



AUBURN WATER UTILITY 2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT

THE AUBURN WATER UTILITY IS PROUD TO PRESENT YOU WITH OUR 2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT.

This report is a snapshot of 2015 water quality. The test results in this report show that Auburn's water meets or surpasses all federal and state standards for public drinking water. Auburn's water comes from a combination of wells drawing water from deep below the city, springs located near the walls of the valley and surface water from Tacoma Public Utilities. Water from the valley wells, springs and Tacoma is distributed to the entire Auburn service area. Additional wells are located in Lakeland Hills and serve Auburn customers in the Lakeland Hills neighborhood.





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PARAMETER	STANDARDS		SAMPLE RESULTS		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
	MCLG	MCL	Average	Range	Typical Source/Comments
INORGANIC SUBSTANCE					
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10		ND - 5.4	Erosions of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10		ND - 3.6	Natural deposits, fertilizer, septic tanks
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4		0.00 - 1.44	Treatment additive
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	5		0.03 - 3.43	Soil erosion
VOLATILE ORGANIC SUBSTANCE					
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	NA	60		ND - 31	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80		2.0 - 42	By-product of drinking water disinfection
OTHER MONITORED SUBSTANCE					
Sulfate (ppm)	None	250		6 - 15	Naturally present in the environment
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	4.0 (MRDL)	4 (MRDLG)	0.71	0.40 - 1.09	Measure of disinfectant added to water
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	Must not be detected in more than 5% of samples in any month	One of the samples collected on 11/2/2015 was positive. All required follow-up repeat samples collected on 11/4/2015 were negative.		Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful bacteria may be present.
DETECTED UNREGULATED SUBSTANCE					
		MRL			
Vanadium (ppb)		0.2	1.0	0.61 - 1.2	
Strontium (ppb)		0.3	49	11 - 63	
Chromium (ppb)		0.2	0.29	0.27 - 0.30	
Chromium-6 (ppb)		0.03	0.13	0.049 - 0.21	
Chlorate (ppb)		20	70.286	25 - 100	
Testosterone (ppb)		0.0001	0.00053	0.00053	
UNIT DESCRIPTION					
NA: Not applicable	ND: Not detected	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)	

DEFINITIONS

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.

MRDL | Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

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.

MRDLG | Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

AL | Action Level

The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MRL | Minimum Reporting Level

The smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured.

REQUIRED HEALTH INFORMATION FROM THE EPA

HEALTH ISSUES

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 (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 EPA's Safe Water Drinking Hotline at 800-426-4791.

CONTAMINANTS AND REGULATIONS

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 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, may come from septic systems, livestock and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater run-off, septic systems or fertilizer use. Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater run-off and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater run-off, and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants 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 regulations set limits for contaminants in bottled water that are intended to provide similar protection for public health.

RESIDENTIAL LEAD AND COPPER MONITORING

Residential lead and copper sampling was conducted in 2015 to determine the concentrations of lead and copper that leach from residential water pipes and fixtures. Lead results ranged from <1 ppb to 47 ppb. Copper results ranged from < 0.02 ppm to 0.93 ppm. The 90th percentile results for lead and copper were 2 ppb and 0.17 ppm respectively. The Action Level for lead is 15 ppb and for copper is 1.3 ppm. 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. The Auburn Water Utility 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 thirty seconds 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

WATER USE EFFICIENCY

The main components of the City of Auburn Water Use Efficiency program are managing the water distribution system to minimize water loss, and encouraging responsible use of water by our customers.

Water loss is the difference between the total water produced and the water used by our customers, presented here as a percentage of water produced. The City of Auburn Water Utility goal since 1999 has been to maintain water loss at or below 10 percent. In accordance with the Water Use Efficiency reporting requirements, the three year average for the years up to and including 2015 was **6.8** percent. In an effort to limit water loss, the Utility performs annual system leak detection and repair; tests production and service meters, calibrating or replacing them as required; and issues permits for water withdrawal from hydrants. Repairs associated with our 2015 annual leak detection program might have saved an estimated 13,665,600 gallons of water per year.

Responsible water use by our customers is promoted by the Utility through educational programs for school children and homeowners. Quantifying the benefit of educational programs and corresponding behavioral changes is difficult, but reductions in water use and/or waste can have a significant impact on the amount of water used as a whole. The City of Auburn is committed to efficiently managing the water distribution system and encourages you to use water wisely.

The City's Water Use Efficiency Annual Performance Report and other information regarding Auburn's Water Use Efficiency program are available on the City of Auburn's website at www.auburnwa.gov.

FLUORIDE

The City of Auburn does not add fluoride to your drinking water. In 2015, the City purchased water from Tacoma Public Utilities which adds fluoride to their treated water. This water mixes with the City of Auburn's water and depending on your location in the water system you may receive fluoridated water. Fluoride levels present in Auburn's water range from 0.00 -1.44 ppm. If you have questions about fluoride for dental use, please consult with your doctor or dentist. For more information on fluoride in drinking water, visit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website at www.epa.gov.



CROSS CONNECTION PROGRAM

Protecting Our Water System From Contamination

A cross connection is a connection between a water pipe and a source of contamination. Examples of cross connections include hose ends submerged in pools, hot tubs or buckets, irrigation systems and most hose-end spray applicators. Cross connections are extremely dangerous because they provide opportunities for contaminated fluids to be pulled back into the water system.

To protect our water supply, avoid using hose-end sprayers and maintain an air gap by keeping the hose end above the water surface when filling containers. Irrigation systems are required to have a backflow assembly. Backflow assemblies require a plumbing permit, must be inspected by a cross connection specialist, and must be tested by a certified tester when installed, and yearly thereafter. For more information or a list of certified testers, call the Water Division at 253-931-3048.

SAFE DRINKING WATER IN AUBURN

In response to recent concerns about water quality in other parts of the country and recently in Tacoma and Seattle about lead and other metals that can leach from a home's water piping into the customer's water, the City of Auburn Water division wants our customers to know the following facts about Auburn's water supply:

- The City conducts water quality testing frequently throughout the year at our supply sources and in the distribution system. The results of our testing program are summarized annually in this report.
- Water from the City's wells and springs receive treatment to adjust the pH so that it is not corrosive to metal piping.
- Earlier this year, pH testing throughout the City confirmed that the water is meeting a pH level of 7.8 that minimizes the potential for corrosion.
- The City of Auburn conducted lead and copper testing in 2015; the results were below state and federal water standards.
- The City has replaced many older pipelines where lead fittings between the water main and customers' water meters may have been present.
- The City has a program that regularly looks at water main replacement needs within the water system and provides the funding to construct these replacements.
- Auburn residents who receive water service from one of the following utilities should contact those utilities directly with any questions or concerns:
 - Southern part of the Lakeland Hills | City of Bonney Lake (253) 862-8602
 - West Hill | Lakehaven Utility District (253) 941-1516
 - Northern Lea Hill | Water District #111 (253) 631-3770 or City of Kent (253) 856-5600



City of Auburn M&O staff measuring a turbidity sample during unidirectional flushing to determine the clarity of the water in the main



City of Auburn M&O staff taking Department of Health monitoring samples from the B Street Tacoma Intertie

If you live in an older home built before 1945, you may want to adhere to the following precautions:

- Run the water from a tap for 2 minutes before drinking if the water has not been run for 6 hours or more. If there is lead solder in your house's piping, lead can accumulate in the water within the piping if the water sits for a long period. Running the water will flush contaminants out.
- Always use the cold water tap for cooking or drinking since warm water can be more corrosive than cold water.
- Never make baby formula or other drinks or food for children from the hot water tap. Use water from the cold water tap (after flushing) and warm if necessary.

If you would like to test your home's water to see if lead is present, and if levels are cause for concern, the Department of Ecology has a list of accredited water quality labs that can perform the testing at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/laboratorysearch>.

LAB SEARCH TIP: To search for a water quality lab from Ecology's website, choose King or Pierce County, check the box that says "Show only Labs that accept General Public and Commercial samples", and click Select Lab in Washington. Choose a city that is convenient for you, and make sure the lab performs tests on "Drinking Water" and "Metals".

The City of Auburn is committed to providing its customers with drinking water that meets all state and federal water quality standards. If you have any further questions, please contact City of Auburn Community Development and Public Works Department - Engineering at 253-931-3010.