

City of Vancouver

Water Quality Report

This report provides a summary of information regarding the City of Vancouver's water quality for 2000. Please take time to read this newsletter and learn about the exceptional drinking water supplied by your local utility. The City of Vancouver supplies safe, high-quality well water that meets or is better than federal and state standards. We are proud of our water and the service we provide to our customers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires all water utilities to provide their customers with an annual water quality report. For questions about the quality of your drinking water or about this report, call 360-696-8177 or e-mail us at: norm.kramm@ci.vancouver.wa.us



Water Quality Summary

The City of Vancouver has its water analyzed for over 240 different substances, some regulated and some not regulated. The substances listed below are REGULATED and were detected in Vancouver's water during 2000. All are below levels allowed by federal and state agencies. Additional information on chemicals analysis of your water can be obtained by calling City of Vancouver Water Operations at 360-696-8177.

◆ Health Related (Primary) Standards

Primary standards are intended to protect public health against substances in the water that may be harmful to humans if consumed for long periods of time. EPA standards are set at levels that protects our most sensitive population, such as infants and the elderly.

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Range of Level Detected	Ideal Goal MCLG	Potential Sources of Contaminant
Inorganic Compounds					
Barium (ppm)	2.0	.008	0-.008	2.0	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	AL = 1.3	0.61	0 – 0.61	1.3	Erosion of natural deposits, corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Fluoride (ppm)	4.0	1.3	0.8 – 1.3	4.0	Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
Nitrates (ppm)	10.0	4.51	0 – 4.51	10	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	¹ 20	8.3	0 – 8.3	¹ 20	Erosion of natural deposits, septic systems, sewage, pesticides.
Maximum Total Trihalomethane Potential (ppm)	100	17.7	4.9– 17.7	0	Erosion of natural deposits By-products of disinfection with chlorine, combined with organic matter.
¹ A recommended level of concern for those on diets with daily sodium intake restrictions					
Volatile Organic Compounds					
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	2.1	0 – 2.1	200.0	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7.0	1.3	0 – 1.3	7.0	Discharge from industrial and/or commercial chemical sites
Dichloromethane (Methylene Chloride) (ppb)	5.0	1.3	0 – 1.3	0	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	5.0	0.3*	0 – 0.3*	0	Discharge from industrial and/or commercial chemical sites
Total Trihalomethane (ppb)	100	3.0	0 – 3.0	0	Chlorination by-product caused by the reaction of Chlorine with organic matter
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	5.0	0.15*	0 – 0.15*	0	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
*estimated by laboratory - below detection limits					
Physical Characteristics					
Turbidity (NTU)		0.05	0 – 0.05		Sediments, clay, silt
pH	6.5 – 8.5	8.0	6.8 – 8.0	6.5 – 8.5	Natural occurring or treatment additive
Bacteriological					
Total Coliform Bacteria	Less than 5% of monthly samples.	1.2%	0 – 1.2%	0%	Contamination by mammals

◆ Aesthetic (Secondary) Standards and Other Characteristics

Secondary standards are established to ensure aesthetic qualities of water such as taste, odor or clarity. These standards govern substances that may influence consumer acceptance of water, rather than health related effects.

Inorganic					
Chloride (ppm)	250	5.3	0 – 5.3	N/A	Natural occurring, Chlorination by-product
Sulfate (ppm)	250	14.8	0 – 14.8	N/A	Natural occurring
Physical Characteristics					
Conductivity (umhos/cm)	700	314	140 – 314	N/A	Natural occurring.

◆ Unregulated Test Results

The results below are for substances which are not regulated.

Contaminant	Test Results	Test Results Range
Alkalinity (ppm)	117	65 – 117
Ammonia (ppm)	0.09	0 – 0.09
Boron (ppm)	0.05	0 – 0.05
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	0.7	0 – 0.7
Bromoform (ppb)	0.8	0 – 0.8
Calcium (ppm)	33.7	11.4 – 33.7
Chlorodibromomethane	1.3	0-1.3
Chloroform(ppb)	2.9	0 – 2.9
DCEP Acid Metabolites (A) (ppb)	0.59	0 – 0.59
Gross Beta (pci/L)	4.0	0 – 4.0
Trichlorofluoromethane (ppb)*	0.1	0 – 0.1
Hardness (ppm)	126	52 – 126
Magnesium (ppm)	12.0	5.76 – 12.0
Potassium (ppm)	4.62	2.25 – 4.62
Radon (pci/L)	540	0 – 540
Uranium (pci/L)	0.4	0 – 0.4

* estimated by laboratory-below dection limits

◆ Special Information Available

Some people may be more vulnerable than the general population to contaminants in drinking water. Immuno-compromised people, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy; people 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 from their health care providers about drinking water. Guidelines from the EPA and Centers for Disease Control, on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by bacterial contaminants, are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Terms and Definitions

AL: Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow. EPA: United State Environmental Protection Agency. This federal agency enforces the Safe Drinking Water Act nationwide. WDOH: Washington State Department of Health. This state agency enforces the Safe Drinking Water Act within the State of Washington. MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to ideal levels as current treatment technology allows. ppb: Parts per billion. One ppb equals one milligram per 1000 liters. ppm: Parts per million. One ppm equal one milligram per liter. THM: Trihalomethanes is the total concentration of a series of chlorinated organic compounds. These disinfection byproducts are unavoidable and are caused by a chemical reaction between chlorine and naturally occurring organic matter in the water. MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety. Only Primary Standards have MCLG's because Secondary Standards are not set for health reasons. pCi/L: picocuries per liter. The unit of measurement for radionuclides. NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit. The unit of measurement for turbidity. umhos/cm: Ability of water to conduct electricity based on mineral content and temperature of water.

Vancouver's Water Utility

The City of Vancouver Water Utility was formed in 1937 to ensure that the citizens of Vancouver have an ongoing supply of quality water that meets their needs. The Utility is a public agency, overseen by the Vancouver City Council. The City Council meets every Monday night. The public has a right to address the Council about water related issues at each meeting.

Water System Facts

- Fourth Largest Water Utility in Washington State
- Service Area: 67 Square Miles
- Population Served: 150,000 +
- Annual Production: 9.5 Billion Gallons
- Number of Wells: 40
- Number of Booster Pumps:43
- Reservoir and Tower Storage: 24.5 million gallons



Cross connections and why they are a problem

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a pollution source. Example: You're going to wash your car. You place the garden hose in a bucket of soapy water. If the water pressure drops at the same time that you turn on the hose, the soapy water in the bucket may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose causing soapy water to enter the drinking water piping system. The way to prevent this is to discontinue leaving the hose in the soapy water and install a *vacuum breaker* on the faucet where the hose is connected to the water piping system. The City of Vancouver has an aggressive Cross Connection Control program. Further information is available on the City's internet site at <http://www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/opcenter/backflow/index.html> or by calling 360-735-8896.

Where does Vancouver get its water?

Want to know more?

The City of Vancouver gets its water supply from wells tapping three underground aquifers: Orchards, Troutdale and Sandy River Mudstone aquifers. The City pumps water from these aquifers at sites throughout the City and East county (see map). Water from these facilities is then delivered to the common distribution system. In 1996, the City developed a Wellhead Protection Program as part of its Water System Comprehensive Plan. This program aims to prevent groundwater contamination. A copy of the plan is available by calling the City Operations Center Services at 360-696-8243.

EPA - Safe Drinking Water Hotline

800-426-4791 or
www.epa.gov/OW

City of Vancouver, Water Quality

360-696-8177 or
www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/
opcenter/wq-pumps.html

Information on "Lead Free" Faucets

800-NSF-MARK or
www.nsf.org/consumer/
consumer_plumbing.html

Attention: Non-English speaking customers

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

Russian – Этот документ содержит важную информацию о Вашей питьевой воде. Пожалуйста, переведите этот документ или обратитесь к кому-нибудь, кто сможет объяснить его Вам.

Spanish – Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Vietnamese - Bản tường trình này bao gồm tin tức quan trọng về nước bạn uống. Xin vui lòng dịch ra hoặc nói với người có thể giải thích cho bạn.

Safe drinking water Q & A

• What causes reduction in the amount of water flowing from my faucet?

Grit collects in the aerators of faucets causing the flow reduction. Periodic rinsing of faucet aerators and screens will usually restore the flow.

• Why is chlorine added to the water I drink?

Chlorine is used to destroy illness-causing organisms which might find their way into the water. Regulations require the addition of chlorine to the water.

• Can I get rid of the chlorine taste and smell?

Yes. Fill an open pitcher with water and let it

sit in the refrigerator for several hours prior to drinking. Chlorine reacts with air and will evaporate from the water.

• Does Vancouver fluoridate our drinking water?

Yes. In the late 1960's the citizens of Vancouver voted to add fluoride to the drinking water. The water is fluoridated to a level of 1 part per million. Fluoride helps reduce dental disease.

• What is the grit I sometimes see in the water?

The grit is fine sand that comes from the water wells, or small particles of rust from the inside of pipes.

The Water Resources Education Center

Enjoy learning about water resource stewardship. Visitors and school groups are warmly welcomed.
Open: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday - Saturday
Admission: Free
4600 SE Columbia Way (in Marine Park) 360-696-8478

VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Royce E. Pollard • Pat Jollota • Dan Tonkovich • Jim Moeller • Jeanne Harris • Jack Burkman • Jeanne Lipton • City Manager Pat McDonnell



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