

# WATER QUALITY REPORT

FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025



## Agate Heights Service Area

**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.

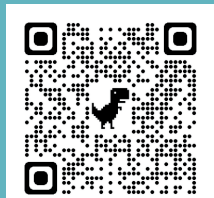
### Where does your drinking water come from?

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.



### Contact Us:

360-734-9224  
[www.lwwsd.org](http://www.lwwsd.org)



## Water Conservation & Efficiency

Water conservation is about using water efficiently and thoughtfully. Significant amounts of treated water are wasted due to inefficient/ leaking fixtures and excessive outdoor watering. Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District encourages voluntary water conservation.

One significant way to conserve water is installation of water saving showerheads, kitchen/bathroom faucets, and low flow toilets. Choosing more efficient options can save an average residence 25% or more water on a daily basis. Whatcom Water Alliance offers rebates for irrigation timers and efficient toilets, dishwashers, and washing machines - see last page for details.

The 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 full Water Use Efficiency Plan is available on our website.



## 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 people, 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 Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

For more information on tap water quality, please visit: [www.drinktap.org](http://www.drinktap.org)



## Water Quality Results: Unit Descriptions & Definitions

**ppm** parts per million      **N/A** not applicable  
**ppb** parts per billion      **ND** not detected

### **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.

### **SMCL** - State Maximum Contaminant Level

Limits that are not based on health concerns, but instead based on the aesthetic properties of water such as taste, color, and/or odor.

### **SDRL** - State Detection Reporting Level

The minimum concentration of a specific chemical required to be reported per Washington State Law. Laboratory equipment is not required to detect concentrations below this level.

### **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 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.

### **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.

### **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.

# Water Quality Results for 2025

## Agate Heights Service Area

Analytical results of 2025 testing completed by Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District and state-certified laboratories

Detected Substance	In Compliance? (Yes/No)	2025 (or most recent) level	MCL, AL, or MRDL	MCLG	Likely Source of Substance
Arsenic	Yes	0.004 ppm	0.010 ppm	0 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; run-off from orchards; run-off from glass; electronics production wastes
Barium	Yes	0.035 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refiners; discharge of drilling waste
Chlorine	Yes	Of the free chlorine residual samples collected with our bacteria samples in the distribution system, the average chlorine residual was approximately 0.74 ppm with a range of 0.36 to 1.64 ppm.	4 ppm	0.2 ppm minimum throughout the distribution system	Added for disinfection at water treatment plant
Copper	Yes	The 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile value of 7 homes sampled showed copper at 164 ppb with a range of 9 ppb to 164 ppb	1,300 ppb	1,300 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	Yes	0.13 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
HAA5s (Haloacetic Acid)	Yes	7.5 ppb	60 ppb	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Lead	Yes	The 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile value of 7 homes sampled showed lead at a ND level	15 ppb	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes)	Yes	17.1 ppb	80 ppb	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination

### Inorganic compounds without an MCL with results above the SDRL

Detected Substance	In Compliance? (Yes/No)	2025 (or most recent) level	MCL, AL, or MRDL	SDRL	Likely Source of Substance
Hardness*	Yes	126.4 ppm	N/A	10 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	Yes	0.0012 ppm	N/A	0.005 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	Yes	10.0 ppm	N/A	5 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits

### Inorganic compounds without an MCL, having an SMCL, with results above the SDRL

Detected Substance	In Compliance? (Yes/No)	2025 (or most recent) level	SMCL	SDRL	Likely Source of Substance
Chloride	Yes	3.9 ppm	250 ppm	2 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate	Yes	6.5 ppm	250 ppm	2 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits

\* Hardness is a measure of the magnesium, calcium, and carbonate minerals in water. Water is considered soft if total hardness is less than 75 ppm, moderately hard at 75 to 150 ppm, hard at 150 to 300 ppm, and very hard at 300 ppm or higher.



Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District encourages members of the public to 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 residents 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

**WHATCOM WATER ALLIANCE**

# Rebates

[www.whatcomwateralliance.org/rebates](http://www.whatcomwateralliance.org/rebates)

## 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
Odd	X	Even	Odd	Even	Odd	Even

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. Whatcom Water Alliance offers rebates on qualifying, energy efficient dishwashers, washing machines, irrigation controllers, and toilets. To apply or learn more, visit [www.whatcomwateralliance.org](http://www.whatcomwateralliance.org).



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 Bellingham, WA 98229