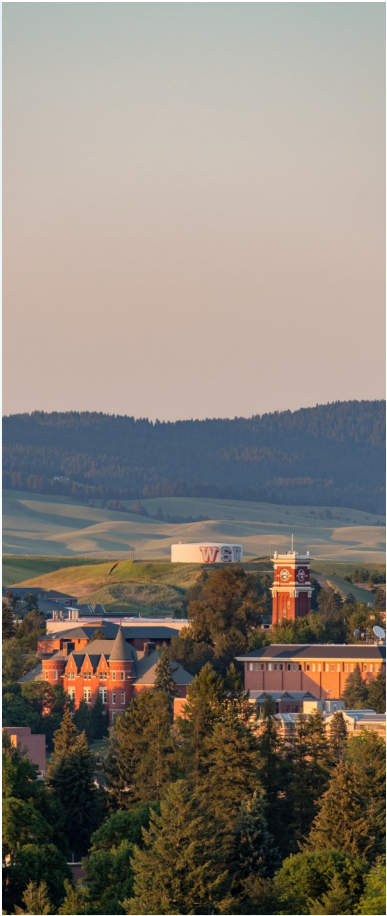
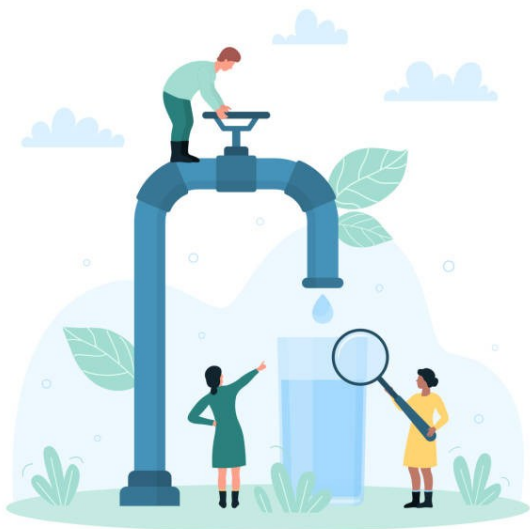


Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

WSU Drinking Water

Washington State University (WSU) is actively involved in protecting the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and visitors by providing quality drinking water at your tap. This report presents the most recent drinking water testing results per contaminant alongside compliance requirements and related information.



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Is my water safe?

YES! Contaminant levels are well within Washington Department of Health guidelines for drinking water!



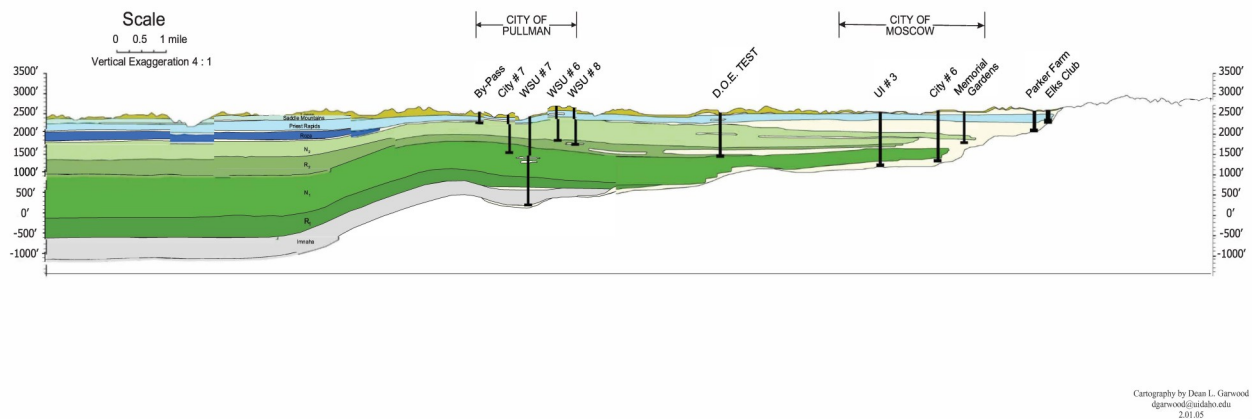
Where Does Your Campus Tap Water Come From?

The WSU drinking water system is supplied by groundwater from the Palouse Basin Aquifer which stretches across Whitman County, WA and Latah County, ID. While drawing from the same aquifer, as seen in the graphic below, the WSU water system is completely separate from the City of Pullman system, except for four emergency interties.

*For more information on our aquifer, check out the [Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee](#).

Geologic Cross Section of the Moscow - Pullman area, Idaho - Washington

Compiled by John H. Bush and Dean L. Garwood, 2005



The Washington Department of Health maintains a Source Water Assessment Program that uses data to rate the potential contamination susceptibility for wells in WA state. Primary factors in rating wells are hydrological sensitivity, system construction, and evaluation of sources for potential contamination.

The Palouse Basin Aquifer is a deep and confined water source with layers of geological filtration that filter potential contamination. In addition, proper well construction and limited pollution sources at WSU contribute to a **low susceptibility rating for each well on the WSU campus.**



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's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791. *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/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 (1-800-426-4791).*

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.

WSU chlorinates its drinking water daily and pulls at least 255 samples every year to ensure quality drinking water at your tap.

Regulated Contaminant Testing Framework

The frequency and number of drinking water samples and tests for contaminants varies each year depending on the source, system size, and previous sample results. Public drinking water systems routinely sample and analyze their water for:

- **Microbial contaminants:** viruses and bacteria (coliforms), may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants:** salts, minerals 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:** may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants:** including SOCs and VOCs, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production. They can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants:** can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Water Quality Data Table

Contaminants with Primary MCLs

Contaminant ¹	Date Sampled	Range of Detections ²	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source	Violation
Barium	4/15/25	88.6	ppb	2000	2000	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Copper	5/3/24 to 8/2/24	ND – 180	ppb	AL = 1300	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	No ³
Lead	5/3/24 to 8/2/24	ND – 8.52	ppb	AL = 15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	No ³
Fluoride	4/15/25	452	ppb	4000	4000	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Gross Alpha	6/9/21	<3± 0.323 to <3 ± 0.348	pCi/l	15	–	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Radium 228	6/22/21	<1± 0.341 to <1 ± 0.345	pCi/l	5	–	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Selenium	4/15/25	ND	ppb	50,000	50,000	Erosion of natural deposits	No

Footnotes:

¹ Only the most recent samples with contaminants found in the water are listed.

² The lowest to highest detected contaminant levels from any well or distribution sample are reported.

³ Thirty (30) samples were analyzed. None of the lead or copper samples were above the Action Level. The 90th percentile sample (out of every 10 samples, 9 were at or below this level) was 4.88 ppb for lead and 127 ppb for copper. This does not trigger treatment, more sampling or other sampling requirements.

Definitions

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of chlorine disinfectant allowed in the drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of chlorine 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.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. The WSU system uses chlorine as the TT intended to reduce the level of microbial contaminants in the drinking water.

Water Quality Data Table

Contaminants with Secondary MCLs

Contaminant	Date Sampled	Range of Detections	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source	Violation
Iron	4/15/25 4/16/25	303-1540	ppb	300	NA	Erosion of natural deposits	Yes ⁴
Manganese	4/15/25 4/16/25	64-128	ppb	50	NA	Erosion of natural deposits	Yes ⁴
Chloride	4/15/25 4/16/25	358	ppb	250	NA	Erosion of natural deposits	Yes ⁴
Sulfate	4/15/25 4/16/25	191	ppb	250	NA	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Zinc	4/15/25 4/16/25	13.6	ppb	5000	NA	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Conductivity	4/15/25 4/16/25	377	um-hos/cm	700	NA	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Total Dissolved Solids	4/15/25 4/16/25	191	ppb	500	NA	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Sodium	4/15/25 4/16/25	25.4	ppm	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits	Yes ⁵

Footnotes:

⁴ Iron, manganese, and chloride are not regulated by the EPA, however, the Washington State Department of Health has established a Secondary MCL for iron and manganese. Secondary MCLs are based on factors other than health effects. For these contaminants, aesthetic quality is the basis for the Secondary MCL. There are no requirements to treat or remove these contaminants from the drinking water.

⁵ The EPA has established a recommended level of 20 ppm for sodium as a level of concern for those consumers that may have daily sodium intake restrictions in their diets.

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⁵ **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. The WSU system uses chlorine as the TT intended to reduce the level of microbial contaminants in the drinking water.

Water Quality Data Table

Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring (UCMR4)

Contaminant	Date Sampled	Range of Detections	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source	Violation
Bromide	7/28/20 8-31-20	~ 25.9 to 36.3	ppb	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits	NA
Germanium	8/31/20	~ 0.12 to 0.13	ppb	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits	NA
Manganese	7/28/20 8/31/20	54.7 to 138	ppb	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits	NA

Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring (UCMR5)

Contaminant	Date Sampled	Range of Detections	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source	Violation
SVOCs / PFAS	4/15/25 4/16/25	ND	ppb	NA	NA	Runoff or leaching from firefighting foam, industrial discharge, and landfills; wastewater treatment plants	NA
Lithium	6-11-24 6-18-24	11.8 – 16.6	ppb	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits	NA

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Water Quality Data Table

Daily Chlorine Residual

Contaminant	Date Sampled	Range of Detections	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source	Violation
Chlorine (Residual)	Daily	0.05-0.14	ppm	4 MRDL	2 MRDLG	Water additive to control microbes	No

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Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. The WSU system uses chlorine as the TT intended to reduce the level of microbial contaminants in the drinking water.

Key

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

MCLG: Maximum contaminant level goal

MRDL: Maximum residual disinfection limit

MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection limit goal

NA: Not applicable

ND: Not detected

pCi/l: picocuries per liter

Ppb: parts per billion (also micrograms per liter ug/l)

Ppm: parts per million (also milligrams per liter mg/l)

Umhos/cm: micromhos per centimeter (a measure of conductivity)

Lead Information and Reducing Exposure

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children. To help reduce potential exposure to lead, for any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Only use 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. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.



Consumers can access WSU's lead service line inventory information online at <https://ehs.wsu.edu/public-health/drinking-water-quality/>.

WSU is active in protecting the health and safety of students, faculty, staff and visitors of the University, and we will notify you immediately if the drinking water is not safe to consume.

Unregulated Contaminants: Thinking About the Future

WSU drinking water comes from groundwater and is not required to sample for *Cryptosporidium* since it is usually found only in surface waters.

UCMR4 and UCMR5 samples are currently unregulated contaminants that the EPA requires some water systems to sample for every 5 years. These contaminants may be present in drinking water but are not currently regulated. Based on what contaminants are found and their concentrations, they may become subject to regulations in the future.



Summary



Washington State University has zero violations for primary contaminant levels in drinking water; it is safe to drink!

Due to erosion of natural deposits, sometimes the well water at WSU does reach secondary aesthetic thresholds that are not ideal but that do not pose health risks. WSU provides filtered drinking water fountains to help address hard water concerns.

Want more information?

The WSU Water Board is responsible for ensuring that the water system conforms to all applicable regulations. If you are interested in attending a Water Board meeting, contact Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) 335-3041 for the next meeting time and date.

This report was prepared by WSU EHS, and is available at <https://ehs.wsu.edu/public-health/drinking-water-quality/>

For more information about the WSU water system, please contact EHS:

Phone: 509-335-5381

Email: aspeargas@wsu.edu

Online: [WSU Environmental Health and Safety](#) .

Additional information is available from EPA at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/>.



PULLMAN