

Your drinking water is brought to your home by:

Spokane County Water District #3

SCWD#3 operates 7 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 Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and public attendance is welcome.

Spokane County Water District #3
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Purpose: This report is provided to all of our customers. It describes your drinking water quality for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. Your water utility is committed to supplying safe water that meets or surpasses State and Federal Standards and achieves the highest standards of customer service.

Water Source: Your drinking 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 contaminants resulting from human activity or the presence of animals. That's why it is important to store and dispose of all chemicals properly, fix auto fluid leaks right away, try to reduce herbicide usage by using mulch or fabric covers to prevent weeds. Remember, don't pour anything on the ground that you wouldn't want to drink.

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 Environment Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

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.

Water Quality: To ensure that your water is **clean and safe**, we test for contaminants all year long. 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. **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. See table on page 3 for your most recent water sampling results.

Important Note: Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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 providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants or for more information about contaminants and potential health effects call the **Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.**

ENGLISH

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

RUSSIAN

Этот отчет содержит важную информацию о вашей питьевой воде. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести это для вас или поговорите с кем-то, кто понимает это.

SPANISH

Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca por usted o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

VIETNAMESE

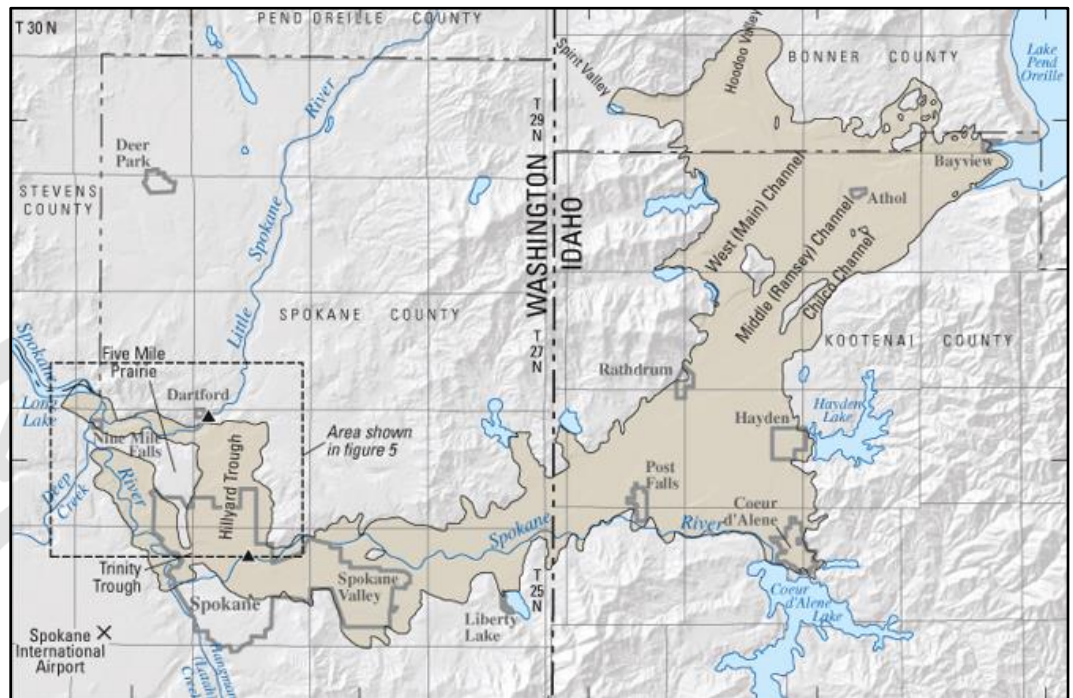
Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Có ai đó dịch nó cho bạn, hoặc nói chuyện với ai đó hiểu nó.

SPOKANE VALLEY RATHDRUM PRAIRIE AQUIFER

Conservation Tips for

Outdoor Watering: Avoid watering lawns in the heat of the day to reduce water lost to evaporation. The best time to water is before 9:00 am or after 6:00 pm. Avoid watering on windy days as wind can distort sprinkler patterns and cause uneven coverage. Also be sure to shut off your sprinklers while it's raining.

For information regarding ways to save water, visit our online website at scwd3.org, follow us on Twitter, visit spokanewateringnerds.org/tips-to-save-water or search "water conservation tips" in your web browser.



Water Use Efficiency: In addition to monitoring the quality of the water, SCWD#3 also works to make sure we are **using water efficiently**. The District set new water use efficiency goals in 2021 (found below) and report our progress annually.

DEMAND SIDE GOAL: Reduce Residential Usage by 1/2 GPD/ERU Each Year

The District's goal in 2023 was to reduce residential water use to 676 gallons per day per equivalent residential unit (GPD/ERU). Currently it's at 736.5 GPD/ERU, so we were unable to meet our goal this year. This is an increase of 4,300,000 gallons for the year. The District will continue to run a rate structure that promotes water conservation, follow up with customers who have leak alarms on their water meters, and provide customer education for water saving practices in hope to reach our goal in 2024.

SUPPLY SIDE GOAL: Reduce the District's Average Distribution System Leakage Below 9.5% for the Next 6 Years

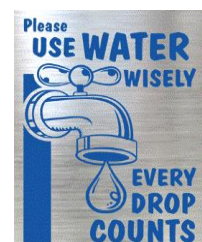
Our average is currently 2.7%, so we were able to meet our goal. Annually, the District sets aside a budget specifically for leak detection services and equipment. We will continue to be aggressive with early leak detection and repairs to maintain our goal for years to come.

Free Online Bill Pay: SCWD#3 switched online bill pay providers to **xpress BILL PAY**. This change is designed to make online bill pay easier and best of all **it's free!**

xpress BILL PAY is a secure online bill payment system that offers 24-7 access to your utility account to make payments with credit cards, debit cards, or electronic funds transfers. If you have multiple accounts, **xpress BILL PAY** gives customers the ability to manage all their service provider billing accounts from a single login. **Auto Pay** allows customers to set up automatic payments and not worry about them again. A complete history of payment confirmations, online transactions, and **Water Consumption History** are also provided. Email reminder alerts are sent to customers when bills arrive, when they're due, and when they're paid. Visit the website at www.xpressbillpay.com and sign up today! Or download the mobile app!



From Your Local Water Utility
Spokane County Water District #3
<https://scwd3.org>



SOURCE WATER TESTING (sample taken at the well)

CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE YEAR	UNITS	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST DETECTION	POSSIBLE SOURCE
Nitrate	2023	ppm	10	10	5.62	Runoff from Fertilizer Use; Leaching from Septic Tanks, Sewage; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Arsenic	2019	ppb	0	10	2.6	Erosion of Natural Deposits; Runoff from Orchards; Runoff from Glass and Electronics Production Wastes
Gross Alpha	2020	pCi/L	n/a	15	ND	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Radium 228	2020	pCi/L	n/a	5	ND	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	2016	ppb + ppt	Varies by chemical	Varies by chemical	ND	Varies by Chemical
Volatile Organic Chemicals	2022	ppb	Varies by chemical	Varies by chemical	ND	Varies by Chemical

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TESTING (sample taken at the tap)

CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE YEAR	UNITS	MCLG	AL	90 TH PERCENTILE	POSSIBLE SOURCE
Lead	2022	ppb	0	15	0.9	Corrosion of the Household Plumbing Systems; Erosion of Natural Deposits; Leaching from Wood Preservatives.
Copper	2022	ppb	1300	1300	205	
CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE YEAR	UNITS	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST DETECTION	POSSIBLE SOURCE
Total Trihalomethanes	2023	ppb	0	80	1.3	By-product of Chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	2023	ppb	0	60	ND	By-product of Chlorination
E.coli Bacteria	2023		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

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

LEAD: 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. Spokane County Water District #3 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791** or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

NITRATE in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

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.

Ppm – Parts per million or milligrams per liter. About 4 drops in a 55-gallon barrel or 1 second out of 12 days would represent 1 ppm.

Ppb – Parts per billion or micrograms per liter. About 1 drop of water in a swimming pool or 1 second out of 32 years would represent 1 ppb.

Ppt – Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter. About 1 drop in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools or 1 second out of 31,710 years would represent 1 ppt.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Colbert Tank Recoating: In 2022, the District hired a contractor to recoat the exterior of our 50,000 gallon, 40-foot tall water tank. This project consisted of a high-pressure wash preparation, spot sanding and epoxy priming all pitted and rusted areas, and application of a corrosion resistant paint over the entire outside surface, ladder, and hatches. These improvements are intended to improve the longevity of the tank and reduce the need for replacement. Total cost was \$40,750.

Electrical Upgrades: Other recent improvements include updating the electrical to 3-phase power to our pumphouse. We also installed a transfer switch and purchased a tow-behind 230,000-watt diesel generator. This generator is capable of producing enough electricity to power all of the internal components within the pumphouse, including the well and booster pumps, to keep residents in water in the event an extended power outage occurs. We chose a portable unit to allow staff to travel to multiple areas during outages to fill tanks rather than install a fixed unit at each of our wellsites. Last, we installed a new booster pump inside the pumphouse as the old one was showing signs of nearing the end of its useful life. Each of these improvements are intended to increase the reliability of this system to limit water outages.



Fresh Paint on the 50,000 Gallon Reservoir



New 230 kVA Tow-Behind Generators

Hydrant Lock Program: The District started to implement additional security measures to protect the public water system by adding locks on our fire hydrants. We have been working with surrounding fire departments to offer a solution that ensures the hydrants are still readily available in an emergency while also restricting unapproved access. In 2023, we installed locks on over 140 fire hydrants which is part of a 5-year project to secure every fire hydrant in our water system. If you see someone operating a fire hydrant without a permit or have concerns about someone connected to one, please call our office at [509-536-0121](tel:509-536-0121) and report the problem.

Future Improvements:

PROJECT	PURPOSE	TOTAL COST	YEAR
Replace Remaining Booster Pump, Add Pressure Transducer for Pump Control	Pump Efficiency/ Depreciation	\$100,000	2025
Replace 6" Steel Main in Hillcrest with 8" (1,600 LF)	WUE/Depreciation /Fire Flow	\$380,000	2037
Replace 6" Steel Main in Palomino with 8" (2,100 LF)	WUE/Depreciation /Fire Flow	\$420,000	2037



Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
Local Water Utilities United for Safe Drinking Water

