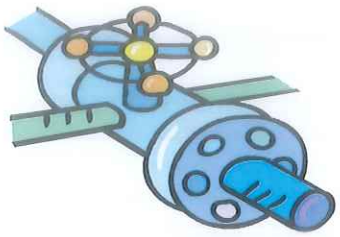


CITY OF NOOKSACK
WATER QUALITY REPORT 2024

This report is a way to inform you, the city water customers, about the quality of drinking water that is provided to you in your homes, at your tap. Included are details about where your water comes from, what your water may contain, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington State standards. We continue to provide quality drinking water to you, our customers, without many of the concerns that other areas in the state often have.

We are committed to providing you, our customers, with information about water quality and the system itself, because informed customers are our best allies. If, after reading this report, you would like more information about your water, or have any questions regarding the water system, please call Nooksack City Hall at (360) 966-2531 and ask for Josh Clawson. Water is an important resource that everyone should be concerned about. Responsible water use in your home or business as well as backflow prevention, fixing leaks, using low flow fixtures help ensure that there will be enough safe water available for the future.

Our City Council meetings are held on the first and third Monday evenings of every month, at 7:00 PM, in the Nooksack City Hall Council Chambers. Please feel free to come and participate and learn more about how our City's Government functions.

Your drinking water comes from three municipal wells owned and operated by the City of Sumas. These wells are approximately 80 feet deep in an underground water source called the Abbotsford-Sumas aquifer. The wells are located west of the City of Sumas, and because Sumas controls the land around the wells, they restrict any activity that might contaminate them. After the water comes out of the wells, it is monitored, metered, and purchased for use by the City of Nooksack. The water is pumped to three large storage tanks that are shared with the Nooksack Valley Water Association and from there, the City of Nooksack's distribution system delivers the water through a pressure booster pump station that was put into operation in September of 2010. The booster station ensures that the distribution system maintains a pressure above 55 PSI to ensure fire flow requirements are met as the City's water system also provides fire protection through the fire hydrants located throughout the town. A series of pipelines deliver the water to an individual water meter at your home. The City of Nooksack currently provides water to 588 individually metered homes and businesses. These meters are read once a month, and the resulting water use is reflected in your monthly utility statement.

In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. At this time, unlike many other water supplies, our water meets EPA standards in its natural untreated condition.

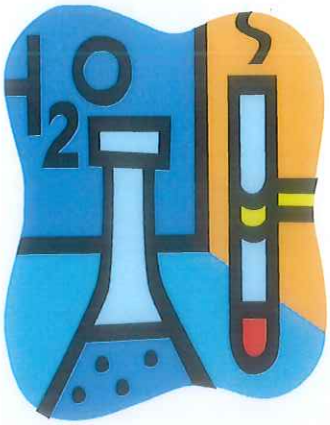
- ✓ Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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 especially 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 (800-426-4791).

Contaminants that could be present in any source water before treatment may include:

- ***Microbial contaminants,*** such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage, septic tanks, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- ***Inorganic contaminants,*** such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- ***Pesticides and herbicides,*** which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural and residential uses.
- ***Radioactive contaminants,*** which are naturally occurring.
- ***Organic chemical contaminants,*** including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are the by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Is our water system meeting the rules and regulations that govern our operations?

We certainly are!



The State of Washington and the Environmental Protection Agency require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. **The City of Nooksack has two water samples tested at a certified lab every month.** Those samples are tested for bacteriological contaminants. Other tests are done by the City of Sumas at the source. That includes testing for nitrate and nitrite levels every quarter as well as testing every three years for V.O.C.'s, L.O.C.'s, S.O.C.'s, E.D.B.'s, and D.B.C.P's. **In past years the Sumas Water Department has conducted more than 180 tests for more than 80 drinking water contaminants.** They have only detected one type. Nitrates were found in the water at levels well below what the state allows.

WATER QUALITY DATA

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2023 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023. The state requires monitoring of certain contaminants less than once a 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, and tested regularly.

Terms and abbreviations used below:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)**: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a safety margin.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Action Level (AL)**: The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **ND**: not detectible at testing limit. -n/a not applicable. -ppm: parts per million
- **Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Inorganic Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Avg. System Results	Range of Detection	Dates Tested	In Compliance	Typical Source
Nitrate as Nitrogen (ppm)	10	10	5.37	nd-6.79	2023	Yes	Fertilizer Runoff
Coliform	1	0	0*	absent – present	2023	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

✓ About Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High Nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

✓ *We had one failed coliform sample and one failed follow-up sample, which by protocol required us to complete a Department of Health Level 1 assessment. The assessment was completed, and the results of our Level 1 assessment found no significant flaws in our system. As a result of the assessment we are upgrading our sample stations throughout the City to ensure the highest quality coliform samples taken each month.