

2017 Annual Drinking Water Report PWS#933568

Your drinking water is brought to your home by **Spokane County Water District #3**. SCWD#3 operates 8 independent water systems in Spokane County and is dedicated to making sure that every drop of water delivered to your tap is clean and safe for your family. Water District Board Meetings are held weekly on Tuesday mornings at 9:00am.

Spokane County Water District #3
1225 N. Yardley Street
Spokane, WA 99212-7001

Making sure that communication flow freely between the district and customers is very important to us. Keep yourself, and us, in the know and up to date with these tips:

- 1) If you haven't done so already, sign up to be notified whenever local emergencies arise. Visit www.ALERTSPOKANE.org to learn more and sign up.
- 2) Keep meter boxes free of large vegetation to allow our readers better access leading to accurate reads every time.
- 3) Be sure to obtain a permit before using a fire hydrant for any use.

Your water is provided by **wells that pump water from underground sources** in and around your community. The water is recharged by precipitation in the area. These wells are closely monitored and maintained. The water is naturally filtered by the surface vegetation and the soils. However, natural systems can only do so much so we must all treat the groundwater with care to keep our drinking water clean for everyone to enjoy.

As water travels over land surfaces or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material. Water can also pick up substances resulting from human activity or the presence of animals. Contaminants that may be present in water include: disinfectants and disinfection by-products, microbes; organic chemicals; inorganic chemicals; synthetic chemicals; radioactive contaminants; and pesticides and herbicides. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, Washington State and the USEPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

Spokane County Water District #3 wants you to know that they are committed to you and your family's health by delivering safe clean drinking water everyday. SCWD#3 strives to be a **good steward** of the aquifer and your water system. Year round water quality monitoring, replacing aging or leaking pipes and pumps, and planning for growth are just some of the responsibilities of the District. SCWD#3 also works to make sure we are **using water efficiently**. We set water use efficiency goals for our system in 2008, updated them in 2015, and report our progress annually.

SYSTEM LEAKAGE BELOW 10% BY 2020

The District did not meet the goal in 2017, however great progress has been made. Through aggressive leak detection, the District reduced its system leakage from 16.4% to 11.6%, a savings of nearly 2.5 million gallons! SCWD#3 will continue its aggressive approach to meet 10% system leakage. Production meters are read weekly and consumption meters are read 8 months per year. The information is used not only for billing, but reviewed for system loss and demands which helps the District make informed decisions.

CONSERVATION ORIENTED RATE STRUCTURE

SCWD#3 adjusted the second tier of the "inclining" rate structure in 2008 to provide an incentive for customers to reduce their water usage.

Remember, the best way to help with this goal is reducing your irrigation usage. Saving water not only helps the aquifer and river, it saves energy needed to pump the water and it saves you money on your bills! Here are some easy tips to get you started:

- 1) Only use sprinklers in the cool hours of the morning and evening.
- 2) Install moisture sensors to make sure you are only watering when the plants need it.
- 3) Plant Native Plants and Drought Tolerant Species that need less water.

SOURCE WATER TESTING (sample taken at the well)

CONTAMINANT	UNITS	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST DETECTION	POSSIBLE SOURCE
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	4.12	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	pCi/L	0	15	3.61	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Radium 228	pCi/L	0	5	0.118	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Synthetic Organic Chemicals (2016)	ppb	Varies by Chemical	Varies by Chemical	ND	Varies By Chemical
Volatile Organic Chemicals (2016)	ppb	Varies by Chemical	Varies by Chemical	ND	Varies By Chemical

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TESTING (sample taken at the tap)

CONTAMINANT	UNITS	MCLG	AL	90th PERCENTILE	POSSIBLE SOURCE
Lead (2015)	ppb	0	15	ND	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Copper (2015)	ppb	1300	1300	180	

CONTAMINANT	UNITS	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST DETECTION	POSSIBLE SOURCE
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	0	80	ND	By-product of Chlorination
HaloAcetic Acids	ppb	0	60	ND	By-product of Chlorination
E.coli Bacteria		0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also E. coli positive	ND	Human and Animal Fecal Waste

ABBREVIATIONS:

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

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level - The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

ND - Not Detected

NA - Not Applicable

pCi/L - Pico Curies per Liter - a unit of radioactivity

90th Percentile - 90% of at risk homes had this concentration or less of lead/copper.

ppb - parts per billion or micrograms per liter. About 1 drop in one of the largest tanker trucks used to haul gasoline would represent 1 ppb.

ppm - parts per million or milligrams per liter. About 4 drops in a 55 gallon barrel would represent 1 ppm.

In order to ensure that your water is **clean and safe**, we test for contaminants all year long. **We are proud to report that your water meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations.** While some contaminants were found in the water, the Environmental Protection Agency has determined that your water is safe at these levels for you and your family. Keep in mind that the presence of contaminants doesn't mean the water is unsafe. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. A person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect. Health related standards are set by the Washington State Department of Health

Your Annual Water Quality Report

This report is provided to all of our customers. It describes your drinking water quality for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2017. Spokane County Water District #3 is committed to supplying safe water that meets or exceeds state and federal standards and achieves the highest standards of customer satisfaction.

If other people, such as tenants, residents, patients, students, or employees, receive water from you, it is important that you provide this notice to them by posting it in a conspicuous location or by direct hand or mail delivery.

ENGLISH

SPANISH

RUSSIAN

VIETNAMESE

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

В этом сообщении содержится важная информация о воде, которую вы пьёте. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести для вас это сообщение или поговорите с человеком, который понимает его содержание.



Tài liệu này có tin tức quan trọng về nước uống của quý vị. Hãy nhờ người dịch cho quý vị, hoặc hỏi người nào hiểu tài liệu này.

Special Notice

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. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Contaminants in Drinking Water

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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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.

Lead

In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children. To help reduce potential exposure to lead: for any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

You Can Help Keep the Water Clean

- Buy the least toxic material available for your project and take any household hazardous waste to the Waste to Energy Transfer Stations. For more tips on going Toxic Free visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxicfreetips/>
- Dispose of all chemicals properly. Take household hazardous waste to transfer stations. For help or information call: Spokane County Solid Waste Management (509) 625-6800.
- Don't pour anything on the ground that you wouldn't want to drink.
- Follow the directions on the label for proper use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.
- Safely store all unused chemicals.
- Keep lawn chemicals off of streets, driveways and sidewalks so they don't get washed into storm drains or streams.
- Set lawn mowers to leave grass 2"-3" tall. This will keep the roots shaded so your grass needs less water.
- Fix auto fluid leaks right away
- To reduce herbicides, use mulch or fabric covers to prevent weeds.
- Do not use chemicals near open water such as streams or rivers.



RADON Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is common in the Spokane area. Exposure to excessive amounts of radon may increase cancer risk. Your drinking water, in most cases is a very small source of radon in indoor air. For local assistance concerning radon in your home, contact the Spokane County Health District at (509) 324-1560 ext. 5