

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
General Manager: Kelly Williquette
1225 N. Yardley Street Spokane, WA 99212-7001
(509) 536-0121 <https://SCWD3.org>

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, 2024. 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 comes from the **Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer** (see map, page 2). This pristine and abundant aquifer lies in two states, holds ten trillion gallons of water, and is the sole source of drinking water for almost half a million people in the region. This groundwater source is recharged by the local precipitation and the snowpack in northern Idaho and western Montana. It is naturally filtered by surface vegetation and the layers of gravel above the water line. The aquifer travels through northern Idaho and into Washington where it discharges into the Spokane River and the Little Spokane River.

The SVRP aquifer is unique because of its vast size, swift flow of water, porous soils and the fact that the land over the aquifer is extensively developed. These factors make our aquifer uniquely susceptible to contamination. We must all treat the aquifer with care to keep our drinking water clean for everyone to enjoy. In the past one hundred years aquifer levels have remained constant, however scientific models have shown us that even though the aquifer is plentiful it is not limited. Careful planning will be required in the coming years to ensure that this aquifer remains clean and available for our community. Preserving our water sources for the future is a priority for SCWD#3.

To find out more about how you can be an active partner in our efforts visit: www.spokaneaquifer.org/education-awareness

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.

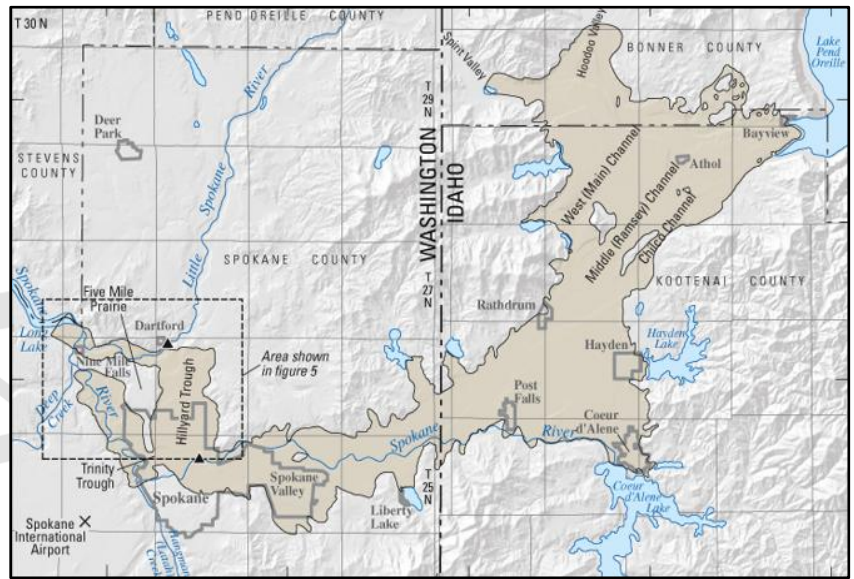
WATER CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY



Water Conservation

Rebate Program: In our efforts to promote water conservation and protection of

the area's natural resources, we recently adopted a rebate program for the purchase of smart irrigation controllers for customers with in-ground irrigation systems. The rebate offers a credit on customer accounts, up to \$100.00, for the proof of purchase and use of **"EPA WaterSense"** labeled controllers within our water district. For more information or ways to apply or terms and conditions, visit our website at <https://scwd3.org/conservation-rebate-program/> or contact our office for a copy of the rebate application.



Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer

For other information regarding ways to save water, visit our website at scwd3.org, follow us on Twitter, visit outdoorwateringnerds.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 2024 was to reduce residential water use to 603.5 gallons per day per equivalent residential unit (GPD/ERU) which we successfully met. The District will continue to run a rate structure that promotes water conservation and provide customer education on water saving practices. We now read and bill water meter consumption 12 months out of the year which allows customers to monitor their water usage more often. Additionally, online bill pay customers are given historical usage graphs on their water bills to compare to prior month and previous year consumption. By giving our customers more options to monitor usage, it allows them to cut back on water usage, or detect leaks earlier, which has been a large contributing factor in meeting this goal.

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

The District's 3-year average is currently 12.0% so we were unable to meet our goal this year. However, in 2024 we were able to locate and repair 11 leaking water mains and 10 leaking service lines, which was a savings of over 108 million gallons for the year. We will continue to be aggressive with our leak detection program, paired with timely repairs. We also have several capital improvement projects scheduled over the next 5 years to replace depreciated infrastructure in the area to hopefully reach our goal in the future.

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	2024	ppm	10	10	2.72	Runoff from Fertilizer Use; Leaching from Septic Tanks, Sewage; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Arsenic	2022	ppb	0	10	6.7	Erosion of Natural Deposits; Runoff from Orchards; Runoff from Glass and Electronics Production Wastes
Barium	2021	ppm	2	2	0.04	Discharge of Drilling Wastes; Discharge from Metal Refineries; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Gross Alpha	2020	pCi/L	n/a	15	ND	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Radium 228	2020	pCi/L	n/a	5	0.97	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	2024	ppb + ppt	Varies by chemical	Varies by chemical	ND	Varies by Chemical
Volatile Organic Chemicals	2021	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	2023	ppb	0	15	1.6	Corrosion of the Household Plumbing Systems; Erosion of Natural Deposits; Leaching from Wood Preservatives.
Copper	2023	ppb	1300	1300	94.5	
CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE YEAR	UNITS	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST DETECTION	POSSIBLE SOURCE
Total Trihalomethanes	2024	ppb	0	80	3.44	By-product of Chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	2024	ppb	0	60	1.01	By-product of Chlorination
E.coli Bacteria	2024		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>

ARSENIC: While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

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 (COMPLETED IN 2024)

Broadway Transmission Main Project: Last summer we teamed up with the City of Spokane Valley to install 810 feet of 24" transmission main while the City was doing stormwater improvements on Broadway, east of I-90. By utilizing the City's contractor onsite, we were able to minimize project costs by sharing asphalt replacement, splitting traffic control, and reducing mobilization costs. This project was a small portion of a 3-mile-long transmission main improvement to move water back and forth between our wells and water tower in the system. This will increase fire flow and reliability in the neighborhood during high demand periods such as irrigation season or during a fire event. The District's portion of the project completed in 2024 was \$442,950. Total cost of improvements over the next 8 years are expected to be \$13,160,000.

Ponderosa Tank Recoating: The District hired a contractor to recoat the exterior of our 1 million gallon, 24-foot tall, 85-foot diameter reservoir in the Ponderosa neighborhood. This project consisted of high pressure washing the exterior, spot sanding and epoxy priming all pitted and rusted areas and applying 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 project cost was \$174,600.



Ponderosa Tank Before and After Recoating



Crews Delivering and Installing a Fixed Place Generator at Horizon Hills Booster Station to Serve the Painted Hills Area

Emergency Power Generation Improvements: In 2023, Avista Utilities informed water purveyors of their intention to execute pre-emptive power grid shutdowns during high wind events to lower their wildfire risk from downed trees on powerlines. To mitigate this, the District has set aside an annual budget for the purchase of backup power generators to continue producing water during power outage events. When we first started this project, our primary focus was to fill critical reservoirs using our tow-behind generator units, allowing us to move locations based on what area was affected by the power outage. Since then, we've added permanent units at several remote locations or where 24-hour power supply is required in boosted pressure zones. To date we've purchased 3 portable (tow-behind) generators, 3 fixed place generators and installed 8 automatic transfer switches at various well sites and booster stations. Total investment so far is \$612,700.

Hydrant Locking 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. So far, we've locked over 300 fire hydrants, which is part of a 5-year plan 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** and report the problem.



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



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.