

Lead and Copper In Your Drinking Water - Are You At Risk?

We take any potential lead exposure very seriously. Your water starts its journey as rainfall or snowpack with no detectable lead. After appropriate treatment, water is distributed through a network of underground pipes eventually reaching your home or business through a pipe called a service line. Olympic View does not have any lead pipes or service lines. Lead found in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with household plumbing. Olympic View is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. Lead levels in Olympic View are well within regulatory limits. However, if present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for up 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 or at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

2020 Lead & Copper Compliance Monitoring Results				
Parameters & Units	MCLG	Action Level	Number of Samples	Number of Samples Exceeding Action Level
Lead, ppb	0	15	30	1 (3%) *
Copper, ppm	1.3	1.3	30	0 (0%) *

* For compliance, no more than 10% of samples may exceed Action Level

Monitoring for lead and copper began in 1993 in “high-risk” homes. We initiated a Department of Health approved plan to lower the amount of lead and copper below the required action level by adding orthophosphate to the water produced at our Deer Creek Water Treatment Plant. Orthophosphate is a commonly used corrosion inhibitor approved by the EPA and

National Sanitary Foundation. This helps prevent lead leaching from household plumbing into the tap water. In 2020 we collected samples from 30 homes throughout the District, just one of the samples exceeded the action level for lead. The copper level in that sample was well below the action level. In 2023 we will again collect samples from a minimum of 30 homes to ensure that your water is safe and that we comply with EPA’s Lead and Copper Rule. For any questions regarding the lead and copper monitoring program, please contact our office at 425.774.7769.

Potential Health Effects

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 particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency/Center for Disease Control 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. Historically, there have been no disease outbreaks associated with Olympic View or SPU water. Olympic View and SPU test regularly for the presence of Cryptosporidium and Giardia in the source waters. Cryptosporidium and Giardia are effectively removed from the Deer Creek and SPU waters by the advanced treatment techniques employed by the District and SPU.

Definitions for Monitoring Results:

- **MCLG** = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG allows for margin of safety.
- **MCL** = Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL is set as close to MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **TT** = Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. (The treatment techniques used at Deer Creek and Tolt results in turbidities less than .3 NTU.)
- **MRDLG** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **MRDL** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **LRAA** = Locational Running Annual Average. Average of sample results from the same location during the previous four calendar quarters.
- AL = Action Level
- NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit - Turbidity is a measure of how clear the water looks. The turbidity MCL that applied to the Tolt supply was 0.3 NTU for at least 95% of the samples in a month. For November 2018, 99.4% of the samples from the Tolt were below 0.3 NTU. All of the other months in 2018 had 100% samples below 0.3 NTU for the Tolt.

Key:

- NA = Not Applicable
- ND = Not Detected
- NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (measure of relative cloudiness)

For Water Samples:
 1 part per million (ppm) = 1 mg/L
 One part per million could be compared to one second every 12 days.
 1 part per billion (ppb) = 1 ug/L
 One part per billion could be compared to one second every 32 years.
 pCi/L = picocuries per liter

Great Drinking Water. . . Here are the Facts

2021 Water Quality Monitoring Results

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food & Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. 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 800.426.4791.

Your water is monitored 365 days a year. Compounds are monitored at many frequencies and locations in accordance with Federal and State regulations. The following table lists the compounds, out of approximately 200 tested by SPU & Olympic View, that were detected in 2021. Of the detected compounds, none were at or above the EPA’s allowable limits. If you would like a list of the undetected compounds, please contact our office at 425.774.7769.

Detected Compounds	EPA’S ALLOWABLE LIMITS		LEVELS IN TOLT WATER		LEVELS IN DEER CREEK WATER		MEETS EPA STANDARDS	Typical Sources
	MCLG	MCL	Avg.	Range	Avg.	Range	Compliance	
MICROBIAL AND ORGANIC PARAMETERS (measured before treatment)								
Total Organic Carbon ppm	NA	TT	1.09	0.9 to 1.4	1.28	1.18 to 1.78	YES	Naturally present in the environment
INORGANIC AND ORGANIC PARAMETERS (measured after treatment)								
Arsenic, ppb	0	10	0.27	0.23 - 0.31	1.0	One Sample	YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium, ppb	2000	2000	1.22	1.17 to 1.32	9.6	One Sample	YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Bromate	0	10	0.7	ND to 0.8			Not Sampled	Product of drinking water disinfection
Chromium, ppb	100	100	ND	ND	2.0	One Sample	YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride, ppm	4	4	0.7	0.6 to 0.8	0.68	0.55 to 0.8	YES	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate, ppm	10	10	ND	ND	1.83	One Sample	YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228, pCi/L	0	5	0.8	ND to 1.15			Not Sampled	Erosion of natural deposits
CLARITY (measured after treatment)								
Turbidity, NTU	NA	TT	0.03	0.02 to 0.29	0.03	0.02 to 0.100	YES	Soil Runoff

* Cryptosporidium is effectively removed by enhanced treatment techniques.

DISINFECTANT/DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS - Tolt & Deer Creek Combined

Total Trihalomethanes, ppb	NA	80	Highest LRAA = 36	Range 21 to 36	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (5), ppb	NA	60	Highest LRAA = 42	Range 20 to 42	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine, ppm	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Highest Monthly Avg. = 0.87	Range 0.78 to 1.0	YES	Water additive to control microbes

How Is Your Water Treated?

Deer Creek Source

Olympic View Water & Sewer District owns and operates a water treatment plant located in the Town of Woodway. The plant uses coagulation and advanced filtration to remove contaminants from the water. Chlorine is added as a disinfectant to make sure the water remains free of harmful micro-organisms. We began adding fluoride in June 1999 to match Seattle’s water as required by the Department of Health for blended water sources. The levels of these additives are closely monitored. Orthophosphate is also added as a corrosion inhibitor. This helps to reduce the amount of lead and copper leached into the water from household plumbing systems.

Deer Creek Treatment Plant produces approx. 600,000 gallons each day of operation which provides 40% of the district needs annually. The treatment process is monitored continuously, and the water quality meets award winning standards for clarity as set by the Wa State Department of Health’s Treatment Optimization Program. Water quality parameters are tested daily by our certified operators to ensure all standards are met before distribution to the public.



Simple Ways to Protect Your Drinking Water

Here are a few simple things you can do to ensure safe drinking water if you have plumbing in your home with lead components.

- Always use COLD water for drinking and cooking—lead dissolves more quickly in hot water. Never make baby formula or other drinks or food for children from the HOT water tap.
- If you haven’t used your water in several hours, run the tap for up to two minutes before drinking or cooking with it. (If collected, you may use the flushed water for watering plants or doing the dishes.)
- Select low-lead or no-lead plumbing fixtures. SPU has worked to reduce lead and copper levels in household plumbing materials. Since January 2014 manufacturers can have only 0.25% lead in a fixture, reduced from 8% previously. Find more information on things you can do at: www.seattle.gov/util/lead.

Seattle Source

Seattle provides water to the District from two separate sources. The majority of water purchased from Seattle comes from the Tolt River source. Seattle provides full treatment and disinfection of the Tolt source.

The Cedar River source is of such high quality that it requires no filtration. It is treated with ozone and ultra-violet light to destroy pathogens.

A chlorine residual is needed throughout the system to provide continuous protection against bacteria. Typically, the chlorine levels in the system range from 0.5 to 1.7 parts per million (ppm).

Because the water supplies are naturally very soft, SPU adds minerals (calcium oxide and sodium carbonate) to help reduce corrosion of household plumbing. Seattle’s goal is to treat the water to a pH of 8.2. In addition, in 2016 the federal Department of Health lowered the recommended level of fluoride to 0.7 ppm to prevent tooth decay.

Conservation / Water Use Efficiency Goal

Ongoing water-conservation efforts help save our most important natural resource while also benefitting fish species. That’s because the reservoirs that supply your drinking water also provide vital water to the Cedar and Tolt rivers. Healthy habitat for salmon, trout, and many other species depends on the quantity and quality of water in the rivers and streams that support them. Using water wisely helps ensure we’ll have enough water to support freshwater habitat for generations to come. It’s especially important to use water wisely in the summer and fall months, when stream flows are lowest.

The Saving Water Partnership (SWP) – which is made up of Olympic View Water & Sewer District and 18 water utility partners – has set a ten-year conservation goal: keep the total average annual retail water use of SWP members under 110 mgd (million gallons per day) through 2028 despite forecasted population growth, by reducing per capita water use. For 2021, the Saving Water Partnership met the goal using 95.5 mgd.

Compliance Monitoring

Certain contaminant monitoring have varied frequencies for collection as determined by DOH and EPA. Those include:

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

Need More Information?

Olympic View Water & Sewer District
 www.olympicviewwater.com
 425.774.7769

Board of Commissioners
 John Elsasser, Lora Petso, Fanny Yee

Our Board meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 5:30 pm at the District office. The Public is welcome to attend.

Seattle Public Utilities, Water Quality Lab
 206.684.7834 / www.seattle.gov
 drinkingwater.quality@seattle.gov

Washington State Department of Health
 www.doh.wa.gov

Environmental Protection (EPA)
 800.426.4791 (Safe Drinking Water Hotline)
 www.epa.gov/safewater



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2021 Annual Water Quality Report Data

It’s clear...you have some of the very best water around!

OLYMPIC VIEW WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Edmonds, Woodway, Point Wells and the Esperance Community

Where Does Your Water Come From?

Your water comes from two sources: Seattle Public Utility (SPU) provides about 60 percent of our water from the South Fork Tolt River Watershed. This watershed is located in a remote, uninhabited area of the Cascade Mountains, the majority of which is owned by SPU. SPU protects your drinking water by enforcing an aggressive water shed protection plan. No agricultural, industrial or recreational activities are allowed in this area. A new filtration plant was placed on-line in the fall of 2000. The remaining water in the District comes from a spring-fed stream, Deer Creek, located in the Town of Woodway. This source of water has been used to supply homes in our area since the early part of the 20th century.

Olympic View protects this drinking water source by monitoring all activities that could affect the stream and the safety of your drinking water. Not only is the watershed completely fenced, but a storm drain system also diverts all surface flows around the Deer Creek watershed.

In 2019, Olympic View upgraded the 1998 Deer Creek water treatment plant. The water supplied from this source meets or exceeds all safe drinking water standards.

The Deer Creek source is blended with the SPU source. The source of water delivered to your home may be either Deer Creek or SPU or a blend of both.

Law And Regulations

In 2003 the Washington State Legislature passed the Municipal Water Law (HB1338) to address the increasing demand on our state’s water resources. One outcome of the Municipal Water Law is the Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Rule, which sets planning requirements, leakage standards, water conservation goal, and reporting requirements.

In 2021 Olympic View Water & Sewer District produced 161.5 MG (million gallons) and purchased 291.6 MG for a total of 453.1 MG; of which 433.8 MG were sold to customers. The difference of 19.3 MG or 4.2% is attributed to system leakage, non-revenue water use and unaccounted water use (the national accepted level of water loss is 20%).

Source Water Assessment

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) conducted a source water assessment to determine potential contaminant sources and has determined that all surface water systems are considered highly susceptible to contamination. You can access the full report on Washington’s Source Water Protection Program at the Department of Health’s website: www.doh.wa.gov.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Please have someone translate it for you, or contact (206) 684-3000 for translation assistance.

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

