Glacier Springs Water System 2024 Water Quality Report

Glacier Springs Water System (System ID# 27755) is pleased to present to you its Annual Water Quality Report for calendar year 2024. This report explains where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State Standards. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact James Klessig at (360) 303-0302 or email info@glaciersprings.org.

Este informe contiente informacian muy importante sobre su aqua beber. Traduzcalo o hablo alguin que lo intienda bien. (Translated: This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak it, with someone who understands it well.)

YOUR WATER SOURCE: Our water source is a sanitarily developed groundwater spring that feeds two storage tanks and the distribution system by gravity. This spring source is located on DNR property leased to Glacier Springs.

MESSAGE FROM THE EPA: Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants doesn't necessarily indicate that 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 (1-800-426-4791).

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 for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 storm-water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicide, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm-water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can, also, come from gas station, urban storm-water runoff, and septic tank systems.
- > Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved? We want our members to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled board meetings. Names and contact information of board members is maintained at http://glaciersprings.org/board-of-directors/

Boil Water Advisory

Reminder: the Glacier Springs Water System remains under a **Boil Water Advisory** due to E. coli originally detected in a sample collected on 2/14/2023, seven samples collected on 2/16/2023, one sample collected on 2/24/2023, and one sample collected on 10/16/2023. More recently, E. coli was detected in a sample collected on 6/4/2024 and in 2 samples collected on 7/30/2024.

During the 2024 calendar year Glacier Springs Water System collected a total of 346 coliform samples receiving results with 48 coliform detections and 3 E. coli detections.

The Washington State Department of Health has mandated the installation of a chlorination system. We are working with the Washington State Department of Health, engineering consultants, and contractors to install a chlorination system that will address the coliform and E. coli issue on a long-term basis.

We anticipate resolving the problem as soon as reasonably possible. Updates will be provided periodically as we move to implement a final solution to the ongoing intermittent E. coli contamination at our source and throughout the distribution system.

WATER QUALITY DATA

The table below lists the drinking water substances that we detected during the 2024 calendar year unless otherwise noted. Substances that were below the State Reporting Limit (SRL), or were Not Detected (ND), are generally not included in this table. The presence of substances in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently.

SAMPLED FOR AT THE SOURCE							
Inorganic Substances	MCL	MCLG	Our Water	Range of Detections	Sample Date	In Compliance?	Typical Source Of Substance
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	ND	NA	4/1/2024	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Type of Substance	MCL	MCLG	Our Water	Range of Detections	Sample Date	In Compliance?	Typical Source Of Substance
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.04365	0.0184 - 0.436 0 out of 5 samples exceeded the AL	6/20/2022	Yes	Corrosion of house hold plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0	1.2	ND – 1.3 0 out of 5 samples exceeded the AL	6/20/2022	Yes	Corrosion of house hold plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

*Lead and Copper 90th Percentile: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. 5 Lead & Copper samples were collected in 2022, 0 samples exceeded the Action Level for Copper, 0 samples exceeded the Action Level for Lead.

SECONDARY* AND OTHER TESTING	ł
------------------------------	---

Type of Substance	SMCL	MCLG	Our Water	Range of Detections	Sample Date	In Compliance?	Typical Source Of Substance
Sodium (ppm)	NA	NA	6.4	NA	5/3/2020	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Hardness (ppm)	NA	NA	52.4	NA	5/3/2020	Yes	Refers to the calcium carbonate content of water (a naturally occurring mineral).
Conductivity (umhos/cm)	700	NA	126	NA	5/3/2020	Yes	A measure of the ability of water to carry an electric current.

*National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations are non-enforceable guidelines regarding substances that may cause cosmetic effects or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water and are not health based. EPA recommends secondary standards to water systems but does not require systems to comply.

MICROBIAL CONTAMINANTS							
Microbiological	MCL	MCLG	Our Water	Range of Detections	Sample Date	In Compliance?	Typical Source Of Substance
Fecal indicators (E. coli)	0	NA	3 (out of 346 samples collected)	NA	Throughout 2024	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Total Coliform Bacteria	1	0	48 (out of 346 samples collected)	NA	Throughout 2024	No	Naturally present in the environment

WATER QUALITY TABLE & CCONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT DEFINITIONS:

NA (Not applicable), **ppm**: (parts per million) **ppb** (parts per billion) **pci** (picocuries per liter) **NTU**: (Nephelometric Turbidity Units) **MCL**: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs (Maximum Contaminant Level Goals) as feasible using the best available treatment technology. **MCLG**: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal The level of a contaminate in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. AL: Action Level; The concentration of a contaminate which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. **MRDL** Maximum residual disinfectant level. **MRDLG**: Maximum Contaminant Level Soal Source: Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level. These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based. **ND**: Not Detected **SRL**: (State Reporting Level) The minimum reporting level required by Washington State Department of Health (DOH). **TT**: Treatment Technique, A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. **Level 2 Assessment**: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system on multiple occasions.

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS: Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne 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 assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments

E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider.

ABOUT NITRATES: Nitrates-N in drinking water 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 your health care provider. (Please note we are below the MCL level of 10 ppm. See water quality data table on page 2)

COPPER: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short period 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.

LEAD: Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than in other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLING: The sampling technique used for lead and copper monitoring requires us to take samples from five individual homes receiving water from our system. As you can see in the table above the levels of lead and copper can change dramatically from home to home depending on the materials used in construction. Homes with lead and copper present in their plumbing system are at greater risk of having elevated lead and copper levels in their water. The only way to know the amount of lead and copper in your household water is to have your water tested by a certified laboratory. For the name of a certified drinking water laboratory, call the Office of Drinking Water at 1-800-521-0323

WATER CONSERVATION GOAL: As a result of Washington State's 2007 Water Use Efficiency Rule (WUE Rule) our water system has adopted a water use efficiency goal. The WUE Rule requires that the association's goal be re-established at a minimum of every six years, and that progress towards the goal be reported annually to the State and to the association's members. Our goal is to "Reduce the amount of water lost to leaks during our fiscal year 2017 by 10 gallons per day."

Water Conservation Ideas

- Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you will save up to 150 gallons per month.
- Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They are inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Make sure there are water-saving aerators on all your faucets.
- Turn off the water while you shave and save up to 300 gallons a month.

We encourage you to be aware of water leaks on or around your property and report them to the water system by contacting James Klessig at (360) 599-9594 or email <u>info@glaciersprings.org</u>.

PFAS SUBSTANCE MONITORING

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are known as "forever chemicals" because of their persistence in the environment. This is a concern as PFAS are shown to have negative impacts to human health. Drinking water regulations have recently focused on assessing PFAS levels in the nation's water supplies. In 2025 our system began monitoring Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). No detections were found.

The technology to find these compounds in very low levels is improving, though for PFAS, there really is no safe level. Our priority is to stay informed, to confirm no presence of PFAS in our drinking water, and to continue to take steps necessary to protect our community's health.

For more information you can visit the DOH website: https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/contaminants/pfas

LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

All public water systems are required to complete and submit a Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) to the State. The LSLI is complete and available upon request.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or worsen existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these negative health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney, or nervous system problems. For more information you can visit the EPA website:https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water

STEPS TO REDUCE LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Use your filter properly. Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, <u>visit https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead</u>.

Clean your aerator. Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.

Use cold water. Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.

Run your water. The more time water has been sitting in pipes providing water to your home, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home.

Learn about construction in your neighborhood. Watch for information about any construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line or galvanized service line if present.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT AND ITS AVAILABILITY

A source water assessment identifies potential sources of contamination to the water we use for your drinking water. The state compiled Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) data for all community water systems in Washington. SWAP data for our system is online at: <u>https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/drinking-water/source-water/gis-mapping-tool</u>

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION TIPS

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides—they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are not active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste—Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Glacier Springs Water System PO Box 126 Maple Falls, WA 98266 (360) 303-0302 info@glaciersprings.org

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791