

2025

CITY OF SPOKANE WATER DEPARTMENT WATER QUALITY REPORT



We take our water quality very seriously. Last year the City collected more than 2,000 samples to ensure our water is as clean as possible. In line with years past, **your drinking water meets or exceeds all water quality standards**, providing reliable, high-quality drinking water. This couldn't happen without the essential employees who keep it flowing, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The City of Spokane's Water Department **delivers up to 150 million gallons of clean, safe drinking water every day to more than 250,000 community members**. The City's water system is the second largest in the state of Washington based on volume of water pumped, and the fourth largest based on the number of connections behind Seattle, Tacoma, and Vancouver. Our water system includes pumps, reservoirs, seven source wells, and more than 1,000 miles of water mains and smaller water lines that bring water from our wells to homes and businesses.

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

The results of monitoring in 2025 are shown in the table below. These results are for parameters regulated by Federal and State agencies. For other water quality information, check our website: SpokaneWater.org or call 509-742-8166.

Contaminant	Units	MCLG	MCL	Average	Range	Possible Source
SOURCE WATER TESTING						
Arsenic	µg/L	0	10	(a)	3.6 to 5.0	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	mg/L	2	2	(a)	0.020 to 0.022	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of drilling waste; Discharge from metal refineries
Nitrate	mg/L	10	10	(a)	0.73 to 3.10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium 226 & 228 (b)	pCi/L	0	5	(a)	1.5 to 1.5	Erosion of natural deposits
END OF PIPE TESTING						
Total Trihalomethanes	µg/L	0	80	3.39	0.64 to 4.28	By-product of drinking water disinfection

LEAD & COPPER

In-home testing for lead and copper was performed in August of 2024, and 56 homes were sampled. The highest concentration of lead in a sample was 3.54 ppb. Results for lead and copper are less than the 15 ppb Action Level for lead. The EPA released revised rules for lead and copper testing in December of 2024 which will be effective in October 2027. More information on the revised lead and copper rule can be found at the [EPA Lead and Copper Rule](https://www.epa.gov/lead-and-copper-rule). The City completed the removal of all known residential lead service lines in 2018.

Contaminant	Units	MCLG	MCL	90th Percentile	Houses Exceeding AL	Possible Source
HOUSEHOLD WATER TESTING						
Copper (b) -tested August 2024	mg/L	1.3	TT, AL=1.3	0.10 (c)	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (b) -tested August 2024	µg/L	0	TT, AL=15	1.98 (c)	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

City of Spokane Water Department
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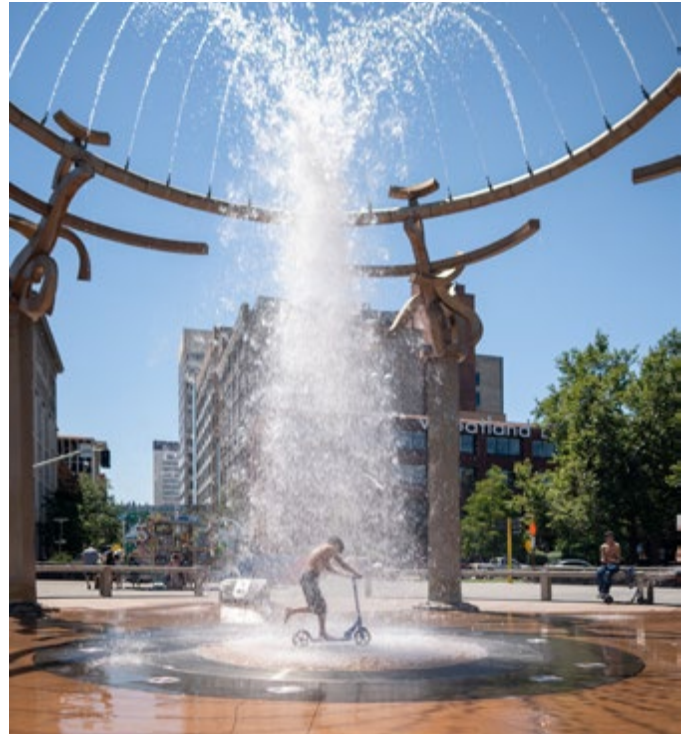


PFAS REGULATIONS

Concerns about “forever” chemicals, also known as PFAS, in our environment, have grown in recent years. Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) are found in products that are used to repel water, resist stains and grease and smother fires. They can be found in well-known items such as fire-fighting foam, carpet, clothing, cookware, and packaging, etc. Epidemiological studies of human populations indicate that exposure to PFOS and PFOA over certain levels may result in adverse health effects.

The **State of Washington was a leader in the nation and set action levels for PFOS/PFOA** that went into effect in 2022. In 2023, the City of Spokane started testing for these substances under these rules. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced regulations for PFAS in April of 2024 at much lower levels than State of Washington standards. More information can be found on the state Department of Health’s [PFAS in Drinking Water Dashboard](#).

In 2025, the City tested six of our eight source wells for 25 different PFAS. The EPA and State have established a running annual average (RAA) by compound and location as the compliance point. The running annual average is the maximum contamination level (MCL) divided by sum of four quarterly sample results for the compound. A sample result less than the EPA practical quantitation limit (PQL) for the monitored PFAS will use zero to calculate the RAA. **The Ray St. well detected just below the four parts per trillion (4 ppt). The Havana well did not have four quarterly samples until April 2025 and tested below the limit. Low level detections occurred at Grace, Hoffman, and Nevada wells, however did not reach the lowest running annual average threshold.** Follow-up testing continues at well sites with detections and ongoing testing happens at all wells. In August 2025, voters approved being part of the Aquifer Protection Area through 2046 by 72%. This community investment and continuing support the Spokane Joint Aquifer Board will provide additional resources for the testing and potential sources of forever chemicals.



2025 PFAS TESTING RESULTS – RUNNING ANNUAL AVERAGE						
Compound	Well	1/28/25	4/22/25	7/29/25	10/28/25	Max. Cont. Level
PFOS	Ray St.	1.57 ppt	2.86 ppt	2.86 ppt	3.97 ppt	4
PFOS	Havana	No Test	0.0 ppt	1.08 ppt	2.26 ppt	4
Measurements in Parts Per Trillion (ppt)						

The City of Spokane is also taking action as part of its commitment to protect the community’s drinking water by joining a lawsuit against manufacturers responsible for PFAS/PFOA contamination in drinking water.

This report contains important information about the drinking water supplied by the City of Spokane's water system. For a translated version, please email kdavis@spokanecity.org.

يحتوي هذا التقرير على معلومات مهمة حول مياه الشرب التي توفرها منظومة مياه مدينة سبوكان للاطلاع على النسخة المترجمة، يرجى إرسال بريد إلكتروني kdavis@spokanecity.org.

В этом отчёте содержится важная информация о питьевой воде, поставляемой водоснабжением города Спокэн. Для перевода, пожалуйста, напишите kdavis@spokanecity.org.

Este informe contiene información importante sobre el agua potable suministrada por el sistema de agua de la ciudad de Spokane. Para obtener una versión traducida, envíe un correo electrónico a kdavis@spokanecity.org.

Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống được cung cấp bởi hệ thống nước của Thành phố Spokane. Để có phiên bản dịch, vui lòng gửi email cho kdavis@spokanecity.org.

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OUR (GROUND)WATER SOURCE

All of the water in Spokane comes from an underground aquifer—the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) Aquifer, which was designated a sole source aquifer in 1978.

The SVRP Aquifer was created by Ice Age floods that deposited a thick layer of boulders and gravel. This rock and gravel layer is now filled with water and extends 370 square miles from Pend Oreille Lake in Idaho to just past the western edge of the City of Spokane. It ranges in surface depth from a few feet in some areas to as much as 500 feet in others.

We are working and living over our drinking water source. Since our water is beneath us, it is important that we follow good stewardship practices and not pour anything on the ground or in storm drains that we would not want to drink.



WATER SYSTEM DYNAMICS

The City of Spokane has eight well stations located throughout the City to draw drinking water directly from the aquifer. The water from the aquifer is pure enough to be pumped directly from the ground and sent to customers without any treatment. We add chlorine to the water to ensure that purity is maintained throughout the distribution system.



PUMP & BOOST

To move the water to higher elevations, storage tanks and reservoirs, booster stations are located throughout the city. These stations contain large pumps and motors to help move the well water from lower elevations to the tanks at higher elevations within the distribution system. Water at a higher elevation in a tank provides water pressure to the homes below it.

PIPES & STORAGE

More than 1,000 miles of water mains are located throughout the City. Water reaches your house directly from service lines running off smaller mains. To meet customers' needs, the City has over 100 million gallons of water stored in reservoirs. The amount of water stored in a given tank depends on both the water demand for that area as well as the fire protection requirements.



WATER QUALITY ASSURANCE

Throughout the year, hundreds of water quality tests are performed; water mains, valves and meters are repaired and replaced, and Water Department personnel continually search for leaks and problems to ensure you the highest quality drinking water possible. Expertly trained operators monitor the distribution system from a 24-hour control center.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The Mayor recommends Water Department policy and rates to the Spokane City Council. The Council meets in person and virtually every Monday, excluding holidays, at 6:00 p.m. Visit the [City Council webpage](#) for more information. The City of Spokane Water Department can be reached directly at 509-625-7800 or waterinfo@spokanecity.org.

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POTENTIAL SOURCES OF WATER CONTAMINATION

Sources of Water

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. In Spokane, as water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material, and can pick up substances from the presence of animals or from the presence of human activity.

Potential Contaminants

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish the limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 water poses a health risk.

More information about contaminants can be obtained by visiting the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Website: epa.gov/safewater

People Who May be More at Risk

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, transplant recipients, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk for infection. These people should seek advice from their health care providers.

The U.S. EPA - Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) and website: epa.gov/safewater

ARSENIC

City of Spokane drinking water currently meets EPA's revised drinking water standard for arsenic. However, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water.

EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. Information on arsenic in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

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. In 2018, the City of Spokane completed the removal of all known lead service lines in our water system. The City is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials installed prior to regulatory changes in home 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 two 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 1-800-426-4791, or at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

RADON

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is common in the Spokane area. During 2022, the City conducted tests from three source wells for Radon-222. The single highest result was 420 pCi/L and the lowest was 410 pCi/L. Exposure to excessive amounts of radon may increase cancer risk. The EPA has proposed a MCL of 300pCi/L, which has not been finalized.

Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water would, in most cases, typically be 1-2% of the radon in indoor air. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer and/or drinking water containing radon also may cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, you can purchase a test kit. Testing is inexpensive and easy, many radon test kits can be found online or in home improvement stores.

For more information concerning radon in your home, call the EPA's Radon Hotline (1-800-55-RADON) or visit epa.gov/radon/radon-hotlines-and-information-resources.

TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Some of the terms and abbreviations contained in this report are unique to the water industry and might not be familiar to all customers. Terms used in the table are explained below.

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

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG 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.

ppb: same as ug/L, micrograms per liter, and parts per billion

ppm: same as mg/L, milligrams per liter, and parts per million

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): a measure of radioactivity.

ND: None Detected

NOTES

- Compliance with MCL is determined by single sample results, so no average is used.
- Gross Alpha results were used in lieu of Radium 226, one half of the detection limit of 3.0 was used for the ND.
- Faucet samples were from 'at risk' homes.
- 90% of at-risk homes had this concentration, or less, of lead/copper.
- Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the Agency should consider regulating those contaminants in the future.

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