

Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District is pleased to provide you with our Annual Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report.

In accordance with the federal Re-authorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996, all public and private water utilities are required to prepare and provide annual drinking water quality reports to their customers. As well as being required by federal law, we want to keep you informed about the excellent water services delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is to provide safe, dependable, and high-quality drinking water.



Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District is a partner of the Whatcom Water Alliance, a regional water conservation group.

Indispensable to jobs, the economy, our health and our communities, water runs through our lives in many ways. Everyone uses water and everyone is responsible for it. We must all work together to keep our water clean and healthy. To do that, we each need to learn to value water. To learn more, visit www.whatcomwateralliance.org.

To learn more, please attend any of our regular, bi-monthly Board of Commissioner meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm or the last Wednesday of each month at 8:00 am. Meetings are held at the District office at 1220 Lakeway Drive in a hybrid format. For virtual access instructions, visit the District website. At the beginning and end of each regular meeting, there is a public comment period where you may express any questions or concerns to the Board.



For more information regarding this report: Kevin Cook, Water Treatment Plant Operator
1220 Lakeway Dr, Bellingham, WA 98229
p: 360-734-9224



Image Courtesy of Marki Kim on Unsplash

Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District staff is on duty around the clock to provide the safest and best quality water service to every home. We ask that all our customers help us protect our precious water sources which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.

Remember to use water wisely.

Between June 1st and September 30th,

we request watering to take place per the following schedule, based on street address number:



Sunday



Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Lake Whatcom
Water & Sewer District
1220 Lakeway Dr,
Bellingham, WA 98229




Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District
Water Quality Report
Calendar year 2023

Agate Heights Service Area



Where does your drinking water come from?

The Agate Heights water system is served by the Giesbrecht artesian well, which draws water from the Squalicum aquifer system. This well produces a high-quality drinking water that contains naturally occurring iron and manganese and other minerals. The water is drawn from the well and undergoes a chlorination and filtration process to reduce the level of iron and manganese, and to provide sufficient chlorine to protect the water distribution system. Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District is pleased to report that your drinking water is safe and meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements.

Water Conservation & Efficiency

Water conservation is about using water efficiently and not wastefully. Inefficient and or leaking faucets, toilets, and excessive outdoor watering account for a significant amount of water that is treated at water treatment plants. Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District encourages voluntary water conservation and there are many simple ways to help in this effort. By installing water saving shower heads, kitchen and bathroom faucets and low flow toilets, an average residence could save 25% or more water a day then a residence without. Rebates for irrigation timers, efficient toilets, and washing machines can be found with many more water saving tips at www.whatcomwateralliance.org. Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District is a metered system, so saving water means saving money. The District's water conservation goals are to maintain less than 10% water loss, reduce summertime daily usage to less than 202 gallons per home, and to reduce the three-year annual daily use average by 39.7 gallons per home. The District's Water Use Efficiency Plan is available on the District website: www.lwwsd.org.

WHATCOM WATER ALLIANCE
Rebates
 Up to \$100 back



Water Quality Results for 2023

Analytical results of 2023 testing completed by Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District and state-certified laboratories

Detected Substance (units)	In Compliance (yes/no)	2023 (or most recent) Level	MCL, AL, or MRDL	MCLG	Likely Source of Substance
Arsenic (ppm)	Yes	0.004	0.010	0	Erosion of natural deposits; run-off from orchards; run-off from glass; electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	Yes	0.039	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refiners; discharge of drilling waste
Copper (ppb)	Yes	The 90th percentile value of 7 homes sampled showed copper at 151 ppb with a range of 14 ppb to 151 ppb	1,300	1,300	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	Yes	0.10	4	4	Water additive that promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminium factories
Lead (ppb)	Yes	The 90th percentile value from 7 homes sampled showed lead at a ND level	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
TTHM: Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Yes	17.1	80	Not Applicable	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAAs: Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Yes	7.5	60	Not Applicable	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (ppm)	Yes	Of the free chlorine residual samples that were collected with our required bacterial samples in the distribution system, the average chlorine residual was approximately 0.59 ppm with a range of 0.24 ppm to 0.83 ppm	4	0.2 ppm minimum at first customer in distribution system	Added at water treatment plant for disinfection

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS:

ppm Parts per Million

ppb Parts per Billion

mg/L Milligrams per Liter

MCLG Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The "Goal" is 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.

MCL Maximum Contaminant Level: The "Maximum Allowed" MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs (see below) as feasible using the best available treatment technology. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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.

AL Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant, if exceeded, that triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

NTU Turbidity: Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

GPD: Gallons per day

ND: Not detected

This report was created with assistance from the Whatcom Conservation District

A message from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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, 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.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.

If you are concerned about lead in your drinking 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. For more information on tap water quality, please visit: www.drinktap.org

