

Consumer Confidence Report 2014



The City of Sunnyside is pleased to present this annual report as required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the State of Washington. We have remained committed to providing clean, safe drinking water to our customers by meeting or exceeding all quality standards. We encourage you to stay informed on the quality of your drinking water by reading this report. **After all, water is life!**

Your Drinking Water Source

The City currently has seven wells in use as well as one standby well which are located throughout the city. These wells are relatively deep and the water we receive from them meets all state and federal standards. Chlorine is used for disinfection. Residual chlorine levels in the distribution system are checked on a daily basis to ensure that the amount of chlorine utilized is effective while remaining at the safe levels determined by the EPA. We also test for several different contaminants each year. In the event that any test exceeded the maximum contaminant levels set by the EPA, the appropriate public notification would be issued immediately.

En Español

Este informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Debe ser traducido por alguien que habla bien Inglés. Si tiene alguna pregunta acerca de este informe puede comunicarse con el Departamento de Obras Públicas en Sunnyside (509) 837-5206 durante las horas normales de oficina.

Water Use Efficiency Program Update

The Water Use Efficiency (WUE) program was designed and implemented by the Washington Department of Health to "help use water efficiently to help meet future needs, operate successfully within financial, managerial and technical constraints, and to continue to deliver safe and reliable water."

In 2014, the City was able to account for nearly 98% of the water we produced. This means only 2% was lost to leaks, theft or other issues within the system (our WUE goal is 10% or less).

We are very pleased to be meeting our WUE goals and will continue to be diligent in identifying and addressing any areas of water waste. The WUE program will not have an impact without the support and help of our customers. Please help us - and the entire community - by using water wisely.

A Reminder About Backflow Prevention



Just a reminder: If you are installing an irrigation system, booster pump, boiler, or any other apparatus on your plumbing system, you are required to install a backflow prevention assembly at your water meter. This assembly is a mechanical unit that is designed to protect the public water supply from contamination by preventing a dangerous reversal of flow ("backflow"). Before installing a backflow prevention assembly, please call our Public Works department at (503) 837-5206 for assistance.

Household Leak Detection: A Way to Save Water & Money

To check for leaks in your home, you first need to determine whether you're wasting water. Then identify the source of the leak.



- Take a look at your water usage during a colder month, such as January or February. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, there are serious leaks.
- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.
- Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl after 15 minutes, you have a leak. (Be sure to flush immediately after the experiment to avoid staining the tank.)
- Examine faucet gaskets and pipe fittings for any water on the outside of the pipe to check for surface leaks.
- Examine the outside and bottom of your water heater. Look for dripping water down the side of the tank or pooling water underneath.
- Soft spots on the lawn, or grass that is greener in some areas, can indicate a leak that is being absorbed by the ground.

Regardless of their complexity, all leaks need to be repaired. Some leak repairs can be as simple as tightening a bolt or replacing a washer. Other leaks will require professional assistance. Unrepaired leaks waste water and money. Fixing your household leaks could save more than 10% on water bills. Survey your entire household at least once a year.



Questions about your drinking water or this report?

Shane Fisher, Sunnyside Public Works Director (509) 837-5206
Washington Department of Health: (509) 456-3115
EPA Website: www.epa.gov/safewater
EPA Hotline: (800) 426-4791



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

Residents with questions or input on water issues may attend City Council meetings on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Law & Justice Center. The agenda is posted at the City website at www.ci.sunnyside.wa.us.

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE FOR 2014



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates the frequency of sampling for various contaminants. The data presented in this table is from testing conducted in 2014. The table may also include any other results within the last five years for analyses that were not required in the year 2014.

CONTAMINANTS (UNITS)	MCL	RANGE LOW - HIGH (OR RESULT)	SAMPLE YEAR	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS					
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids] (ppb)	60	ND	2014	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	80	ND - 7.9	2014	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS					
Arsenic (ppb)	10	2.0 - 7.0	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Iron (ppm)	0.3	ND - 0.3	2013	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	.34 - .5	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese (ppm)	0.05	ND - 0.05	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10.0	ND - 1.82	2013	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - STATE REGULATED					
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	13 - 15.6	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	250	ND - 35	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
COPPER	GOAL	AL	90TH PERCENTILE	<i>Of the 30 samples tested for Copper, none exceeded the AL</i>	
Copper (ppm) Sampled at consumer's tap	1.3	1.3	.087	2013	No Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

What You Should Know About Arsenic

Very low levels of arsenic, which have not exceeded EPA standards, have been detected in the City of Sunnyside's drinking water supply. There is a slight chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic over many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory disease are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. EPA standards balance the current understanding of arsenic's health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water.

Important Health Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least trace amounts of some "contaminants". The presence of these do not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as those undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly people, and all infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency/Centers for Disease Control (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 at (800) 426-4791.

TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS

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

Contaminant: A word used to describe anything detected in the drinking water supply. This term is commonly used in the drinking water industry and should not necessarily invite concern, as all drinking water contains trace amounts of minerals and other substances.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

n/a: not applicable.

ND: Not Detected: Lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present or not detectable with the best available technology.

ppb: Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter.

ppm: Parts per million, or milligrams per liter.

Range: The lowest (minimum) amount of contaminant detected and the highest (maximum) amount detected during a sample period.

90th percentile: Out of the 30 homes sampled, 27 were at or below this level.

The Effect of Lead in Drinking Water



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 City of Sunnyside 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.

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 (800) 426-4791 or on their website www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.