



This report contains important information about your drinking water. Results are from testing in 2021.



Water Quality Report

Drinking Water Quality Report

Water Quality Recap

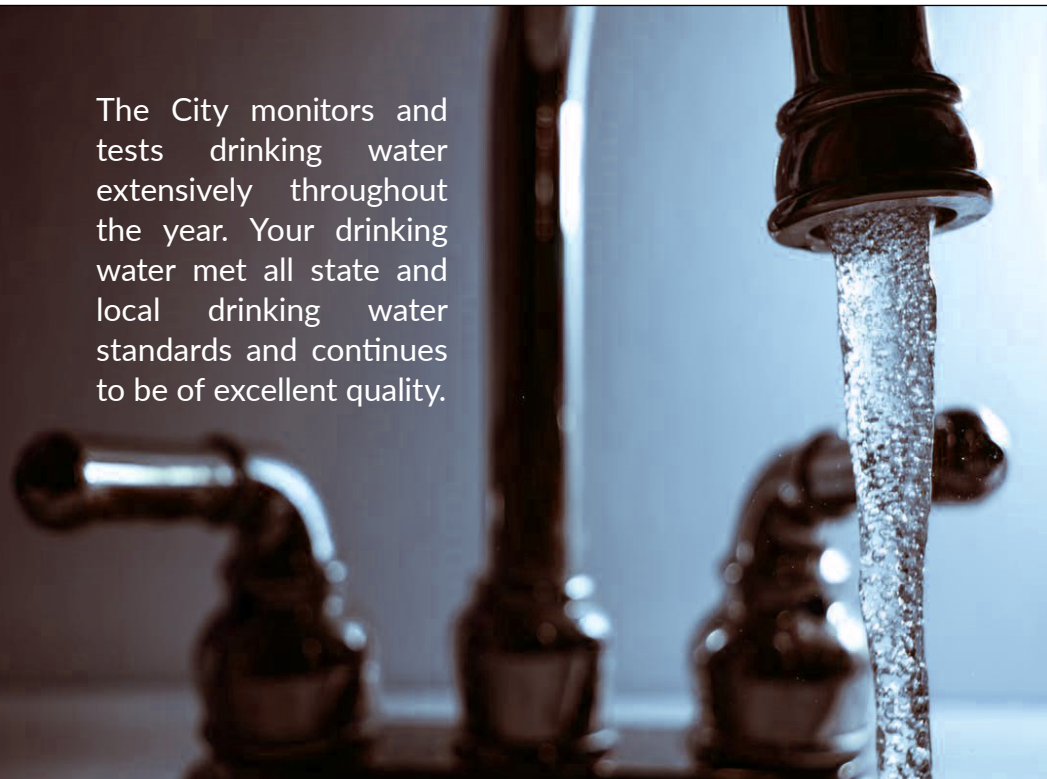
One of the City's essential services is providing clean drinking water. We know that safe drinking water is important to you and your family, and we are happy to report your drinking water exceeded all state and federal standards again in 2021!

We conduct year-round water quality monitoring across our drinking water system. Samples are collected from water pipes, wells, and in our customers' homes. Your water continues to be clean, safe, and reliable year after year.

You can view your complete 2021 Water Quality Report Table online by visiting www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/WaterQualityReport or by scanning the QR code with your mobile phone.

Want a print copy of the table? No problem!

Contact the Water Resources & Sustainability Department to request a print copy of the 2021 Drinking Water Quality Report.



The City monitors and tests drinking water extensively throughout the year. Your drinking water met all state and local drinking water standards and continues to be of excellent quality.

Lead and Copper Rule

Every three years, the City of Tumwater is required by the Washington Department of Health to collect water samples from customers' water taps for lead and copper testing. The City water system was last sampled in 2019, while our satellite system, Lakeland Manor, was sampled in 2021.

Lead and copper occur naturally in our groundwater at very low levels. When water enters your home's plumbing system it may pick up a small amount of lead and copper from pipes and fixtures. The primary source of lead and copper in drinking water in homes built before 1987 is household plumbing and include the following:

- Copper pipe with lead solder
- Lead service lines
- Faucets
- Galvanized pipes

Our drinking water systems are at low risk for high lead and copper levels, but testing regularly is one way we make sure we're still providing the best quality water to our customers.

Get to Know the Water You Drink!

We are seeking households that receive water from the City to volunteer to participate in our sampling campaign for 2022. This is a great opportunity to learn about the lead and copper that may be in your drinking water.

We provide you with everything you need:

- Sample bottles dropped off and picked up at your home
- Easy to understand instructions
- Follow-up on laboratory results

The process includes two simple steps:

- Fill sample bottles with water from your tap
- Place those bottles out by your front door for City workers to collect



To be a part of this year's testing, visit www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/LeadandCopper to fill out the Sampling Testing Form, email WaterResources@ci.tumwater.wa.us, or call (360) 754-4140.



Water Utility

Your Drinking Water

Your drinking water comes from thirteen groundwater wells located at the Bush, Palermo, and Port wellfields. The water pulled from these wells comes from the Vashon Aquifer. This aquifer is made of layers of sediment composed of sand, gravel, and clay. The sediments act as a sponge, holding water that soaks into the ground from above and creates high-quality water that needs little treatment.

To protect your health and improve water quality, your drinking water is disinfected using chlorine. Chlorine destroys bacteria, parasites, and viruses. Air is also pumped into the water in a process called aeration at City treatment facilities. These processes remove organic compounds and raise pH levels to make the water less corrosive to pipes and reduce the number of minerals, metals, and other substances that can be dissolved naturally in the water.

The City uses sensors to monitor your water 24/7 to make sure there is enough water for everyone. Our water operators take water quality samples every day to ensure the water remains clean and safe.



Protecting Our Water

All of our drinking water comes from right beneath our feet. Our groundwater can easily become dirty if harmful materials soak through the soil and end up in our aquifers. Places that use, store, or dispose of hazardous materials all have a chance to pollute our water.

The good news is the City Wellhead Protection Program works hard to keep our water clean and safe by working closely with businesses and homeowners. One way we do this is through our computer-modeled Wellhead Protection Areas. A wellhead protection area is the surface and subsurface area surrounding a well of a water system. These maps help show us how long it will take a spill to reach drinking water. By mapping these areas and working closely with the community we help to ensure that we have clean and safe water for years to come!

For more information on our Wellhead Protection Program, contact the Water Resources & Sustainability Department.

Tumwater's Drinking Water System

BY THE NUMBERS



13
groundwater wells



1.2 billion
gallons of water produced in 2020



179
miles of distribution pipe



1,856
fire hydrants



9,522
water meters



12,640
customers served

Don't Let Your Pooch Pollute

"Bag it and trash it" is the only safe way to dispose of your dog's poop, which is raw sewage. Did you know, dog sewage:

- Contains bacteria and parasites that make people sick, including your family.
- Can stay in your yard for months, even in the rainy Pacific Northwest.
- Pollutes our water and can cause beach and shellfish harvesting closures.
- Should never be put in your compost bin!

The City can help make picking up after your pet even easier!

Stop by City Hall and pick up a free bag dispenser for your dog leash and ask about how to get a free neighborhood pet waste station.

"I have the best owner! They always pick up after me."

- Fido, Tumwater Resident





Sanitary Sewer

The Secret of Sewer Backups

Occasionally, sewer lines in Tumwater get blocked by debris and force sewer to flow above ground, usually through utility hole covers. These events are better known as Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs). SSOs are rare, typically affect a small area, and if caught early can be cleaned up easily.

City Operations crews respond to incidents year round to help keep your neighborhood and the environment safe. While these incidents don't occur frequently, when they do it creates a hazard to human and environmental health. The good news is you can help by following these easy tips!

Block the FOG to prevent a clog!

Fats, oils, and grease (FOGs) are common while cooking, but they should not be washed down your sink. FOGs may be liquid when they head down the sink and then harden in your pipes.

This can cause dangerous and expensive backups. The best thing to do is pour FOGs into an empty can and place it in the trash.



When in doubt, throw it out!

A big cause of SSOs are things that shouldn't be flushed down the toilet. The most common items our crews find are wipes, paper towels, rags, feminine hygiene products, and diapers. Even items labeled as "flushable" aren't really as they don't break down like toilet paper in our pipes.



A good rule of thumb is if it doesn't come from your body and isn't toilet paper, then it should be thrown out, not flushed.

24-hour Spill Hotline

If you see or smell something you may think is sewage call our 24/7 Spill Hotline at (360) 754-4150. The quicker we are able to find and stop these SSOs, the better. When in doubt, let us know and we'll be happy to check it out!

Together we can help to prevent SSOs and keep our community and the environment healthy and safe.

Switching to Sewer

If properly cared for, a septic system can provide years of reliable low-cost service. However, faulty systems can create headaches for owners and put water quality at risk. Small problems can add up to big issues, especially in urban areas where septic systems are located close together. Sewer systems on the other hand are designed to safely and efficiently collect and deliver wastewater to the LOTT Clean Water Alliance for treatment. Switching from septic to sewer can be costly, but the good news is both LOTT and the City are offering 50% discounts on connection fees for converting to sewer! Funds are limited, apply now.

Interested in learning more? Visit www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/SepticToSewer to learn more or contact us directly today.

Stormwater



Understanding UICs

Underground Injection Control (UICs) is a fancy name for a type of stormwater facility that works to infiltrate stormwater after it has been treated. The goal of UICs is to reduce flooding by allowing treated runoff to flow into the ground naturally under the force of gravity. All of these facilities have to follow strict engineering specifications to ensure that the runoff is being treated properly before entering the UIC so groundwater and Tumwater's source of drinking water stays protected. Most UICs require annual inspections and maintenance to make sure they work properly, just like any other stormwater facility.



Drywells for downspouts, french drains, and drainfield are UICs and range in size and shape. Properly managed UIC wells are an effective and safe way to reduce localized flooding and recharge groundwater.

An Inside Look

This spring as part of our annual Tumwater University program, our Operations crews gave us an inside look at their average day. Learn about the work our crews are doing every day to make sure our customers have clean water coming to their homes, have wastewater safely leaving their pipes and heading to LOTT, and reducing local flooding.



Watch on the City YouTube Channel.

Save Water, Save Money

The City offers rebates and incentives to help you save time and money!

- Free Outdoor Water Savings Kits
- Free Indoor Water Savings Kits
- Energy Star Washing Machine Rebates
- High-Efficiency Toilet Rebates
- Rain Barrel Rebates
- Weather-Based Irrigation System Rebates

www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/RebatesandIncentives

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ECRWSS
Postal Customer

Contact Us

Water Resources & Sustainability | (360) 754-4140
WaterResources@ci.tumwater.wa.us

Utility Billing | (360) 754-4133

Water Resources Operations | (360) 754-4150

EPA Water Quality Hotline | 1 (800) 426-4791

Report a Spill 24-hour Hotline | (360) 754-4150

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