Your drinking water is brought to your home by:

**Spokane County Water District #3**

SCWD#3 operates 7 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 Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and public attendance is welcome.

Spokane County Water District #3
General Manager: Kelly Williquette
1225 N. Yardley Street Spokane, WA 99212-7001
(509) 536-0121  https://SCWD3.org

**Purpose:** This report is provided to all of our customers. It describes your drinking water quality for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. Your water utility is committed to supplying safe water that meets or surpasses State and Federal Standards and achieves the highest standards of customer service.

**Water Source:** Your drinking water comes from the **Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer** (see map, page 2). This pristine and abundant aquifer lies in two states, holds ten trillion gallons of water, and is the sole source of drinking water for almost half a million people in the region. This groundwater source is recharged by the local precipitation and the snowpack in northern Idaho and western Montana. It is naturally filtered by surface vegetation and the layers of gravel above the water line. The aquifer travels through northern Idaho and into Washington where it discharges into the Spokane River and the Little Spokane River.

The SVRP aquifer is unique because of its vast size, swift flow of water, porous soils and the fact that the land over the aquifer is extensively developed. These factors make our aquifer uniquely susceptible to contamination. We must all treat the aquifer with care to keep our drinking water clean for everyone to enjoy. In the past one hundred years aquifer levels have remained constant, however scientific models have shown us that even though the aquifer is plentiful it is not limited. Careful planning will be required in the coming years to ensure that this aquifer remains clean and available for our community. Preserving our water sources for the future is a priority for SCWD#3.

To find out more about how you can be an active partner in our efforts visit: www.spokaneaquifer.org/education-awareness

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.

**Water Quality:** To ensure that your water is **clean and safe**, we test for contaminants all year long. 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. **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. See table on page 3 for your most recent water sampling results.

**Important Note:** Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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 providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants or for more information about contaminants and potential health effects call the Environment Protection Agency’s (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.
**Conservation Tips for Outdoor Watering:** Avoid watering lawns in the heat of the day to reduce water lost to evaporation. The best time to water is before 9:00 am or after 6:00 pm. Avoid watering on windy days as wind can distort sprinkler patterns and cause uneven coverage. Also be sure to shut off your sprinklers while it’s raining.

For information regarding ways to save water, visit our online website at [scwd3.org](http://scwd3.org), follow us on Twitter, visit [spokanewateringnerds.org](http://spokanewateringnerds.org) /tips-to-save-water or search “water conservation tips” in your web browser.

**Water Use Efficiency:** In addition to monitoring the quality of the water, SCWD#3 also works to make sure we are using water efficiently. The District set new water use efficiency goals in 2021 (found below) and report our progress annually.

**DEMAND SIDE GOAL:** Reduce Residential Usage by 1/2 GPD/ERU Each Year

The District’s goal in 2023 was to reduce residential water use to 507 gallons per day per equivalent residential unit (GPD/ERU). Currently it’s at 535 GPD/ERU, so we were unable to meet our goal this year. This is an increase of over 3,200,000 gallons for the year. The District will continue to run a rate structure that promotes water conservation, follow up with customers who have leak alarms on their water meters, and provide customer education for water saving practices in hope to reach our goal in 2024.

**SUPPLY SIDE GOAL:** Reduce the District’s Average Distribution System Leakage Below 9.5% for the Next 6 Years

Our average is currently 3.5%, so we were able to meet our goal this year. Annually, the District sets aside a budget specifically for leak detection services and equipment which led to the early discovery and repair of a leaking 6” water main this year. We will continue to be aggressive with early detection and repairs to maintain our goal for years to come.

**Free Online Bill Pay:** SCWD#3 switched online bill pay providers to xpress BILL PAY. This change is designed to make online bill pay easier and best of all it's free! xpress BILL PAY is a secure online bill payment system that offers 24-7 access to your utility account to make payments with credit cards, debit cards, or electronic funds transfers. If you have multiple accounts, xpress BILL PAY gives customers the ability to manage all their service provider billing accounts from a single login. Auto Pay allows customers to set up automatic payments and not worry about them again. A complete history of payment confirmations, online transactions, and Water Consumption History are also provided. Email reminder alerts are sent to customers when bills arrive, when they’re due, and when they’re paid. Visit the website at [www.xpressbillpay.com](http://www.xpressbillpay.com) and sign up today! Or download the mobile app!
REGARDED WOMEN AND YOUNG CHILDREN. LEAD IN DRINKING WATER ISography for 30 seconds to 2 minutes
to research the health effects of low levels of
ATARIC, WHICH IS A MINERAL KNOWN TO CAUSE CANCER IN HUMANS AT HIGH CONCENTRATIONS
Low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding
of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from
drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of
arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations
and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TESTING (Sample taken at the tap)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTAMINANT</th>
<th>SAMPLE YEAR</th>
<th>UNITS</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>90TH PERCENTILE</th>
<th>POSSIBLE SOURCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2.05</td>
<td>Corrosion of the Household Plumbing Systems; Erosion of Natural Deposits; Leaching from Wood Preservatives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>1300</td>
<td>1300</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>By-product of Chlorination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Trihalomethanes</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>By-product of Chlorination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haloacetic Acids</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>By-product of Chlorination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.coli Bacteria</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also E.coli positive</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>Human and Animal Fecal Waste</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

LEAD: 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. Spokane County Water District #3 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

ARSENIC: While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

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 at-risk homes had this concentration or less of lead/copper.
Ppm – Parts per million or milligrams per liter.
Ppb – Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.
Ppt – Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter.
About 4 drops in a 55-gallon barrel or 1 second out of 12 days would represent 1 ppm.
About 1 drop of water in a swimming pool or 1 second out of 32 years would represent 1 ppb.
About 1 drop in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools or 1 second out of 31,710 years would represent 1 ppb.