

The Federal Safe Drinking Water regulations enacted by Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) require us to send information to you each year about your drinking water. At the City of Vancouver, we are proud of the high quality and safety of the water we provide to more than 200,000 people in the Vancouver area. We are committed to continuing to work very hard to maintain and provide safe water for your consumption and use.

The quality and safety of drinking water is defined by the results of a series of bacteriological, chemical, physical and radiological tests conducted by chemists, microbiologists, and water technical specialists. Inside this report, you will learn where your water comes from, what's in it and how it compares with standards set by the Washington State Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Since the early 1990's, the City of Vancouver has provided an annual report about drinking water quality to our customers.

Why?

Because it's the law. You have a right to know your drinking water is safe. In fact, the high-quality water you receive from the City of Vancouver not only meets all federal and state standards, it frequently exceeds them.

2003 Annual Water Quality Report



Water Quality Summary

The City of Vancouver has its water analyzed for over 238 different substances, some regulated and some not regulated. The substances listed below are REGULATED and were in Vancouver's water during 2003. All samples taken are from treated water that is delivered to the distribution system. All are below levels allowed by federal and state agencies.

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 protect our most sensitive population, such as infants and the elderly.

Contaminant (unit)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Lowest Level Detected	Ideal Goal MCLG	Potential Sources of Contaminant
Inorganic Compounds					
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	0.14	0.00	1.30	Erosion of natural deposits, corrosion of plumbing systems
Fluoride (ppm)	4.0	1.59	0.00	4.00	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Total Nitrates (ppm)	10.0	4.63	0.00	10.00	Fertilizer, animal waste, septic systems, sewage
Sodium (ppm)	¹ 20.0	² 25.0	5.9	20.0	Erosion of natural deposits and pH adjustment
Maximum Total Trihalomethane Potential (ppm)	0.0800	0.0086	0.0026	0.0000	By-product of disinfection with chlorine combined with organic matter
Zinc (ppm)	5.0	0.04	0.00	NA	Erosion of natural deposits
¹ A recommended level of concern for those on diets with daily sodium intake restrictions ² This "highest level detected" result was measured in only one of many samples taken throughout the water system.					
Volatile Organic Compounds					
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppm)	0.200	0.0017	0.0000	0.2000	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppm)	0.0070	0.0007	0.0000	0.0070	Discharge from industrial and/or commercial sites
Tetrachloroethylene PCE (ppm)	0.0050	0.0002	0.0000	0.0000	Discharge from industrial and/or commercial sites
Total Trihalomethane (ppm)	0.1000	0.0038	0.0000	0.0000	Chlorination by-product caused by the reaction of Chlorine with organic matter
Trichloroethylene TCE (ppm)	0.0050	0.0003	0.0000	0.0000	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Physical Characteristics					
pH	6.5-8.5	8.11	7.17	6.5-8.5	Natural occurring or treatment additive
Bacteriological					
Total Coliform Bacteria	Less Than 5% of Monthly Samples	0%	0%	0%	Contamination by mammals
Radionuclides					
Gross Alpha (pci/L)	15.0	3.2	1.0*	NA	Natural occurring
Radium 226 (pci/L)	3.0	0.2*	0.2*	NA	Natural occurring
* = less than					

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 Compounds					
Sulfate (ppm)	250.0	14.0	0.0	NA	Natural occurring
Physical Characteristics					
Conductivity (umhos/cm)	700.0	284.0	140.0	NA	Natural occurring
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	500.0	210.0	120.0	0.0	Natural occurring
Turbidity (NTU)	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	Natural occurring
Color - Color Units	15.0	8.0	0.0	0.0	Natural occurring

About Your Water

Old production record washed away: In the sizzling summer of 2003, Vancouver set a new all-time high of 58 million gallons of water produced during a 24-hour period. The new production high is attributed to last year's hot weather and an increase in population in the utilities service area. The previous record was 53 million gallons. Vancouver's water customers use approximately 9.6 billion gallons of water each year.



In the news, but NOT in our water: Arsenic, perchlorate, methyl-t-butyl ether (MTBE), and hexavalent chromium. During the past year, these chemicals have hit the headlines when discovered in drinking water supplies in the region. But not in our drinking water. For years, the City of Vancouver has taken a proactive approach and tested our drinking water for these chemicals. We're glad to say that these test results have been negative.

Above and beyond: Vancouver drinking water testing: Federal and state regulations require water utilities test for fewer than 100 different things in our drinking water once every three years. Vancouver's water utility, however, tests for more than 238 different things in our water each and every year. We take a proactive approach, testing for contaminants found in drinking water in other areas of the United States long before regulations and treatments are mandated.

Watching over our water resources: In February 2003, the City's Water Resources Protection (WRP) ordinance became law. Since then, our WRP team has inspected all classified businesses and industries in Special Protection Areas surrounding the City's water stations, looking for any activities that increase the risk of contamination of our storm water, streams or groundwater. Our focus now is on other businesses that have potentially hazardous materials. Our WRP team is busy providing recommendations for handling and storing such chemicals, maintaining facilities and tanks, minimizing pesticide and herbicide use, identifying drainage routes, and following best management practices. To contact the WRP team, please call the City of Vancouver's Engineering Services at 696-8008.

Special Information Is Available

Some people may be more vulnerable than the general population to contaminants in drinking water. Immunocompromised people, such as those with undergoing chemotherapy for cancer treatment; people who have had organ transplants; people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders; some elderly; and infants may

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 for lessening risk of infection by bacterial contaminants, are available from the

Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

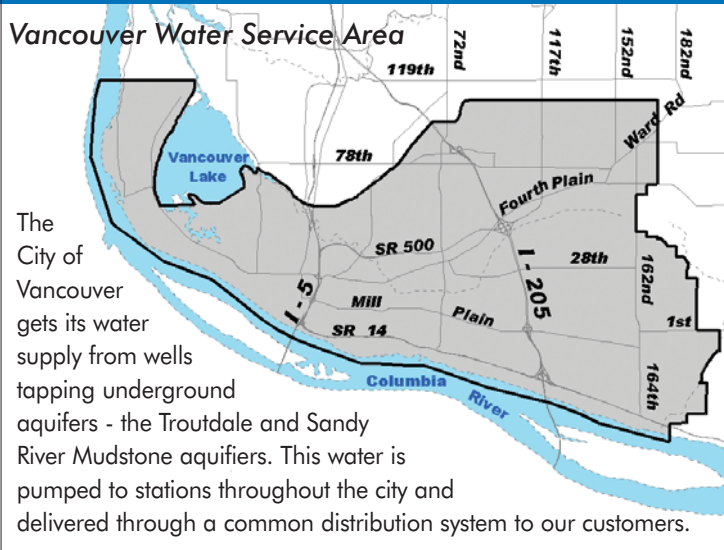
The test results below are not required by law but are presented for your information.

Contaminant	Highest Test	Lowest Test
Alkalinity (ppm)	121.0	71.0
Boron (ppm)	0.05	0.00
Bromodichloromethane (THM) (ppm)	0.0009	0.0000
Bromoform (THM) (ppm)	0.0009	0.0000
Calcium (ppm)	36.4	12.1
Chloroform (THM) (ppm)	0.0009	0.0000
DCPA acid metabolites (A) (ppm)	0.0019	0.0000
Dibromochloromethane (THM) (ppm)	0.0012	0.0000
Gross Beta (pci/L)	6.9	2.0*
Hardness (ppm)	135.0	55.6
Magnesium (ppm)	11.4	6.0
Potassium (ppm)	4.16	1.88
Radon 222 (pci/L)	555.0	100.0*
Surfactant, Foaming Agents (ppm)	0.06	0.00
Uranium (pci/L)	0.002	.001*

*= less than

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.

Where Does Vancouver Get its Water?



What is an aquifer?

An aquifer is an underground layer of unconsolidated rock or sand that is saturated with usable amounts of water. Aquifers, which store and carry water, form significant natural water supplies. Recharge areas are necessary for a healthy aquifer. A recharge area is a place where water is able to seep into the earth and reach the aquifer, thus helping to resupply the resource. Through the City's Water Resource Protection Ordinance, state and federal regulations, and outreach efforts, we are working to keep our aquifers safe and recharged.

Want to Know More?

For more information about water quality or this report, please call 360-696-8177, or e-mail us at norm.kramm@ci.vancouver.wa.us.

Other Water Information from the City of Vancouver:
www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/opcenter/water/index.html
www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/watercenter/wrec/ourenvironment.htm
www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/solidwaste/index.htm

EPA – Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 800-426-4791
www.epa.gov/safewater

Free Disposal of Hazardous Waste Materials
360-397-6118, ext. 4016

VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Royce E. Pollard • Pat Jollota • Dan Tonkovich • Jeanne Harris • Jeanne Stewart • Tim Leavitt • Larry J. Smith • City Manager Pat McDonnell



City of Vancouver
210 East 13th Street
Vancouver, Washington 98660

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 728
Vancouver, WA

Answers to Your Questions

Does my drinking water contain fluoride?

Yes. In the late 1960s, the citizens of Vancouver voted to add fluoride to the drinking water. Our water is fluoridated to a level of 1 milligram per liter. Fluoride helps reduce dental disease.

Does my drinking water contain chlorine?

Yes. Regulations require chlorine be added to the water. Chlorine destroys illness-causing organisms that might otherwise find their way into the water.

How can I get rid of the chlorine taste and smell?

Fill a pitcher with water and let it sit in the refrigerator for several hours prior to drinking. The chlorine will react with air and evaporate from the water.

How long can I store drinking water in my family's Emergency Preparedness kit?

Your drinking water can be stored for up to six months in capped, plastic containers. Plan to store one gallon per person for at least three days. For a family of four, that's 12 gallons of water. You'll need more if your family has special needs or if you have pets.

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. Translations below are from the Washington State Dept. of Health.

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/translations/translations.htm>

Russian

В этом сообщении содержится важная информация о воде, которую вы пьёте. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести для вас это сообщение или поговорите с человеком, который понимает его содержание.

Spanish

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

Vietnamese

Tài liệu này có tin tức quan trọng về nước uống của quý vị. Hãy nhờ người dịch cho quý vị, hoặc hỏi người nào hiểu tài liệu này.

Postal Customer