfectants and disinfection by-products, synthetic chemicals; radioactive contaminants; and pesticides and herbicides. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, Washington State and the USEPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

Spokane County Water District #3 wants you to know that they are committed to you and your family’s health by delivering safe clean drinking water everyday. SCWD#3 strives to be a good steward of the aquifer and your water system. Year round water quality monitoring, replacing aging or leaking pipes and pumps, and planning for growth are just some of the responsibilities of the district. SCWD#3 also works to make sure we are using water efficiently. We set water use efficiency goals for our system in 2008, updated them in 2015, and report our progress annually.

SYSTEM LEAKAGE BELOW 10% BY 2020
The District has met its goal by reducing system leakage to 3.5% in 2017, compared to the 3 year average of 9.8%, a savings of over 800,000 gallons! SCWD#3 will continue its aggressive approach of leak detection, repair and replacement of water mains and meters. In conjunction, production meters are read weekly and consumption meters are read 8 months per year. The information is used not only for billing, but reviewed for system loss and demands which helps the District make informed decisions.

CONSERVATION ORIENTED RATE STRUCTURE
SCWD#3 adjusted the second tier of the “inclining” rate structure in 2008 to provide an incentive for customers to reduce their water usage.

Remember, the best way to help with this goal is reducing your irrigation usage. Saving water not only helps the aquifer and river, it saves energy needed to pump the water and it saves you money on your bills! Here are some easy tips to get you started:

1) Only use sprinklers in the cool hours of the morning and evening.

2) Install moisture sensors to make sure you are only watering when the plants need it.

3) Plant Native Plants and Drought Tolerant Species that need less water.

In order to ensure that your water is clean and safe, we test for contaminants all year long. We are proud to report that your water meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations. While some contaminants were found in the water, the Environmental Protection Agency has determined that your water is safe at these levels for you and your family. Keep in mind that the presence of contaminants doesn’t mean the water is unsafe. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. A person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect. Health related standards are set by the Washington State Department of Health.

Abbreviations:
AL - Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level - The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.
MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
ND - Not Detected
NA - Not Applicable
pCi/L - Pico Curies per Liter - A unit of radioactivity
90th Percentile - 90% of all water used had this concentration or less of lead/copper
ppb - parts per billion or micrograms per liter. About 1 drop in one of the largest tanker trucks used to haul gasoline would represent 1 ppb.
ppm - parts per million or milligrams per liter. About 4 drops in a 55 gallon barrel would represent 1 ppm.

You Can Help Keep the Water Clean
Buy the least toxic material available for your project and take any household hazardous waste to the Waste to Energy Transfer Stations. For more tips on going Toxic Free visit http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxicfreetips/

Dispose of all chemicals properly. Take household hazardous waste to transfer stations. For help or information call: Spokane County Solid Waste Management (509) 625-6800.

Don’t pour anything on the ground that you wouldn’t want to drink.

Follow the directions on the label for proper use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.

Safely store all unused chemicals.

Keep lawn chemicals off of streets, driveways and sidewalks so they don’t get washed into storm drains or streams.

Set lawn mowers to leave grass 2"-3" tall. This will keep the roots shaded so your grass needs less water.

Fix auto fluid leaks right away

To reduce herbicides, use mulch or fabric covers to prevent weeds.

Do not use chemicals near open water such as streams or rivers.

RADON Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is common in the Spokane area. Exposure to excessive amounts of radon may increase cancer risk. Your drinking water, in most cases is a very small source of radon in indoor air. For local assistance concerning radon in your home, contact the Spokane County Health District at (509) 324-1560 ext. 5

Contaminants in Drinking Water
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.

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.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.

This report is provided to all of our customers. It describes your drinking water quality for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2017. Spokane County Water District #3 is committed to supplying safe water that meets or exceeds state and federal standards and achieves the highest standards of customer satisfaction.

If other people, such as tenants, residents, patients, students, or employees, receive water from you, it is important that you provide this notice to them by posting it in a conspicuous location or by direct hand or mail delivery.