

City of George 2026 Water Quality Report

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Where does my water come from?

Your water comes mainly from two wells. Well 2 is located near the water reservoir next to I-90. Well 3 is located at the south end of town next to the new reservoir. Well 1 is currently offline. Your water is treated with chlorine in accordance with the rules and regulations set forth by the Washington State Department of Health. Many public water systems

add chlorine to their drinking water supply for the purpose of disinfection. Disinfection kills or deactivates harmful microorganisms that can cause illness. System Id: WA5327395

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few

naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Spanish (Espanol)

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDL G	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	ND	NA	NA	2025	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	25.27	3.37	25.27	2025	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	1.2	1.3	2	2025	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.
Arsenic (ppb)	10	10	2.7	1.9	2.2	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0208	0.0195	0.0246	2025	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	200	200	0.0431	NA	NA	2022	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.368	0.41	0.439	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	8.1	4.54	8.1	2025	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)	NA	NA	10.2	11.2	12.3	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Selenium (ppm)	0.05	0.05	0.0014	NA	0.0014	2025	No	Selenium enters drinking water supplies primarily through the natural erosion of geological formations and soil deposits. It can also find its way into water resources through industrial activities,

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Contaminants	MCLG or MRDL G	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source	
				Low	High				
								including discharges from petroleum refineries, mines, and metal manufacturing facilities.	
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	5	0.919	NA	NA	2025	No	Soil runoff	
Microbiological Contaminants									
E. coli (RTCR) - in the distribution system (positive samples)	NA		1	NA	NA	2025	Yes	Human and animal fecal waste.	
Although we have detected E. coli, we are not in violation of the E. coli MCL. Routine and repeat samples are total coliform positive and either is E. coli - positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform positive repeat sample for E. coli									
Total Coliform (RTCR) (% positive samples/month)	NA	TT	1	NA	NA	2025	Yes	Naturally present in the environment	
Radioactive Contaminants									
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	NA	15	3.75	NA	3.75	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	NA	5	0.384	NA	0.384	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Range		# Samples Exceeding AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
				Low	High				
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.056	<0.001	0.0586	0	2023	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	NA	15	1	<0.001	0.001	0	2023	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	State MCL	Your Water	Violation	Sample Date	Explanation and Comment
Chloride	250 ppm	14.5 ppm	No	2025	Chloride is regulated as a secondary drinking water standard because of the aesthetic, cosmetic, and technical effects that chloride can have on your body, and appliances and plumbing in your home.
Conductivity	700 Umhos/cm	497 Umhos/cm	No	2025	Chloride is a naturally occurring mineral component found in varying amounts throughout all water resources. While the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classifies it as a secondary drinking water contaminant, elevated levels can give your water a distinctly salty taste. It poses no direct threat to human health at normal levels.
Iron	0.3 mg/L	0.0151 mg/L	No	2024	Iron is a naturally occurring mineral commonly found in the environment and our soil. Unlike many other water constituents, iron is an essential nutrient for human health and is not considered hazardous to the general public through drinking water.
Manganese	0.05 mg/L	0.0017 mg/L	No	2024	Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in air, soil, and water. While our bodies need small amounts of manganese to stay healthy, elevated levels in drinking water can pose health risks.
Sulfate	250 ppm	33.9 ppm	No	2025	Sulfate is a naturally occurring mineral compound found in rocks, soil, and groundwater. While the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classifies it as a secondary drinking water contaminant, elevated levels can impart a salty or bitter metallic taste to water.
Total Dissolved Solids	500 mg/L	408 mg/L	No	2025	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) refers to the total amount of minerals, salts, and metals dissolved in water. It primarily originates from natural mineral deposits, agricultural runoff, and industrial discharges.

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Contaminants	State MCL	Your Water	Violation	Sample Date	Explanation and Comment
Zinc	5 ppm	0.0072 ppm	No	2025	Zinc is a naturally occurring trace mineral essential for human health. While the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classifies it as a "secondary drinking water contaminant", elevated levels can give water a metallic taste or milky appearance. It poses no health risks at typical levels, and isn't linked to cancer.
Hardness	NA	257 mg/L	No	2025	Water hardness refers to the concentration of naturally occurring minerals, primarily calcium and magnesium, dissolved in water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency does not regulate water hardness and has established no federal primary or secondary standards for it, as it poses no health or safety risks. Hardness minerals enter drinking water supplies as groundwater passes through, dissolves, and leaches minerals from underground rock formations like limestone, chalk, and dolomite.
PFAS	NA	ND	No	2025	Typical Environmental Sources: Firefighting foams used during training and emergencies at airports and military bases. Industrial facilities that manufacture or use PFAS in products like electronics, plastics, and textiles.

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt	ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
% positive samples/month	% positive samples/month: Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.
positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a 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	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level
90th Percentile	Compliance with the lead and copper action levels is based on the 90th percentile lead and copper levels. This means that the concentration of lead and copper must be less than or equal to the action level in at least 90% of the samples collected.

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Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally

occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of

certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Additional Information for Lead

A Lead Service Line Inventory was performed in accordance with Washington State Department of Health and EPA requirements. Based on available records, field inspections, construction standards, and system materials evaluations, the water provider did not identify any lead service lines, galvanized service lines requiring replacement, or service lines of unknown material within the distribution system. The inventory was developed using historical utility records, water system construction records, visual inspections during maintenance activities, and material verification of service connections. Customers may review the service line inventory by contacting the water system manager during normal business hours or questions can be emailed to pwd@cityofgeorge.org.

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. GEORGE CITY OF is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact GEORGE CITY OF (Public Water system Id: WA5327395) by emailing pwd@cityofgeorge.org. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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Additional Information for Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Additional Information for Nitrate

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Additional Information for PFAS

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used since the 1940s to make products resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. Due to their widespread use and persistence, they do not break down easily and are often called "forever chemicals." They can travel through soil and contaminate local groundwater and surface water supplies.

According to the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** and health agencies, scientific studies show that exposure to certain levels of PFAS may lead to:

- **Increased risk of some cancers**, including kidney, testicular, and prostate cancers.
- **Developmental effects or delays in children**, including low birth weight, accelerated puberty, or behavioral changes.
- **Reproductive effects**, such as decreased fertility or pregnancy-induced high blood pressure (preeclampsia).
- **Reduced immune system efficiency**, which can lower the body's ability to fight infections or reduce vaccine response.
- **Liver damage** (indicated by elevated liver enzymes) and thyroid hormone disruption.
- **Increased cholesterol levels** and/or an increased risk of obesity.

How can I get involved?

WA State Water Use Efficiency Rule WUE requirements can be found in WAC 246-290 and in the May 2016 Revised Third Edition of the Guidebook (PDF). To summarize, municipal water suppliers must:

- Publicly establish water savings goals for their customers.
 - Evaluate or implement specific water saving measures to achieve customer-based goals.
 - Develop a WUE planning program to support the established goals.
 - Install meters on all customer connections by January 22, 2017.
 - Achieve a standard of no more than 10% water loss.
 - Report annually on progress towards achieving these goals.
- What does the Water Use Efficiency Rule achieve?
- Using water efficiently helps water systems protect against:
 - Temporary water service interruptions during peak usage.
 - Long-term or repeated water

disruptions due to limited water supply.

- Contamination of the water supply due to leaky pipes.

The WUE requirements also:

- Help ensure reliable long-term water supplies.
 - Promote good stewardship of the state's water resources.
 - Ensure efficient operation and management of water systems.
- Reduce energy use and save money

If you would like to get involved, please contact us!

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more

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efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider

connecting to a public water system.

- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

For more information please contact:

Contact Name: [Aaron Harwood](#)

Email: pwd@cityofgeorge.org