

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.

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).

Where does my water come from?

Dockton Water Association receives its water from two water sources, Dockton Springs and Sandy Shores Well. Dockton Springs is spring water that produces 80 gallons a minute. Sandy Shores Well is drilled to 423 feet and produces 100 gallons a minute.

Source water assessment and its availability

A source susceptibility assessment was completed on your well. The Washington State Department of Health rated Dockton Springs as "high" and Sandy Shores Well as "Moderate".

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.

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.

Water Use Efficiency

The Dockton Water Association has set a Water Use Efficiency goal to reduce the average annual usage per active customer to less than 49,368 gallons by 2020. In 2021 our wells produced 25,465,400 gallons and we consumed 22,696,198 gallons, which is 10.87% of unaccounted for water. Please help us achieve our goal by using water wisely and conserving. If you suspect a leak on the system, please notify us so that the appropriate action can be taken.

Cross Connection Control

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home. For instance, you're going to turn on your irrigation system for your lawn. If the water pressure drops at the same time you turn on sprinklers, that water may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. This problem can be prevented by using an assembly called a double-check valve assembly (DCVA). Without the proper protection something as simple as a garden hose has the potential to contaminate or pollute the drinking water lines in your house and even the entire water system. In fact, over half of the country's cross-connection incidents involve unprotected garden hoses. By performing routine hazard surveys and ensuring the backflow assemblies are tested annually, Northwest Water Systems makes every effort to ensure that the water delivered to your home is clean, safe, and free on contamination.

Additional Information for Lead

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. Dockton Water Association is 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. In 2016, Dockton tested for lead and found 2 ppb, while the action level is 15 ppb. 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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.

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.

| Contaminants | MCLG or MRDLG | MCL, TT, or MRDL | Detect In Your Water | Range | | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source S01 Springs/S02 SS Well |
|---|---------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|--|--|
| | | | | Low | High | | | |
| Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products | | | | | | | | |
| (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants) | | | | | | | | |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) | NA | 80 | 8.39 | NA | 80 | 2021 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| HAA5/Haloacetic Acid | NA | 60 | ND | NA | NA | 2021 | No | Same as above-In high levels my cause cancer |
| Radionuclides | | | | | | | | |
| Gross alpha 01/02 | | 15 | 01-0.375/02-0.451 | | | 2021 | No | Most drinking water sources have very low levels of alpha radiation and are not considered to be a health concern. Levels at or less than 5 pCi/ do not even require further testing. This level is comparable to having one x-ray. Extremely high level of alpha radiation is a concern because it interacts with genetic material and has been known to cause cancer. |
| Radium 228 01/02 | NA | 5 | 01-0.422/02-0.447 | | | 2021 | No | Concentrations of total radium (the sum of radium-226 and radium-228) and gross alpha-particle activities in drinking water that exceed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) are known to cause cancer. |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)01/02 | 10 | 10 | 01-1.72/02-0.54 | 0.5 | 5.0 | 2021 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Contaminants | MCLG | AL | Your Water | Sample Date | # Samples Exceeding AL | Exceeds AL | Typical Source S01Springs/S02 SS Well | |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm) | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.02 | 2019 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits | |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) | 15 | 15 | 0.001 | 2019 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits | |

Additional Contaminants

In an effort to ensure the safest water possible the State has required us to monitor some contaminants not required by Federal regulations. Of those contaminants only the ones listed below were found in your water.

| Contaminants | State MCL | Your Water | Violation | Explanation and Comment |
|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Iron | .3 mg/L | .010 mg/L | No | |
| Mangnese | .05 mg/L | 0.038 mg/L | No | |

Unit Descriptions

| Term | Definition |
|------|--|
| ppm | ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) |

| Unit Descriptions | |
|-------------------|---|
| ppb | ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) |
| NA | NA: not applicable |
| ND | ND: Not detected |
| NR | NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended. |

| 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 |

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