City of Arlington
Annual Water Quality Report

Water Testing Performed in 2020 PWS ID# 02950K

Continuing Our Commitment

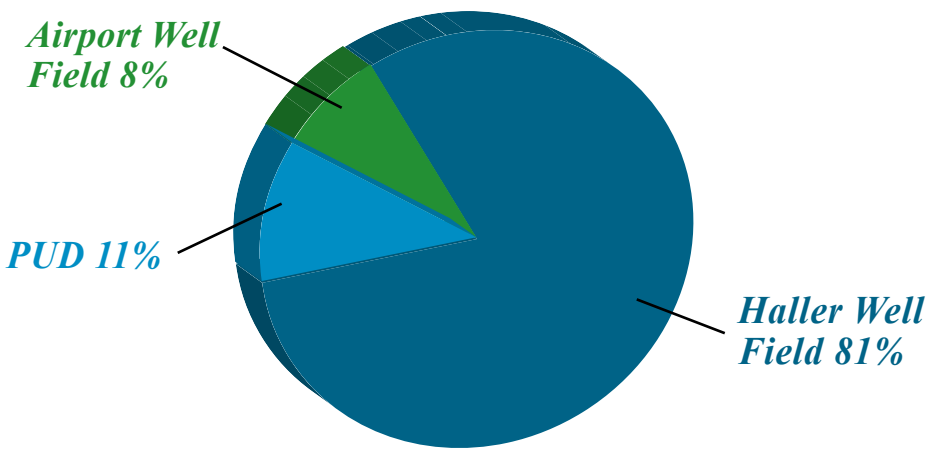
The City of Arlington is pleased to report that your drinking water is of high quality and compliant with all state and federal drinking water laws. We are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water, and to that end, we make more than 16,000 water quality observations and tests every year. This edition of our annual water quality report summarizes only the key findings of testing completed from January through December 2020. For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call the Water Department at (360) 403-3526.

Where Does Our Water Come From?

Three primary sources supply water to the Arlington service area. Arlington produces most of its water from the Haller and Airport well fields. The Haller well field naturally filters Stillaguamish River water by drawing it through the riverbank. The Airport well field draws groundwater from a deep aquifer. The origin of both these sources is precipitation that falls across the Stillaguamish Basin and infiltrates the ground surface.

The water we produce is blended with water the City purchases from its third source, Snohomish County Public Utility District (PUD). This water is obtained from the City of Everett's Spada Reservoir near the headwaters of the Sultan River.

The graph shows how each source contributed to our total water production of 1,879 acre-feet in 2020.



ARLINGTON WATER SUPPLY 2020

HOW IS MY WATER TREATED AND PURIFIED?

Haller Well Field

Groundwater drawn from our well field located near the Stillaguamish River is treated in several steps at Arlington's water treatment facility. First, raw (untreated) water is pumped from the well field to the treatment plant, where a primary treatment chemical is added that causes small particles to stick together and form bigger particles called floc. Next, polymer is added to aid the filtering process and the water is passed through a clarifying filter where 60% to 70% of the floc is removed. The water then passes through a finishing filter where the remaining floc is taken out, and chlorine is added for disinfection. Finally, we add sodium hydroxide to adjust the pH level, making the water less corrosive to your pipes and plumbing fixtures.

PUD

Drinking water purchased from Snohomish County PUD is treated at the City of Everett's water treatment plant using a treatment process similar to the process used by Arlington. PUD also draws from two wells near Lake Stevens. Everett and PUD add fluoride to the water for enhanced dental protection.

Airport Well Field

Water drawn from our well near the Arlington Airport does not require filtration, but we do add chlorine for disinfection.

Working Hard to Bring You the Best Water in the State — Efficiently

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for setting national limits for hundreds of substances in drinking water, and also specifies various treatments that water systems must use to remove these substances. The Arlington Water Department continually monitors for these substances and reports our findings to the Washington Department of Health (DOH), who confirms you are receiving clean water. DOH records indicate **we consistently provide you with clear, high quality water meeting stringent standards, and have done so for 20 consecutive years!**

For more information see:
www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/SourceWater/RapidRateFiltration

This report conforms to the regulation under SDWA requiring water utilities to provide detailed water quality information to each of their customers annually. We are committed to providing you with this information about your water supply because **customers who are well informed are our best allies in supporting improvements necessary to maintain the highest drinking water standards.**

SAMPLING RESULTS FOR 2020

In 2020, the City collected hundreds of water samples and made thousands of measurements to test for biological, inorganic, volatile organic, synthetic organic, or radioactive contaminants. The table below lists only those contaminants that were detected. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. All of the results shown here are less than Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), which are established with a safety margin for the protection of consumer health.

Since we purchase some of our water from the PUD, the table also includes data for the City of Everett's water supply. This information is particularly useful to those in our service area that receive PUD water before it is blended with water pumped from our wells. This includes any service connections along Burn Road, 186th NE Street, 89th Avenue, 91st Avenue, 95th Avenue, and 107th Avenue.

Regulated Substances

Samples were collected in finished water at our sources and/or throughout the distribution system				Arlington Water Department		Snohomish County PUD		Definitions of these terms are found at the bottom of this page	
Substance (units)	**Year**	**MCL (MRDL)**	**MCLG (MRDLG)**	**Amount**	**Range**	**Amount**	**Range**	**Compliant?**	**Typical Sources**
Arsenic (ppb)	2020	10	0	1.6	ND – 1.6	2	1 – 2	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2020	2	2	0.01	0.008 – 0.014	0.01	0.01 – 0.01	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits, drilling fluids
Chlorine (ppm)	2020	(4)	(4)	1.01	0.30 – 1.89	0.69	0.13 – 1.44	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes
Chromium (ppb)	2020	100	100	4	1 – 4	ND	NA	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2020	4	4	0.12	0.05 – 0.65	0.54	0.33 – 0.75	Yes	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits
HAAs [Haloacetic Acids] (ppb)	2020	60	NA	11	5 –19	35.9	8 – 43	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2020	10	10	1.21	ND – 1.21	ND	NA	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, and animal wastes; Erosion
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2020	80	NA	17	8 – 25	42.5	13 – 54	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU)[1]	2020	TT	NA	0.06	0.01 – 0.06	0.08	0.06 – 0.13	Yes	Soil runoff, sediment

Lead and Copper

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from homes throughout the service areas				Arlington Water Department		Snohomish County PUD			
Substance (units)	**Year sampled** [2]	**AL**	**MCLG**	**90th Percentile**	**Homes Above AL/ Total Homes Sampled**	**90th Percentile**	**Homes Above AL/ Total Homes Sampled**	**Compliant?**	**Typical Sources**
Copper (ppm)	2018	1.3	1.3	0.79	0 / 30	0.94	0 / 32	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2018	15	0	1	0/ 30	2	0 / 32	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing Erosion of natural deposits

Footnotes
1 Turbidity, a measure of the cloudiness of water, is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.
2 Lead and copper samples are collected from area homes every 3 years. Both Arlington and PUD sampled in 2018 and will sample again in 2021.

Table Definitions

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that 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 (e.g. chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) 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 contaminants.

NA: Not applicable.

ND: Not detected.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): A measure of the clarity, cloudiness, 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).

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

90th Percentile: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 had lead and copper concentrations at or below this level.

Contaminants That May Be Present In Source Water

- Microbes — viruses, parasites and bacteria, from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, pets, livestock and wildlife
- Inorganic materials — salts and metals, naturally occurring or from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming
- Pesticides and herbicides — from agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses
- Organic Compounds — synthetic and volatile organic compounds from industrial processes, petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems
- Radioactive contaminants — naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

Tempted to Leave the Pandemic Behind? First Consider Your Water!

Fifteen-plus months of the COVID-19 pandemic have turned the renewed interest in public health to a pain-staking cry for an immediate return to any semblance of normalcy. One "normal" that has remained a constant is the reliable supply of safe, high quality water provided you by the City of Arlington. Like many community water systems, our treatment facilities are regulated much heavier than bottled water, assuring that the virus that causes COVID-19 is not detected in treated drinking water.

If you are a regular resident or an enterprise that has been able to maintain your typical patterns of water use, you can rest assured that the water at your tap is safe for your family's health. However, if you or your business have endured an extended period of reduced water use, or especially non-use of some facilities, be aware that biofilms can develop in your facility's plumbing. These surfaces foster the growth of opportunistic microorganisms beside the corona virus, such as Legionella and mycobacteria. Metal corrosion and scale can also add contaminants to water idle within your plumbing. Chlorine disinfectant can dissipate with nonuse, leaving you vulnerable to pathogens. If you have concerns due to reduced use or non-use, please consult these helpful resources.

To ensure public health protection when re-opening (or ramping up) your facilities to family, employees, customers, and peers, consult guidance designed to develop and implement well thought out procedures.

Examples include:

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html

Washington Department of Health:
https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater

In general, you will want to flush all plumbing pipes and fixtures on your side of the meter, such as sinks, dishwashers, showers, refrigerators, water fountains, ice machines, emergency eye wash stations, and Point-of-Use treatment filters. Consult manufacturer's instructions where necessary.

Remove and clean aerator screens, shower heads, and filters prior to flushing, and re-install when flushing is complete.

Where plumbing is complex or unknown, and where immune-compromised individuals may be present, consider taking a sample to approved laboratory for testing. Snohomish Health District can refer you to regional water quality laboratories.
http://www.snohd.org/186/Water-Testing

Water Use Efficiency Information

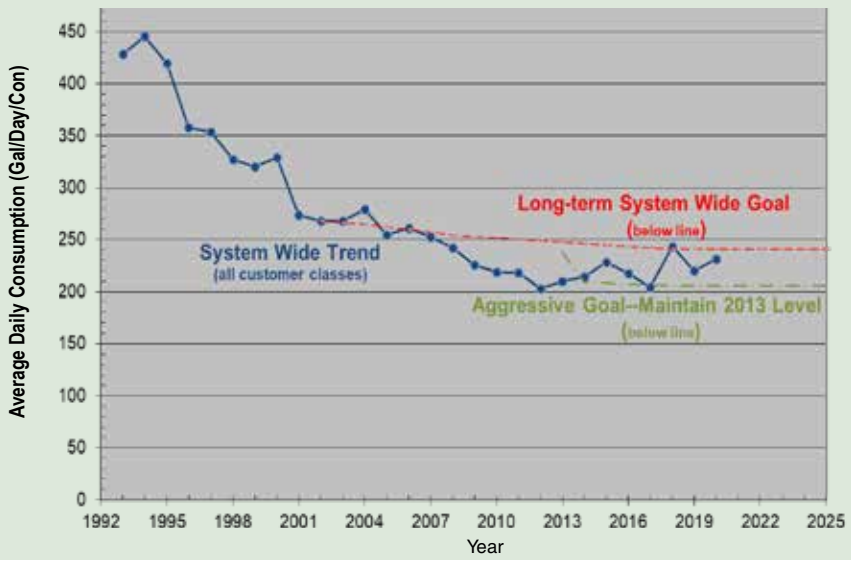
Arlington has made great progress toward Water Use Efficiency (WUE) goals first adopted by the City in 2008, and updated by Council in 2011 and 2016.

2020 Arlington Water Use Statistics

Total water into the system (gallons)	561,944,385
Total authorized, quantified uses (gallons)	484,381,897
Unauthorized and/or unquantified uses and leaks (gallons)	77,612,488
Unauthorized and/or unquantified uses and leaks (percent)	13.8%

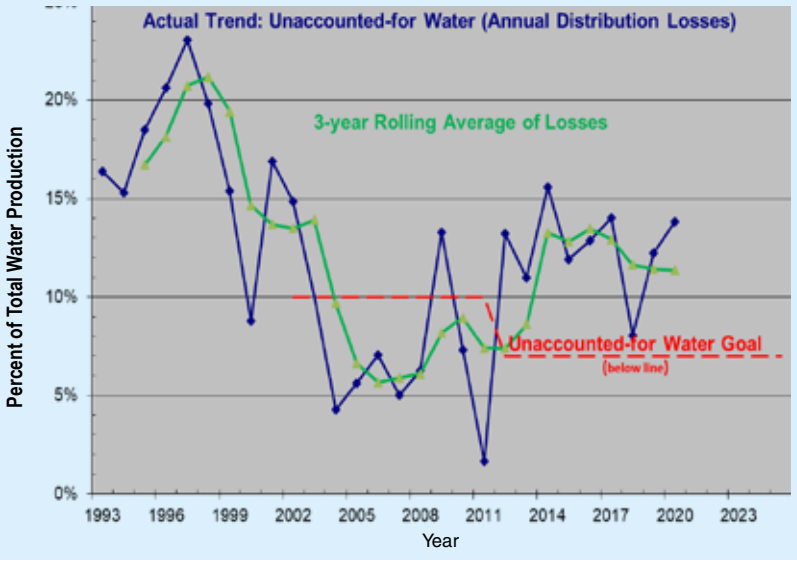
Average Daily Consumption

This goal attempts to maintain gains in efficiency since 2002 at 2013 levels. Since 2014, economic recovery within the commercial/industrial sector has driven a 16% increase in corporate water use. However, since goal setting began with 2002 levels, overall per connection consumption has dropped about 14%. This is because single family residential consumption has dropped nearly 12%. Stay the course! In doing so, we will reduce the demand for water production by more than 122 million gallons by 2025.



Unaccounted-for Water

State law requires that we account for at least 90% of the water we make, but we are holding ourselves to 93%-with unaccounted-for "losses" from our distribution system at less than 7%. After several years of searching for leaks and unknown water use, we located and corrected several leaks over the past few years. Losses returned to 14% in 2020, however. Our 3-year rolling average remained at 11% losses, and above State limits of 10%, and well above the goal we have set for ourselves.



Substances That May Be in Your Drinking Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Health and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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 contaminants does not necessarily indicate that 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 dissolves naturally occurring minerals, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. 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).

Important Health Information

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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Questions and Answers

I don't have any water.

If your water bill has not been paid: call Utility Billing at 360-403-3421.

Otherwise, call Public Works Administration at 360-403-3526. We'll need to know your name, phone number, address, how long have you been without water. A water service specialist will contact you to solve the problem.

I need my water shut off.

If you are stopping service: call Utility Billing at 360-403-3421.

If you are doing repairs: call Public Works Administration at 360-403-3526. We'll need your name, phone number, address and when you want the water shut off. A water service specialist will shut the water off, or call you to arrange a time to do so.

I need my water turned on.

If you are moving in: call Utility Billing at 360-403-3421.

If you are doing repairs: call Public Works Administration at 360-403-3526. We'll need your name, phone number, address, and when you want the water turned on. A water service specialist will turn the water on, or will call you to arrange a time to do so.

I need to report a leak.

Call Public Works Administration at 360-403-3526, or the emergency pager at 360-386-5926. Tell us your name, phone number, and the address of the leak.

If the leak is located:

In the house: you will need to call a plumber, but we will send a water service specialist out to turn the water off if needed.

At the meter box: we will send a water service specialist out to investigate and repair the leak. They will call you with the results.

In the street: we will send a water service specialist out to investigate immediately. Let us know if it is gushing or trickling down the street, gushing up in the air, and/or associated with a hydrant break or construction accident.

Is there fluoride in my water?

Water we produce has low natural concentrations of fluoride, while the water we purchase from the PUD is "fully fluoridated" for dental protection. While primarily distributed in distinct zones, these sources do blend to create a small area of moderate fluoride concentrations. Only services east of SR 9 and south of about 200th Street receive appreciable fluoride. The City's fluoride brochure compares this range of fluoride levels to the dental needs for children promoted by the ADA. Copies are available on-line, at Public Works Administration, or where utility bills are paid at City Hall.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public city council meetings and voice your concerns about your drinking water. Arlington City Council meets the first and third Monday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. at the Council Chambers, 110 E. Third Street, Arlington, WA (enter off of Olympic Avenue near City Hall). For meeting information, call City Hall at (360) 403-3421, or visit our website at www.arlingtonwa.gov.

Pisciculturists, Craft Brewers, Cannabis Cultivators, and Inquiring Minds, Take Note!

Some of our customers take their water quality quite seriously. The pleasure provided by an aquarium full of fish, the satisfaction provided while sipping a home brew, and getting established in Washington's newest industry have prompted many of the calls we get for water quality information. If that's you, you will also want to take note of the information at right. Haller is representative of most of the service area. Customers near to the airport will see a blend of Haller and Airport values.

Parameter (units)	Range Observed by Source	
	Haller	Airport
Alkalinity (mg/L CaCO3)	37 – 54	44 – 85
Chloramines	None	None
Chlorides (mg/L)	5.2 – 6.6	3.5 – 8.4
Electrical conductivity (µS/cm)	98 – 111	192 – 221
pH (s.u.)	7.0 – 7.8	7.1 – 8.1
Sodium (mg/L)	3.8 – 5.3	5.1 – 6.2
Sulfates (mg/L)	4.6 – 6.1	11 – 12.8
Total Hardness (mg/L CaCO3)	28 – 40	81 – 95

City of Arlington
154 W. Cox Avenue
Arlington, WA 98223