

# KEEPING YOUR WATER SAFE

In order 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.

SPU has completed treatment improvements that should further reduce the corrosiveness of the water to your plumbing materials. These improvements include an ozone treatment facility for the Cedar River supply. With these improvements, the water is expected to meet the anticipated future Action Levels.

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has determined that SPU's water sources have low vulnerability to contamination. SPU currently treats your drinking water by chlorine disinfection, fluoridation, and pH adjustment.

## GETTING INVOLVED

The District welcomes comments and input regarding the water system. The District's Board of Commissioners meet the first, second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 10 a.m. For meeting information or scheduled agenda items, please contact the District office. Staff members are available during regular business hours to answer any questions you may have about your water service or system.

**Water is an amazing and limited resource.  
Please use it wisely.**

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Listed below are the elected officials who represent King County Water District No. 125:

Jerry Thornton Sr., President of the Board  
John Thompson, Commissioner  
Jim Rick, Secretary

### Rebates May Be Available

**Single family residential customers:** High-efficiency clothes washers, automatic irrigation system upgrades and WaterSense toilet.

**Multifamily:** Toilet rebates, coin-op laundry and irrigation systems

**Businesses:** Commercial toilets and urinals, irrigation systems

Go to [savingwater.org](http://savingwater.org) for more information.

## WAYS YOU CAN CONSERVE WATER

- Fix leaky faucets right away.
- Check your toilet for leaks annually.
- Run the clothes washer and dishwasher with full loads.
- Keep showers to a reasonable time.
- Wash your vehicle at a commercial car wash.
- Minimize overspray of sprinklers onto paved surfaces.
- Use a broom to sweep outdoors instead of a hose.
- Mulch your garden beds to retain moisture longer.

**We use less water today than we have since the early 1960's even though our population has grown by more than 60 percent.**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you would like additional information regarding this publication or other aspects of your drinking water system, the following resources are available for assistance:

### King County Water District No. 125

(206) 242-9547  
[www.waterdistrict125.com](http://www.waterdistrict125.com)

**Washington State Department of Health**  
(360) 236-3100

**Washington State Department of Ecology**  
(425) 649-7000

**Washington State Office of Drinking Water**  
(253) 395-6750

**Environmental protection Agency (EPA)  
Safe Drinking Water Hotline**

(800) 426-4791  
[www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/)

**Seattle Public Utilities – Customer Service**  
(206) 684-3000

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Quality**  
(206) 615-0827

**City of SeaTac**  
(206) 973-4800

**City of Tukwila**  
(206) 433-0179

**City of Burien**  
(206) 248-5521

## WATER QUALITY

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 in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. 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).

Contaminants that may be present in the source water before it is treated include:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, parasites, and bacteria, which may come from wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

**Pesticides or herbicides**, which may come from a variety of agricultural, urban stormwater runoff, or residential uses.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Additional water quality results for unregulated contaminants are available upon request. Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulations are warranted.

Detected Parameter	Units	EPA Allowable Limits		Cedar Supply		Tolt Supply		Typical Sources
		MCLG	MCL	Average	Range	Average	Range	
<b>RAW WATER</b>								
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	NA	TT	0.9	0.4 to 1.9	1.3	1.1 to 1.7	Naturally present in the environment
Cryptosporidium	#/100L	NA	NA	ND	ND	ND	ND	Naturally present in the environment
<b>FINISHED WATER</b>								
Turbidity	NTU	NA	TT	0.4	0.2 to 1.6	0.07	0.05 to 0.28	Soil Runoff
Fluoride	ppm	4.0	4.0	0.8	0.7 to .8	.8	0.7 to .9	Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Barium	ppb	2000	2000	1.4	one sample	1.2	one sample	Erosion of natural deposits
Bromate	ppb	0	10	ND	ND	0.2	ND to 1.5	By-product of disinfection
Nitrate	Ppm	10	10	0.02	one sample	0.11	one sample	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform	%	0	5%	ND				Naturally present in the environment
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG=4	MRDLG=4	1.01	.4 to 1.48			Water additive used to control microbes
Disinfection By-Products (Measured in King County Water District No. 125 Distribution System)								
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	NA	80	33	22.6 to 40.0			By-products of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids(5)	Ppb	NA	60	35	25.3 to 43.1			
Analyzed		Analyte				ug/L	MRL	
11/19/2014		Chromium				0.42	0.20	
11/24/2014		Hexavalent Chromium (Dissolved)				0.16	0.03	
11/19/2014		Strontium				36.0	0.30	
11/19/2014		Vanadium				0.74	0.20	

## WATER QUALITY DEFINITIONS

**Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 or 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 or MRDL** – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants (e.g., chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide).

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG** – 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.

**Treatment Technique or TT** – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit or NTU** – Turbidity is a measure of how clear the water looks. The turbidity MCL that applied to the Cedar supply in 2007 was 0.6 NTU, and for the Tolt supply it was 0.05 NTU. 100% of the samples from the Tolt in 2007 were below 0.3 NTU.

**NA** – Not Applicable.

**ND** – Not Detected at or above minimum reporting level.

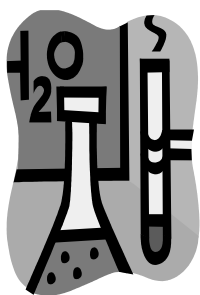
**ppm (1 part per million)** – For water samples, 1 part per million (ppm) = 1 mg/L = 1 milligram per liter.

**ppb (1 part per billion)** – For water samples, 1 part per billion (ppb) = 1 mg/L = 1 microgram per liter.

**1 ppm = 1000 ppb**

**CDC**—Centers for Disease Control

## LEAD AND COPPER



**The regional water supply does not contain lead or copper.** 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. Water District #125 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### 2014 LEAD AND COPPER REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM RESULTS

Parameter	Units	MCLG	Action Level <sup>+</sup>	2013 Results*	Number of Homes Exceeding Action Level	Typical Sources
Lead	ppb	0	15	3.6	0 of 52	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3	.096	0 of 52	

<sup>+</sup> – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.  
<sup>\*</sup> – 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile: i.e., 90 percent of the samples were less than the values shown.

## CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

*Cryptosporidium* is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the US. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause *cryptosporidiosis*, an abdominal infection. Source water monitoring in 2014 detected *Cryptosporidium* in zero of the three samples collected from the Cedar supply and one of four samples for the Tolt supply. These levels are very low compared to typical rivers and streams throughout the country, and are mitigated through the treatment process.

## HEALTH CONCERNS

The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for thirty seconds to two minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

## WATER USE EFFICIENCY AND LEAKAGE



On June 26, 2013, the Board of Commissioners of Water District No. 125 officially adopted a Goal for Water Use Efficiency (WUE) as required by the Municipal Water Law (MWL) enacted in 2003. WD 125's adopted goal is the same as the regional goal set by the District's water supplier, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). The goal states:

The six year Regional Conservation Goal to reduce per capita water use from current levels so that total average annual retail water use of members of the Saving Water Partnership is less than 105 mgd from 2013 through 2018 despite forecasted population growth, together with the District's internal six year Water Use Efficiency Goal to reduce customer water consumption by 2% over the six year period from 2013 through 2018. This goal was met using 93.8 mgd.

WD 125 is required to implement or evaluate six WUE measures to help meet the adopted regional goal. As a member of SPU's Saving Water Partnership, WD 125's customers are eligible to participate in more than ten conservation measures for all of its customer types. More information about the conservation efforts and measures that are currently being administered by SPU is located at [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org).

In addition to the Goal and Efficiency Program required under the MWL, WD 125 is also required to collect seasonal water consumption data for the various types of customers they serve, and ensure all source and service connections are fully metered. All water sources and service connections in WD 125 currently have meters. This allows the District to easily track and record their Distribution System Leakage. The District purchased 444,379,000 gallons in 2014 and the system leakage was 3.5% or 15,553,000 gallons of their total water purchases. System Leakage, defined as the amount of water lost due to leaks, water main breaks, or illegal connections, is an unavoidable phenomenon for water systems.