



AS A CLARK PUBLIC UTILITIES WATER CUSTOMER

Your water exceeds the highest standards set for drinking water quality. It comes delivered to your home at a fraction of the cost of bottled water. Four gallons of water from your tap cost just a penny, while a single gallon of bottled water from the store can cost upward of \$1.50. And by using tap water, you're saving money and not filling up landfills with plastic bottles!

This annual report provides details about the water you drink every day as one of our 41,000 Clark Public Utilities water customers. The bottom line: **The quality of your water is excellent.**

Clark Public Utilities is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. In 2023, one routine coliform monitoring sample was positive for total coliform. All required follow up samples were satisfactory and one positive sample does not necessarily represent a public health threat.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborn pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems that were found during the assessments.

Please contact us at [360-992-8022](tel:360-992-8022) or at mailbox@clarkpud.com if you have questions about any of the information in this water quality report. You also may contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

WATERSHED RESTORATION

Our water utility supports one of the strongest watershed restoration and enhancement efforts in the state. We sponsor and participate in many projects to improve and protect our water quality, restore streams, enhance fish populations and educate children and adults alike about habitat and watershed stewardship.



Since 1992, our StreamTeam volunteers have planted more than one million trees to restore over 500 acres of land along 19 miles of stream length.



WATER USE EFFICIENCY PLAN

As part of municipal water law and in the spirit of conservation and stewardship, Clark Public Utilities implemented a water use efficiency plan in 2008. As part of that plan, the following conservation goals were set:

- **Supply-side water conservation goal** — Reduce annual leakage from the water distribution system to 8.5%.
- **Demand-side water conservation goal** — Reduce average residential annual water consumption by a minimum of 1%.

In 2023, we accounted for all known water uses in each of the three water systems addressed in this report to determine water leakage amounts for each. On our Regional Water System, last year's water leakage was calculated at 7.5%. The Yacolt Water System water loss was recorded at 10% and the Amboy Water System water loss is 14%.

We continue to improve our operational water usage with improved tracking of water main flushing, water treatment and source water equipment calibrations and upgrades. Communicating with local fire departments also helps us account for water they use. We make every effort to minimize leakage on all water systems to ensure water supplies are used efficiently.

Many improvements were made to help account for water we produce and deliver. In 2023, we replaced 4,647 water meters with new technology that measures water flow more accurately with the ability to read automatically.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Conservation efforts help maintain a reliable, low-cost water supply that benefits current and future residents. Conservation also saves you money, especially in the summer months when water use is higher.

OUTDOOR CONSERVATION

- Water your lawn in the early morning or evening.
- Use a hose with a shut-off nozzle when watering plants or washing your car.
- Place a two- to four-inch layer of mulch around plants and trees to reduce evaporation.
- Install a trickle or drip irrigation system for a slow, steady supply of water to the plant roots.
- Incorporate drought resistant plants into your landscape that require less water.

INDOOR CONSERVATION

- Run your dishwasher only when it's full.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Fix leaky faucets immediately.
- Take shorter showers and use less water in your bath.
- Check toilets for leaks.
- Install water-efficient toilets, faucets and shower heads.



A MESSAGE ABOUT WATER QUALITY

As water travels over land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and may pick up substances resulting from human activity or the presence of animals. Substances that may be present in source water include: biological contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemicals from industrial or petroleum use; and natural or man-made radioactive materials.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants, but **their presence 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).

All stream water and other surface water should be considered not safe for drinking unless it's properly treated. Children are most likely to drink from surface water and need to be made aware of this health risk by a guardian.

WATER QUALITY SUMMARY Clark Public Utilities' Regional Water System

Substance (measuring unit)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Range of Level Detected	MCLG	Typical source of Contaminant
REGULATED AT THE WELL				
Copper (ppm)	1.3 (AL)	ND – 0.022	1.3	Naturally occurring mineral
Fluoride (ppm)	4	ND – 0.23	4	Naturally occurring mineral
Nitrate (ppm)	10	ND – 2.7	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leakage from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	5	0-1.4	0	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Arsenic (ppb)	10	ND – 4	0	Naturally occurring mineral
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	ND – 1.19	0	Erosion of geological deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	5	ND – 0.88	0	Erosion of geological deposits
REGULATED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM				
Trihalomethane (ppb)		0 -14	N/A	Chlorination byproducts
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)		ND –4.1	N/A	Chlorination byproducts
Trihalomethane Highest quarterly LRAA (ppb)*	80	12.6	N/A	
Haloacetic Acids Highest quarterly LRAA (ppb)*	60	2.9	N/A	
Total Coliform Bacteria	5 positive samples/month	1 positive sample	0	Naturally present in the environment
REGULATED AT THE CONSUMERS' TAP				
Lead (ppb) 2022 90th percentile	15 (AL)	<1.0 – 4.7 2.0	2 <small>residence exceeded AL of 15 ppb</small>	Household plumbing
Copper (ppm) 2022 90th percentile 55 residences sampled	1.3 (AL)	<0.02 – 0.51 0.25		Household plumbing
UNREGULATED AT THE WELL				
Manganese (ppb)	not established	ND - 33	N/A	Naturally occurring mineral
Sulfate (ppb)	not established	ND - 5.7	N/A	Naturally occurring mineral
Chloride (ppm)	not established	ND - 53	N/A	Naturally occurring mineral
ADDITIONAL SUBSTANCES OF CUSTOMER INTEREST				
Sodium (ppm)	not regulated	Average 9.2	NA	Occurs naturally in soils
Calcium (ppm)	not regulated	Average 20	NA	Occurs naturally in soils
Magnesium (ppm)	not regulated	Average 8.7	NA	Occurs naturally in soils
Hardness (ppm)	not regulated	Average 82	NA	Occurs naturally in soils

* Localized Running Annual Average is the average for the last 4 quarterly sampling events.

WATER QUALITY EXCEEDS HIGHEST STANDARDS

Water is perhaps Clark County's most valuable natural and economic resource. Our health and the quality of our environment depend on access to clean water.

Your Clark Public Utilities water supply meets or exceeds all state and federal requirements for quality, and our top priority is to maintain an excellent level of quality in the water you drink. Our ongoing efforts to provide you with a healthy water supply include:

- Regularly testing all of our wells and distribution system — we do this more frequently than required by the Washington State Department of Health. Last year, we tested 2,560 bacteriological samples, and we were only required to test 1,248.
- Checking water quality weekly at key locations throughout our distribution system.
- Testing for heavy metals, bacteria, organic compounds and other contaminants. Both the state health department and independent laboratories conduct these tests.
- Routinely inspecting our above-ground water storage reservoirs.

We keep our water as pure as possible, adding only a trace of chlorine necessary to ensure the water delivered to your home is free of harmful bacteria. We don't add any other chemicals, such as fluoride to the water you drink.

Since virtually all water used in Clark County is well water, keeping contaminants out of surface water is critical, because those contaminants can eventually make their way into the groundwater that supplies area wells. Here are some easy things you can do to help prevent groundwater pollution:

- Don't dump motor oil, paint or other toxic materials into storm drains.
- Avoid or limit the use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers.
- Don't dump yard debris or grass clippings into ravines, ditches or streams.

WATER QUALITY SUMMARY Clark Public Utilities' Amboy Water System

The Amboy supply well draws water from a highly productive aquifer that lies beneath Chelatchie Prairie. The water system was constructed and put into service in 1994 as a result of efforts by residents, business owners, Fire District 10 and the Amboy School. A 120,000-gallon storage reservoir provides fire flow capacity.

Substance (measuring unit)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Range of Level Detected	MCLG	Description & Origin of Substance
REGULATED AT THE WELL				
Nitrate (ppm)	10	0.83 - 0.93	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leakage from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
REGULATED AT THE CONSUMERS' TAP				
Lead (ppb) 2021 90th percentile	15 (AL)	ND - 2.9 1.9	0	Household plumbing
Copper (ppm) 2021 90th percentile 10 Residential samples	1.3 (AL)	ND - 0.26 0.18	1.3	Household plumbing
ADDITIONAL SUBSTANCES OF CUSTOMER INTEREST				
Sodium (ppm)	not regulated	8.3	NA	Occurs naturally in soils
Calcium (ppm)	not regulated	14	NA	Occurs naturally in soils
Hardness (ppm)	not regulated	49	NA	Occurs naturally in soils

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers additional treatment measures by the public water system.

Parts Per Billion (ppb) – Unit of measurement. One part per billion is comparable to one penny out of \$10,000,000.

Parts Per Million (ppm) – Unit of measurement. Equivalent to milligrams per liter. One part per million is comparable to one penny out of \$10,000.

Picocuries Per Liter (pCi/L) – Unit of measurement for radioactivity.

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

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there are no known or expected risks to health.

NA – Not applicable **ND** – Not detected

State Action Level (SAL) – The concentration of a contaminant without an MCL in drinking water established to protect public health and which, if exceeded, triggers activities a water system must take.

* Localized Running Annual Average is the average for the last 4 quarterly sampling events.

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. Clark Public Utilities 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 two 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>.

WATER UTILITY SERVICES

The Clark Public Utilities water services team works to provide you with excellent service. Our office is located at 8600 NE 117th Avenue in Orchards, and you can visit us there from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays, or contact us by phone at 360-992-8022. For after-hours emergencies, you can call the utility's general customer service number at 360-992-3000.

In addition to providing your water service, our staff can:

- Provide technical assistance on water quality testing with local laboratories contact information.
- Provide information on home water treatment units, backflow protection devices and many other water-related items.
- Offer advice and suggestions for finding leaks in your water system.
- Provide information on backflow assembly installation and testing for lawn irrigation systems. Without a backflow assembly, your irrigation system could endanger the health of a household, neighborhood or community. Call us at 360-992-8589.

SPECIAL INFORMATION:

To help reduce potential exposure to lead in any drinking water tap that has not been used for six hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. Some people 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 from 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* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

WATER QUALITY SUMMARY Clark Public Utilities' Yacolt Water System

The town of Yacolt water system merged with Clark Public Utilities in November 2000. Our water sources are Well No. 403 and Well No. 407. The town has a wellhead protection plan available through Clark Public Utilities that provides more information about our water sources. These wells draw water from a shallow aquifer that occurs 25 to 95 feet below the ground's surface. Corrosion Control Treatment Technique Violation notifications were distributed quarterly until treatment processes were completed and on line November of 2023. We continue to collect water sampling data to validate new treatment processes. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Substance (measuring unit)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Range of Level Detected	MCLG	Description & Origin of Substance
REGULATED AT THE WELL				
Nitrate (ppm)	10	2.8-3.5	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leakage from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
PFOA (ppt)		2.5 - 2.6		
PFOA LRAA (ppt)*	10 (SAL)	2.6	N/A	Runoff or leaching from firefighting foam, industrial discharge, and landfills; wastewater treatment
PFOS (ppt)		4.0 - 4.7		
PFOS LRAA (ppt)*	15 (SAL)	4.4	N/A	
PFBS (ppt)		0 - 4		
PFBS LRAA (ppt)*	345 (SAL)	3.4	N/A	
REGULATED AT THE CONSUMERS' TAP				
Lead (ppb) 2023 90th percentile	15 (AL)	<1 - 6.0 2.8	0	Household plumbing
Copper (ppm) 2023 90th percentile 11 Residential samples	1.3 (AL)	<0.02 - 3.1 1.6	1.3 <small>4 sites exceeded AL</small>	Household plumbing
ADDITIONAL SUBSTANCES OF CUSTOMER INTEREST				
Sodium (ppm)	not regulated	6.5	NA	Occurs naturally in soils
Calcium (ppm)	not regulated	11.9	NA	Occurs naturally in soils
Hardness (ppm)	not regulated	39	NA	Occurs naturally in soils
Alkalinity (ppm)	not regulated	74	NA	Occurs naturally in soils

* Localized Running Annual Average is the average for the last 4 quarterly sampling events.

Some people who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over many years may have increased health risks such as cardiovascular, immune, and liver effects, as well as increased incidence of certain types of cancers including liver cancer. In addition, there may be increased risks of developmental and immune effects for people who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL following repeated exposure during pregnancy and/or childhood.

FAST FACTS ABOUT YOUR WATER UTILITY

- **History**

Utility formed in 1950; one of the 10 largest water utilities in the state

- **Customers**

41,000 homes and businesses

- **Service area**

220 square miles, including most unincorporated parts of Clark County, the city of La Center and the town of Yacolt

- **Distribution lines**

883 miles

- **Gallons per day per residential connection**

253 gallons

- **Monthly rates**

The utility's board of commissioners adopted a block rate structure effective January 1, 2008, and again on February 1, 2012, to encourage water conservation

Block 1: \$1.85 per 100 cubic feet up to 1,800 cubic feet of consumption

Block 2: \$2.40 per 100 cubic feet for 1,801 to 3,600 cubic feet of consumption

Block 3: \$2.95 per 100 cubic feet for more than 3,600 cubic feet of consumption

The rates and consumption levels shown are based on a standard $\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{3}{4}$ meter. Residential and commercial rate block volumes vary based on meter size (100 cubic feet = 748 gallons).





CLARK PUBLIC UTILITIES' WATER SERVICE AREA AND WATER SUPPLY WELLS

Clark Public Utilities gets its water from 35 groundwater wells. Four aquifers are the source of water for these wells: Recent Alluvial Aquifer, Troutdale Aquifer, the deep Sand and Gravel Aquifer and fractured basalt formations.

Note to customers in Yacolt and Amboy: Your water comes from different sources than those listed on this map.

LEGEND

 Water supply wells

 Areas not served by Clark Public Utilities' water services