



2024 Annual Drinking Water Report

Eastern Washington University is pleased to report that our water meets or exceeds all standards set for quality and safety. We are committed to providing you with safe, high quality water, and we want you to understand the efforts we make to continually protect our water resources. This brochure is a summary of the quality of water provided in 2024. Included are analytical test results and information on how these results compare to federal safety standards.



Origin of Our Water

EWU's drinking water is pumped from an underground aquifer by two wells. Well 1R is located in the Plant Utilities building and pumps up to 450 gallons per minute from a depth of 834 feet. Well 2R produces 900 gallons per minute from a depth of 1145 feet.

Our water has been chlorinated since 2010. Beginning in 2016, water from both wells is chlorinated in a building near the base of the water tower, and then transported to the water tower before it is distributed throughout campus.

To ensure your tap water remains safe to drink, 382 backflow assemblies protect our water system. Two Cross Connection Control Specialist and three Backflow Assembly Testers, employed by the university, perform tests on all assemblies and repair/replace as required annually. A report is submitted to the Department of Health yearly.



Safe Drinking Water Act

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires all public water systems to issue an annual report explaining what substances are in the water and in what amounts.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Health set standards for the amounts of various substances that are acceptable for drinking water safety. Eastern Washington University tests frequently for the presence of these substances.



Frequently Asked Questions

What causes discolored water?

Rusting galvanized pipe in some plumbing is usually the cause of discolored water. If this is the case, the water clears after running a bit. Discolored water may indicate the presence of iron and/or lead and copper.

Substances in Water

As water travels through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. 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 and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 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 (1-800-426-4791).



If you have any questions about your water or about this report, contact one of the following:

- * Bob Heston, Water System Manager - (509) 359-6381
- * See this report on the web at <https://rebrand.ly/bybi2qp>
- * EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline - (800) 426-4791

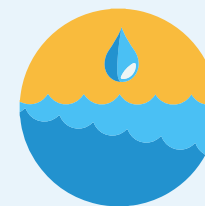
We encourage you to become informed and involved in water protection. Water system tours can also be arranged by calling: (509) 359-2245

INFORMATION ON DETECTED SUBSTANCES

In 2024, there were 138 total water tests conducted throughout the campus for bacteria, volatile organic compounds, nitrate, herbicides, pesticides, radioactivity (gross alpha, radium), lead and copper. All tests are reported to WA Department of Health (DOH) and all results were below levels allowed by federal and state agencies. PFAS (firefighting foam) tested on 8/06/2024 are still not detected. Substances listed below were detected above laboratory detection limits on the dates indicated. We will continue adhering to DOH Office of Drinking Water testing requirements to ensure safe clean drinking water.

It is important to remember that the presence of these substances does not necessarily pose a health risk. However, some people may be more vulnerable to substances in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk for 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at [\(800\) 426-4791](tel:8004264791).

Substance	Highest Amt. Detected	Lab Reporting Limit	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Substance
Nutrients					
Nitrate (mg/L) WELL 1 (ODW ID: SO4)	.100 3/21/2022	0.1	10.0	10.0	Erosion of natural deposit, runoff from fertilizer
Nitrate (mg/L) WELL 2 (ODW ID: SO5)	.500 9/19/23	0.1	10.0	10.0	
Inorganic Chemicals					
Lead (mg/L)	0.015 8/24/2023	0.001	TT ⁽¹⁾ ; AL = 0.015	0.0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of nat- ural deposits
Copper (mg/L)	0.498 8/24/23	0.001	TT; AL = 1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (mg/L) ⁽²⁾	ND 5/2/18	0.001	.010	0.0	Naturally occurring element in the earth's crust
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)					
Methylene chloride (Dichloromethane)(ug/L)	2.11	0.5	5	0	Discharge from drug and chemical factories
Disinfectant Byproducts					
Haloacetic acid (ug/L)	2.22	1.00	60	(3)	Byproduct of drinking water disin- fection



Notes for table of data

(1) TT is the abbreviation for Treatment Technique. Lead and copper are regulated by a treatment technique that requires systems to control the corrosiveness of their water. If more than 10% of tap water samples exceed the action level, water systems must take additional steps. The action level is 1.3 mg/L for copper, and 0.015 mg/L for lead.

(2) While your drinking water may contain low levels of arsenic, it currently meets EPA's revised water standard for arsenic. There is a small chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic over many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer, or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory diseases are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from the water.

(3) Although there is no collective MCLG for this contaminant group, there are individual MCLGs for some of the individual contaminants.

REDUCING LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children.

To help reduce potential exposure to lead: for any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

KEYWORDS

- * *NON-DETECTED (ND)* - Laboratory analysis indicates that the substance was not detected above the laboratory detection limit
- * *PARTS PER MILLION (PPM) OR MILLIGRAMS PER LITER (MG/L)* - One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years; a single penny in \$10,000; or one half of an aspirin tablet in a full bathtub of water (approximately 50 gallons)
- * *PARTS PER BILLION (PPB)* - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10 million
- * *ACTION LEVEL (AL)* - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements for a water system
- * *MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL)* - The highest level of a contaminant that is 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.

