2025 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER REPORT PWS#93351N (System #1)

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, 2025. 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. Electronic copies can be found on our website at https://SCWD3.org/ccrs. Paper copies are available at our main office or can be mailed to you upon request.

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: The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Summary: 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

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

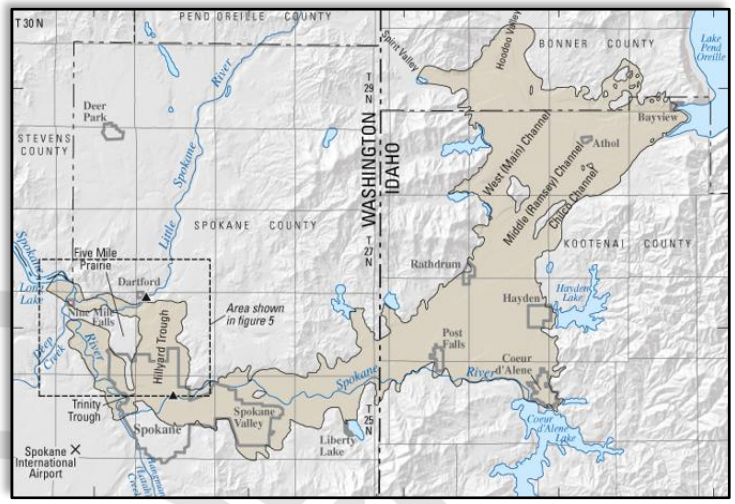
of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. **We are proud to report that your water meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations.** 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.**

Water Conservation Rebates: 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.

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



Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer

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 2025 was to reduce residential water use to 603 gallons per day per equivalent residential unit (GPD/ERU), but customers averaged 647.5 so we didn't achieve it. The overall average for Eastern Washington is between 350-400 GPD/ERU which is significantly lower than we are seeing in our area. To promote outdoor water conservation, the District implemented the new rebate program mentioned above. We are also conducting a water rate study that's analyzing our overage charges per customer class which we may adjust to further encourage water conservation.

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 9.8% which is just shy of our goal, but down from 12% last year. Last fall we contracted with a satellite leak detection company who scanned our entire water system which led to the discovery and repair of 13 leaking water mains and 10 leaking service lines in this water system alone. We also had our source meters tested for accuracy and replaced over 900 feet of deteriorated water main. We will continue to be aggressive with leak detection and making timely repairs in hope of achieving our goal in 2026.

SOURCE WATER TESTING (sample taken at the well)

CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE YEAR	UNITS	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST DETECTION	POSSIBLE SOURCE
Inorganic Contaminants						
Nitrate	2025	ppm	10	10	2.7	Runoff from Fertilizer Use; Leaching from Septic Tanks, Sewage; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Arsenic	2025	ppb	0	10	6.3	Erosion of Natural Deposits; Runoff from Orchards; Runoff from Glass and Electronics Production Wastes
Barium	2025	ppm	2	2	0.04	Discharge of Drilling Wastes; Discharge from Metal Refineries; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Radioactive Contaminants						
Gross Alpha	2025	pCi/L	n/a	15	ND	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Radium 228	2025	pCi/L	n/a	5	0.139	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Synthetic Organic Chemicals						
PFoctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS)	2025	ppt	0	15	2.81	Discharge from Manufacturing and Industrial Chemical Facilities, Use of Certain Consumer Products, Occupational Exposures, and Certain Firefighting Activities
PFoctanoic Acid (PFOA)	2025	ppt	0	10	2.19	Discharge from Manufacturing and Industrial Chemical Facilities, Use of Certain Consumer Products, Occupational Exposures, and Certain Firefighting Activities
PFbutane Sulfonic Acid (PFBS)	2025	ppt	n/a	345	2.83	Discharge from Manufacturing and Industrial Chemical Facilities, Use of Certain Consumer Products, Occupational Exposures, and Certain Firefighting Activities
Volatile Organic Chemicals						
Various Chemicals	2025	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	90TH PERCENTILE	POSSIBLE SOURCE
Inorganic Contaminants						
Lead	2023	ppb	0	15	1.6 1 home out of 30 (3%) exceeded AL	Corrosion of the Household Plumbing Systems; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Copper	2023	ppb	1300	1300	94.5 0 homes out of 30 (0%) exceeded AL	Corrosion of the Household Plumbing Systems; Erosion of Natural Deposits
CONTAMINANT	**SAMPLE YEAR**	**UNITS**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**HIGHEST DETECTION**	**POSSIBLE SOURCE**
Disinfection Byproducts						
Total Trihalomethanes	2025	ppb	0	80	7.64	By-product of Chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	2025	ppb	0	60	ND	By-product of Chlorination
Microbial Contaminants						
E.coli Bacteria	2025		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

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.

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**. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Child could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidneys problems or high blood pressure.

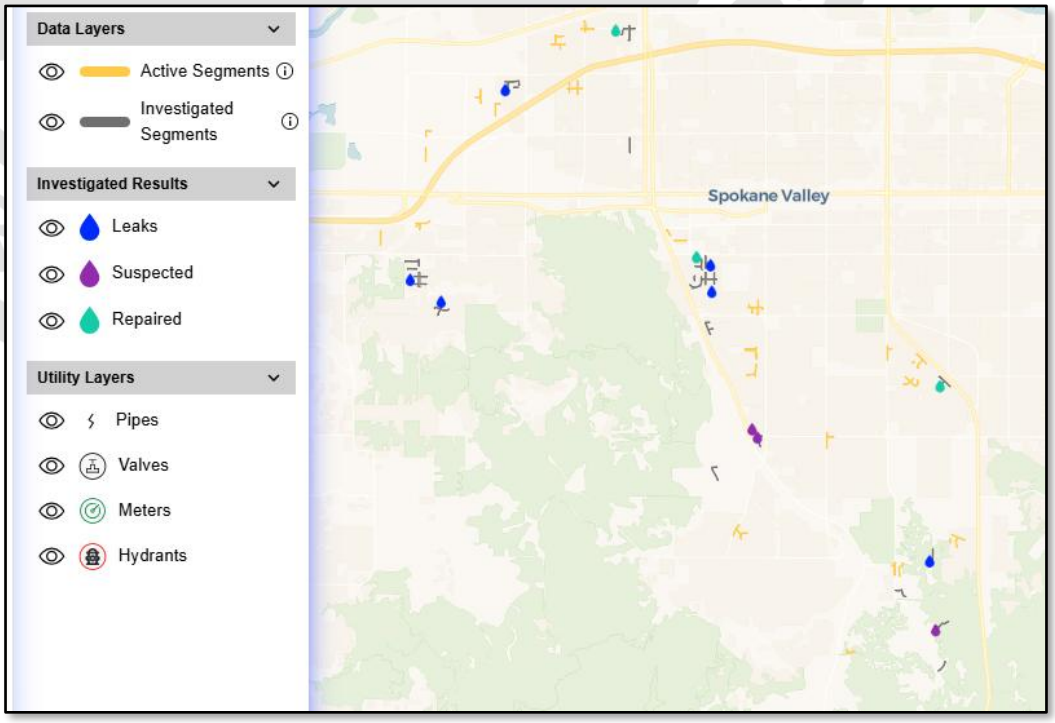
ABBREVIATIONS:

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
N/A – 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 2025)

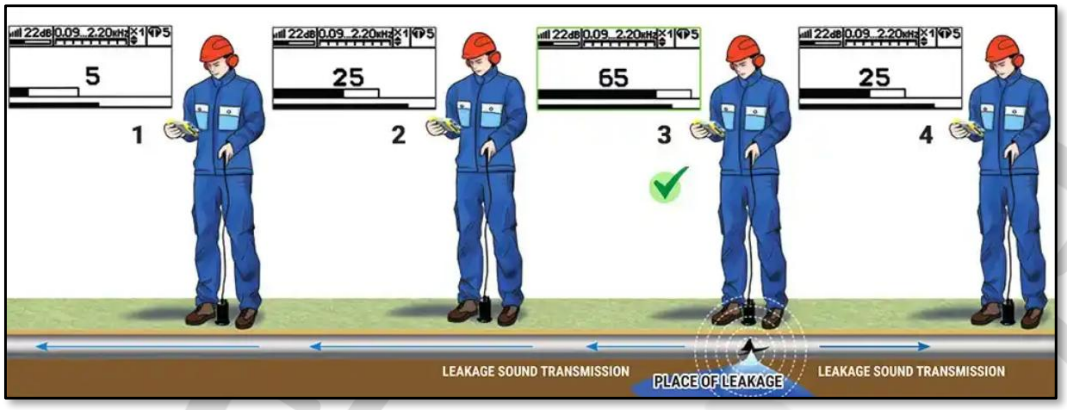
Raymond Street Waterline Project: Last summer our employees installed over 900 feet of 8-inch ductile iron pipe on Raymond Street between 11th and 14th Avenue. By doing so we were able to abandon two steel waterlines within this section that were originally installed in 1970. During this project, we also upgraded 6 water services and installed a new fire hydrant. By utilizing District staff on these smaller pipe projects, we save an average of $70.00 a lineal foot (or 18%) on overall costs, versus hiring an outside contractor to perform the work. Our total project cost was $275,000.

Leak Detection: In October 2025, the District hired a leak detection company to assess the entire water District's 200 miles of infrastructure to help our staff pinpoint leaks and prioritize areas for pipe replacement projects. The company uses satellites to analyze soil moisture content coming from underground pipes, and through algorithms and AI, are able to distinguish between surface water, potable water, and wastewater moisture content in the soil. This data is compiled into an online platform showing "points of interest" where leaks are suspected. Ground crews are then dispatched to these sites and use acoustic equipment to listen for leaks, pinpoint their exact location, and schedule repairs.



Satellite Leak Detection Points of Interest: System 1

The company provided 70 points of interest, District wide, where leaks are suspected. Each of these points of interest are roughly a 5 to 10 square block radius where field staff use sensitive microphones to listen to every water valve, meter pit, fire hydrant, any other exposed infrastructure for the distinct sound of water escaping underground piping. When water leaks, it produces high-frequency hisses or low-frequency vibrations that travel through the pipe and ground. After a leak is heard, technicians pinpoint the spot where the noise is the loudest, indicating the location directly above the leak. Sometimes in complex scenarios a correlation machine is needed to find the precise location. This is where two sensors are placed on either side of a suspected leak that measures the time it takes for sound to reach each point and calculates the exact distance to the source of the leak.



Example of Acoustic Leak Detection (photo courtesy of https://www.technoac.com)

Due to the porous soil in our area, not all leaks surface or are obvious to find. So in the past, technicians assessed the entire water system from one end to the other, using acoustic leak detection devices. By utilizing the satellite results this year, we were able to concentrate on only the areas with high soil moisture content, which was about 10% of our water system. This allows us to be more efficient, focusing on the troublesome areas only. To date, field technicians have investigated 35 points of interest across all 7 of our water systems and have repaired 23 leaking water mains, and 15 leaking service lines. In some cases several water leaks were found in one point of interest, which includes leaks on the customer side of the meter. Those homeowners have been notified so repairs can be made, resulting in reductions in their water bills with better water conservation practices. Also through the results, we've scheduled 1,600 feet of steel water main to be replaced with new pipe over the summer.

Our goal this year is to replace as much troublesome pipe as our budget allows, analyze the remaining points of interest, fix the leaks discovered, then schedule another satellite fly over this fall. This will allow us to track progress and help develop a budget for water main replacement projects for the following year. Most of the leaks we've found in the last year have been on steel water main that was installed in the 1960's to 1970's. We currently have nearly 296,000 feet (56 miles) of steel water main installed in our water district. Most of this steel main is still in good shape with a solid outside tar coating which protects the pipe from corrosion. But in some areas the tar coating is beginning to break down or flake off, causing the pipe to corrode, and eventually resulting in pipe failure. With an annual budget that allows us to replace 2,000 to 5,000 feet of pipe a year, we focus primarily on areas that are high priority for replacement. This allows us to maintain affordable water rates for our customers while still staying on top of system improvements.

Hydrant Locking Program: Three years ago, 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 700 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.

From Your Local Water Utility
Spokane County Water District #3
https://SCWD3.org

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

IWAC Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative

811 Know what's below. Call before you dig.