

Continuing Our Commitment

The City of Arlington is pleased to report that your drinking water complies with federal standards for quality drinking water. This report summarizes the key findings of the City of Arlington's 2002 water quality testing program. It illustrates the utility's commitment to delivering the best quality drinking water.



All information contained in this report has been collected and reported in accordance with water quality standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). The report provides you with information about where your water comes from, what's in it, and how safe it is.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Karen Latimer, Utilities Manager, at (360) 403-3505.

Community Participation

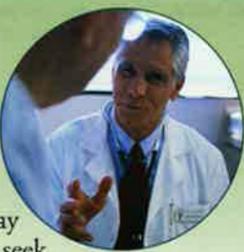
The City of Arlington welcomes your interest in its water system. The Arlington City Council is the city's decision-making body. The City Council meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Hadley Hall in the Community Youth Center, 18513 59th Avenue NE. For meeting information or scheduled agenda items, please call the City Clerk's office at (360) 403-3421.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water (www.epa.gov/watrhme) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the Washington State Department of Health has a Web site (www.doh.wa.gov) that provides current information on water issues in our own state.

Special Health Information

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 or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Arlington provides drinking water to two service areas: Arlington and Island Crossing. Water in the Arlington Service Area comes from three separate sources: groundwater drawn from a wellfield located near the Stillaguamish River, groundwater drawn from a deep well located near the Arlington Airport, and treated water purchased from Snohomish County PUD that comes from the City of Everett's Spada Lake Reservoir. Drinking water in the Island Crossing Service Area comes from treated water we purchase from the City of Marysville. Sources of water from Marysville include Edward Springs, the Stillaguamish Ranney Collector and several public wells.

How Is My Water Treated and Purified?

Your drinking water is drawn from wells near the Stillaguamish River and is processed and treated at the Arlington Water Treatment Plant. The water is treated in several steps. First, raw water is pumped from the wellfield to the treatment plant, where a primary treatment chemical is added that causes small particles in the water to form bigger particles called floc. Next, polymer is added to the water to aid the filtering process, and the water is passed through a clarifying filter, where 60% to 70% of the floc is removed. After that, the water passes through a finishing filter where most of the remaining floc is removed. Then chlorine is added to the water for disinfection. As the water is pumped out of the treatment plant to your home or business, sodium hydroxide is added to the water to adjust the pH level, making the water less corrosive to your pipes and plumbing fixtures.



Water drawn from the well near the Arlington Airport does not require filtration. However, when water is pumped from the Arlington Airport well into our distribution pipes, chlorine is added for disinfection.

Drinking water purchased from Snohomish County PUD is treated at the City of Everett treatment plant, using a treatment process similar to the process used at Arlington's treatment plant. Everett adds fluoride to the water for enhanced dental protection.

At our Island Crossing water system, we provide our customers with drinking water that is purchased from the City of Marysville. Chlorine is added for disinfection.



PWS ID#: 02950K (Arlington Service Area)
07618L (Island Crossing Service Area)



2002
ANNUAL WATER
QUALITY REPORT



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City of Arlington
238 N. Olympic Avenue
Arlington, WA 98223

What's in My Water?

We are pleased to report that during the past year, the water delivered to your home or business complied with, or did better than, all state and federal drinking water requirements. For your information, we have compiled the table below to show what substances were detected in our drinking water during 2002. Although all of the substances listed below are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by the U.S. EPA, we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

| SUBSTANCE (UNITS) | YEAR SAMPLED | Snohomish County PUD | | Island Crossing Service Area | | Arlington Service Area | | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---|
| | | MCL | MCLG | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE (LOW-HIGH) | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE (LOW-HIGH) | | | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE (LOW-HIGH) |
| Arsenic (ppb) | 2002 | 10 ¹ | 0 ¹ | NA | NA | 5 | ND-8.7 | NA | NA | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes |
| Barium (ppm) | 2002 | 2 | 2 | NA | NA | 0.005 | ND-0.02 | NA | NA | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Chlorine (ppm) | 2002 | MRDL=4 | MRDLG=4 | NA | NA | 0.7 | 0.2-1.2 | 0.87 | 0.53-1.22 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| Chromium (ppb) | 2002 | 100 | 100 | NA | NA | 1.3 | ND-4.2 | NA | NA | No | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Dichloromethane (ppb) | 2002 | 5 | 0 | NA | NA | 0.27 | ND-0.86 | NA | NA | No | Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories |
| Fluoride (ppm) ² | 2002 | 4 | 2 | 1.1 | 0.9-1.1 | NA | NA | 0.34 | ND-1.04 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) (ppb) | 2002 | 60 | NA | 36.3 | 15.1-36.3 | 15.6 | 13.1-20.7 | NA | NA | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Lead (at source) (ppb) | 2002 | AL=15 | SRL=2 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 2 | 2-2 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives |
| Nitrate (ppm) | 2002 | 10 | 10 | 0.14 | 0.02-0.14 | 0.89 | ND-2.8 | 0.77 | 0.34-1.2 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) | 2002 | 80 | 0 | 49.3 | 27-49.3 | 17.5 | 15.1-23.8 | NA | NA | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Total Coliforms (% positive samples) | 2002 | 5% pos. samples | 0 | NA | NA | 0.02% | NA | NA | NA | No | Naturally present in the environment |
| Turbidity (NTU) ³ | 2002 | TT | NA | 0.24 | NA | 0.25 | NA | 0.067 | NA | No | Soil runoff |

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from homes throughout the service areas

| SUBSTANCE (UNITS) | YEAR SAMPLED | Snohomish County PUD ⁴ | | Island Crossing Service Area | | Arlington Service Area | | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|--|
| | | AL | MCLG (90TH %TILE) | AMOUNT DETECTED | NO. HOMES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL HOMES | AMOUNT DETECTED | NO. HOMES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL HOMES | | | AMOUNT DETECTED | NO. HOMES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL HOMES |
| Copper (ppm) | 2002 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.13 | 1/176 | 0.392 | 0/27 | 0.448 | 0/40 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Lead (ppb) | 2002 | 15 | 0 | 3 | 1/176 | 3 | 0/27 | 2 | 0/40 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES (Data from Snohomish County PUD)

| SUBSTANCE (UNITS) | YEAR SAMPLED | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE (LOW-HIGH) | TYPICAL SOURCE |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|---|
| Bromochloromethane (ppb) | 2002 | 1.8 | 1.5-1.8 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Bromodichloromethane (ppb) | 2002 | 3.8 | 1.3-3.8 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Chloroform (ppb) | 2002 | 47.3 | 25.6-47.3 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb) | 2002 | 17 | 11.6-17 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb) | 2002 | 17.3 | 2.5-17.3 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb) | 2002 | 23.9 | 7.9-23.9 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |

¹These arsenic values are effective January 23, 2006. Until then, the MCL is 50 ppb and there is no MCLG.

²Fluoride is added to water we purchase from PUD. This fluoridated water is mixed with our non-fluoridated water sources, causing significant variation in fluoride levels throughout our water distribution system. Call us at (360) 403-3505 to find out what the average fluoride level is at your home.

³Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system. During the reporting year, 100% of all samples taken to measure turbidity met water quality standards.

⁴Sampled in 2000.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead is a naturally occurring element in our environment. Consequently, our water supply is expected to contain small, undetectable amounts of lead. However, most of the lead in household water usually comes from the plumbing in your own home, not from the local water supply. The U.S. EPA estimates that more than 40 million U.S. residents use water that can contain lead in excess of the EPA's Action Level of 15 ppb.

Lead in drinking water is a concern because young children, infants and fetuses appear to be particularly vulnerable to lead poisoning. A dose that would have little effect on an adult can have a big effect on a small body. On average, it is estimated that lead in drinking water contributes between 10% and 20% of the total lead exposure in young children.

All kinds of water, however, may have high levels of lead. We maintain our drinking water supply at an optimum pH level to help prevent corrosion in your home's pipes. To reduce lead levels in your drinking water you should flush your cold-water pipes by running the water until it becomes as cold as it will get (anywhere from 5 seconds to 2 minutes or longer) and use only water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead.

For more information, please contact National Lead Information Center (800-LEAD-FYI) and the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).



Table Definitions

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

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.

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. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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 contamination.

NA: Not applicable

ND: Not detected

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

SRL: State Reporting Level

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Substances Expected to be in Drinking Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material; and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.