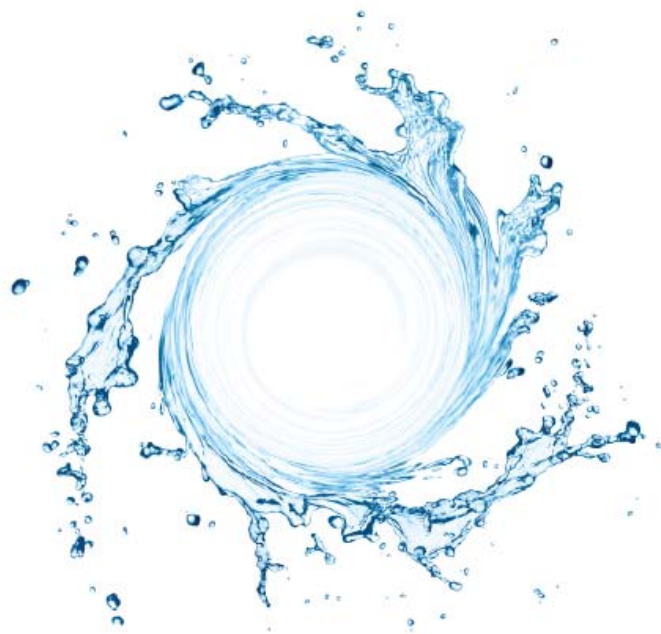


Thurston County
Public Works Department
2404 A1 Heritage Ct. SW
Olympia, WA 98502



Every Drop Counts! 6 Tips for Saving Water Outdoors

- 1. Mulch! Mulch! Mulch!** Two to four inches of organic material such as compost or bark will help the soil around your trees, shrubs and flowers retain moisture.
- 2. Whoosh!** Avoid watering on windy days.
- 3. Step on it!** Does your lawn need water? If it springs back after you step on it, it doesn't need water. If it lays flat, it's thirsty. Taller grass (about three inches high) helps the soil retain water.
- 4. Brown is beautiful!** What happens if you stop watering your lawn during a dry spell? Most likely it will go brown. But that's not the end of the world or your lawn. It's lying dormant and when cooler weather returns, rainfall and morning dew will bring your lawn back to its green self. Not everyone can put up with a brown summer lawn for a couple of months, but if you can, you'll save lots of water.
- 5. Charlie the Tuna to the rescue!** Put an empty tuna can on your lawn. When it's full, you've watered the right amount. It's better to water the lawn long enough for moisture to soak down to the roots. A light sprinkling can evaporate quickly and encourages shallow root systems.
- 6. Be a leak seeker!** It's a lot easier to ignore leaks outside the house, but they're just as wasteful as leaks in the kitchen or bathroom. Check faucets and connections frequently and use hose washers to fix them right away.

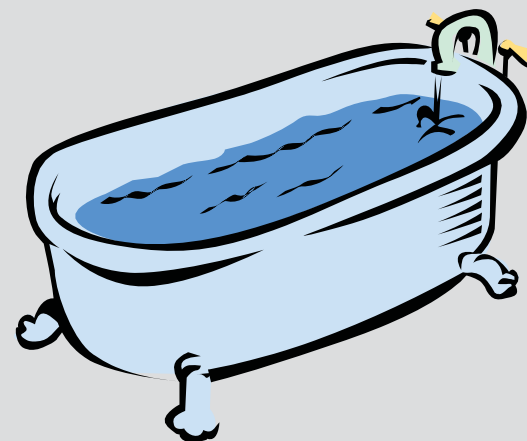
Indoor Drought Busters! 10 Tips to Conserve Your Water

Despite moderate to heavy rainfall this spring, the Northwest faces a serious threat of drought this summer and fall due to low snowpacks. As reported in the National Drought Mitigation Center's spring newsletter, "The Pacific Northwest and the Rocky Mountains are expected to see drought expand and intensify through the next several months."

Here are 10 simple actions you can take to conserve one of our most precious resources.

1. Wash full loads of laundry and dishes. You'll save time, energy and water—as much as 2,000 gallons a year.
2. Waiting for the shower to get hot? Collect the water while you wait. Use it to water plants or rinse vegetables.
3. When washing dishes by hand, turn the water off. Use one sink for washing and a second for rinsing.
4. Boiling eggs, steaming vegetables? Reuse the water. Plants love the nutrients in water used to steam broccoli, asparagus and other vegetables.
5. Don't pre-rinse dishes. Newer dishwashers don't require it.
6. Replace older faucet nozzles or aerators with new ones rated at two gallons per minute or less. Cost: a few dollars.
7. Turn the water off while shaving and brushing your teeth.
8. Got a pre-1994 toilet? Replace it and save up to 10,500 gallons of water and between \$50 and \$125 a year!
9. Install a water-saving showerhead that uses less than 2.5 gallons per minute. You'll save water and energy.
10. Time your showers for a week; then see if you can cut a minute off each shower.

Data courtesy of www.savingwater.org



It's Your Water!

**Thurston County
Water Quality Report
Boston Harbor 2010**
#07850R



If you are a Boston Harbor property manager, please pass this on to your tenant or guest. Thank you!

Dear Water Customer,

Thurston County is pleased to present this annual water quality report for the Boston Harbor water system. This report provides detailed results from drinking water tests taken in 2009 and compares the results to federal and state standards.

Thurston County distributes monitoring results every year in accordance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and mandates by the Washington State Department of Health. Test results from 2010 will be reported in 2011.

We are proud to report that your water meets or exceeds all standards set for quality and safety. If you have questions about this report or your water utility, please call me at 754-2930 or e-mail petriema@co.thurston.wa.us.

Sincerely,

Mark Petrie

Supply and Treatment

The Boston Harbor water source consists of two wells, located approximately 150 feet apart adjacent to the water reservoir site off Zangle Road. The wells are 540 feet deep and drilled into the Tqu Aquifer. The state Department of Health requires the Boston Harbor water system and many other water systems across Washington to use chlorine to disinfect drinking water.



Summary of Results

State and federal laws set strict limits on the level of contaminants allowed in public water systems. We are proud to report your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements. Although trace levels of nitrate, copper and lead were detected in 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that your water is SAFE at these levels.

Water Quality Table

Much of the data in this report comes from tests taken January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. Some information is older because certain contaminants are not tested every year.

The tables list only compounds that were detected. If you are interested in the compounds that were monitored but not detected, please call Mark Petrie, utility operations manager, at 754-2930.

Inorganic contaminants (2009 data)					
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Allowed Level (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) Well Field #508	N	<1.0 mg/l avg. over 1 sample period	10 mg/l	10 mg/l	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Copper and lead (2008 data)					
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Allowed Level (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	N	.016 mg/l	AL=1.3 mg/l	1.3 mg/l	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead	N	< .002 mg/l	AL=.015 mg/l	0 mg/l	Corrosion of household plumbing
Disinfection byproducts (2008 data)					
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Allowed Level (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Likely Source of Contamination
Trihalomethanes	N	39.9 ug/l	80 ug/l	n/a	Disinfection byproduct
Haloacetic acids	N	14.3 ug/l	60 ug/l	n/a	Disinfection byproduct

Definitions

Maximum contaminant level: The "maximum allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of experiencing the described health effect.

Maximum contaminant level goal: The "goal" (MCLG) is 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.

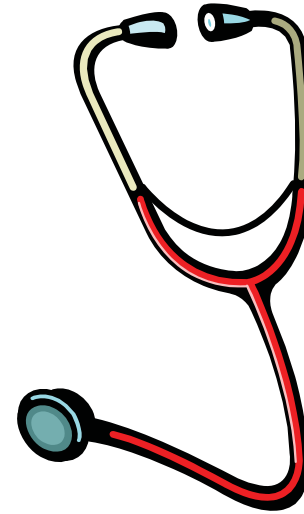
Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l): One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Micrograms per liter (ugl): Micrograms per liter are equivalent to parts per billion (ppb). One part per billion corresponds to one second in 32 years.

Action level (AL): The "action level" (AL) refers to the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.



Drinking Water and Your Health



All 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 the water poses a health risk. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people, however, 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 of 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 microbiological contaminants are also available from the EPA hotline.

How to Reach Us

If you have questions about this report or your water utility, please call Mark Petrie, utility operations manager, at 754-2930 or Denise Velthuysen, accounting assistant, at 709-3077. E-mail addresses are petriema@co.thurston.wa.us and velthud@co.thurston.wa.us. Information is also available at: www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm.

Landlords, businesses and schools are encouraged to share this report with nonbilled water users.



Para nuestros clientes hispanohablantes: Este informe resume los resultados de los análisis hechos al agua potable durante el 2009. Los resultados demostraron que su agua potable cumplió con todas las normas de seguridad estatales y federales. En cumplimiento con los requisitos en materia de informes, los resultados para 2010 serán enviados por correo en 2011.

What We Look For in Your Water

- ◆ **Inorganic contaminants**, which are non-carbon based compounds such as metals, nitrates and asbestos. These contaminants are naturally occurring in some water, but can get into water through farming, chemical manufacturing, and other human activities. Nitrates are tested every year; however, most other inorganic contaminants are tested every four years according to a mandated timetable.
- ◆ **Copper and lead** can leach into residential water from building plumbing that contains copper, lead-based solder, brass fixtures, or some types of zinc coatings used on galvanized pipes and fittings. Test results are summarized on page 2.
- ◆ **Microbiological contaminants** include viruses and bacteria. These contaminants may come from wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife. In 2009, 29 samples were taken for microbiological contaminants. Two of the samples were positive. Repeat samples were taken with no detections of microbiological contaminants.
- ◆ **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. No organic chemicals were detected in 2008, the last year tests were conducted.
- ◆ **Radionuclides** are radioactive compounds that can occur naturally or result from oil and gas production. The Boston Harbor water system is tested for Radium 228. The latest test results from 2009 show no detections.
- ◆ **Disinfection byproducts** form when chlorine or other disinfectants used to treat drinking water react with naturally occurring materials in the water. The Boston Harbor water system samples for disinfection byproducts in locations throughout the water distribution system. See page 2 for test results.

In 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency used the Boston Harbor water system to evaluate testing methods. All results of the agency's tests showed contaminants at levels less than the minimum reporting requirements as set by federal standards. Details on EPA results are available by calling Thurston County at 754-2930 or contacting the county at: www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm

