

# Consumer Confidence Report

2022

The City of Sunnyside is pleased to present our annual Consumer Confidence Report. This report contains important information about our drinking water quality and keeps our customers up to date on what is happening with the Water Division. We have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. We encourage you to stay informed about your drinking water by reading this report.

**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.

## Drinking Water Source & Treatment

The City currently has seven Wells in use, in addition to one standby Well, located all 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.

## 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 persons 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/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.

## Conserve Water With Xeriscaping

The term **xeriscape** refers to landscaping methods that conserve water, such as using native plant species and grouping plants with the same water needs together. Originally developed for drought-afflicted areas, the principles of xeriscape today have broadening appeal. This "common sense" technique can reduce landscape water use by 75%! With water now considered an expensive and limited resource, all landscaping projects can benefit from this simple alternative.

Xeriscapes do not have a single look - almost any landscaping style can be achieved. Because native plant species are used, xeriscapes not only save water, they are also easier to maintain, use less fertilizers or pesticides, and provide crucial wildlife habitats. Check the internet or your local book store for landscape design ideas, recommended native plant species and helpful tips. You'll be on your way to saving water in no time!

## Water is a Limited and Valuable Resource

The State of Washington has taken a progressive approach to managing our drinking water resources. City of Sunnyside personnel strive daily to meet or exceed all standards. However, our work will not have an impact without the conservation efforts of our water customers.

When you practice conservation, not only do you enjoy immediately lower water bills, there is also a considerable savings to the City in terms of chemicals, electricity, wear and tear on equipment... which results in fewer rate increases over time! In addition, when we commit to practicing conservation, we help avoid water shortages and ensure adequate supplies for future generations.

Water is a limited and valuable resource. Please help us manage water wisely by practicing conservation every day, indoors and out. For simple conservation tips and tools, go to [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).

# 2022 WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates the frequency of sampling for various contaminants. The data presented in this table is from testing conducted in 2022. The table may also include any other results within the last five years for analyses that were not required in the year 2022.

Contaminants (units)	MCLG	MCL	Range Low-High or Result	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	<0.5 - 2.14	Apr. - Aug. 2022	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	6.2	Sept 2022	No*	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
<b>Radiological Contaminants</b>						
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	0	15	0.235	Apr. 2022	No	Naturally occurring radioactive elements emit alpha particles as they decay.
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	0	50*	5.17	Apr. 2022	No	Naturally occurring radioactive elements emit beta particles as they decay.
<b>Lead and Copper</b>						
	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile			
Lead (ppb) 30 samples	0	15	0.0019	Aug. 2022	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm) 30 samples	1.3	1.3	0.0821	Aug. 2022	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

\* The state reporting limit is 4 mrem/year

## 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](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



### 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 commonly-used term 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.

**pCi/L:** Picocuries 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.



### A Note 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. To exceed the MCL of 10ppb it is the average of 4 consecutive quarters. 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.

### Ongoing System Update

Sunnyside water district is focused on maintaining its water system on a daily basis, providing new water services to new construction and being a steward of its pristine water supply.

In an effort to improve the system’s efficiency and reliability, we are working on switching from Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). AMI will allow two-way, real-time communication between our software and customer meters. This will result in improved billing services, customer service and resource conservation.

If you have questions  
about this report or your  
drinking water, call:

Shane Fisher,  
Sunnyside Public Works Director

509-837-5206

Washington Department of Health

509-456-3115

EPA Hotline

800-426-4791



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 on the City website at [www.sunnyside-wa.gov](http://www.sunnyside-wa.gov).

### GET INVOLVED

#### Water Use Efficiency 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.” Our goal within the WUE program is to be able to account for 90% of the water we produce. In 2021, we were able to account for 98.4% of the water we produced! We will continue to be diligent in identifying and addressing any areas of water waste and ask you to do the same. Thank you for helping to make our WUE program a success!

#### Cross Connection and Backflow Reminder

One of the measures the City of Sunnyside takes to ensure the safety of your drinking water is the implementation of a Cross Connection Control Program. This program is designed to prevent used water or other substances from returning back into the water supply. Connections between the drinking water piping and any plumbing fixture, equipment or device through which it may be possible for used water or other substances to enter back into the water supply are called **cross connections**. Certain hydraulic conditions can cause water to flow in the opposite of its intended direction; this is called **backflow**.

Some examples of cross connections are lawn irrigation systems and fertilizer spray attachments, but even a garden hose used to fill a hot tub is a potentially dangerous cross connection. These cross connections require mechanical units, called **backflow prevention assemblies**, to be installed to prevent water from flowing backwards.

As a water customer, you are responsible to maintain your own plumbing system according to the plumbing code and other state regulations. Plumbing permits are required when working on a plumbing system, and this includes the installation of a backflow prevention assembly. Obtaining the proper permits minimizes your liability in the event of a backflow incident. The permit process ensures that work done on a plumbing system is carried out in a safe, correct manner. This protects you, your loved ones, and your community.

**If you have any questions** about our Cross Connection Control Program, please do not hesitate to contact us.