



## 2023 Water Quality Report - Consumer Confidence Report

(DOH Water System ID #81048F) (Certified Waterworks Operator - Tom Hastings)

Snoqualmie Pass Utility District is pleased to provide you with its Annual Water Quality Report. This report provides water quality data to the public in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency Federal Clean Water Act and Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Requirements. This report is a snapshot of the quality of water that the District provided in 2023.

Federal and State drinking water standards require monitoring and reporting of specific water quality parameters. For each parameter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established a maximum contaminant level (MCL) “below which there is no known or expected risk to health”. Furthermore, the EPA requires that only state certified laboratories using approved standard methods are permitted to be used when analyzing water samples for public water systems. This report is based upon data from 2022 calendar year from treated water quality results at the wells and from samples collected from the District’s water distribution system and residences.

### Water Conservations: It all starts with you!

Water conservation, using water efficiently and avoiding waste is essential to ensure that we have adequate water today and into the future. Water rights are a finite source at Snoqualmie Pass. It is up to all of us to use the water we have wisely, and it is simple for all of us to make small changes. By being smarter about water use, not only can we save water, energy, and money, we can help our rivers too. When we use water more efficiently, we leave more water in the rivers and streams to support fish, wildlife, and recreation. The District requires all homes to have a pressure reducing valve and ¼ turn ball valve to shut water off in your dwelling. This is to regulate the pressure and allow you to turn the water off when you are not home or have a leak. The District also encourages all owners to register their meter in the customer water meter portal site. This will allow the customer to monitor water usage and set up leak alerts, thus saving water and money.

### Water Saving Tips!

- Register your meter in the **customer water meter portal** so that you may monitor your own flow and set up leak alerts.
- Fix leaks promptly - little drips can waste lots of water.
- Consider installing water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators; “low flow” means less than 2.5 gallons per minute.
- Inspect toilets- worn parts can create a leak/running water. Add a little food coloring to the toilet tank, if, without flushing, the color appears in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired.
- Consider replacing your 3-7 gallon per flush toilet with a “low flush” model, which uses 1.0 to 1.6 gallons per flush.
- Turn off the faucet while brushing teeth or shaving.
- Use your dishwasher and clothes washer for only full loads for optimum water conservation.
- Consider replacing old clothes washers with Energy Star rated washers.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in your refrigerator. Running tap water until it’s cold enough wastes water.
- Reduce outdoor usage as much as possible by reducing lawn size and planting drought-resistant lawns, shrubs and plants and group plants according to their watering needs. Water lawn and shrubs only when needed. Properly aim your sprinklers.
- Use a broom to clean the driveway or patio, instead of the hose and precious water.
- Insulate your water pipes with pre-slit foam pipe insulation; you’ll get hot water faster and avoid wasting water.
- In restaurants, accept water only if you want it. You will save the water you don’t drink.

### How can I get involved?

**The District Board meets** on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 pm at the District Office located at 932 Hyak Drive East, Snoqualmie Pass. Please feel free to participate in these meetings. Your input is important to us!

### Drinking Water Source Information:

**Your water comes from two wells (#4 & #5) in the Alpental area** sunk approximately 500 feet into an unnamed underground source of water. There is a confining layer of solid rock 300 feet thick which offers great protection of the water quality. Currently, there is no water treatment system, water is pumped out of the ground and delivered directly to your homes/businesses. The District does not add fluoride to the drinking water. The District staff works diligently to provide safe water to our customers every day. We ask that all consumers help us protect our water quality, which is one of our most valuable resources.

### Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP):

SWAP data for your Public Water System (PWS) is online at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/SourceWaterProtection/Assessment.aspx>

If you don't have access to the Web, we encourage you to use the Internet service available through the public library system.

On November 7, 2023 the Washington Department of Health performed a routine **Sanitary Survey** of the water treatment system in accordance with WAC 246-290-416. These surveys are very comprehensive and occur every 3 to 5 years.

### Steps the District takes to prevent contamination:

Inspect water system source and distribution system and collect all samples as required. Staff flushes hydrants and dead-end water lines as needed. Ensure that the District complies with the well head management plan and cross connection control plan. Schedule the reservoirs to be inspected and cleaned as required.

### Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

**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 water poses a health risk.

**Some people may be more vulnerable** to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-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 care providers. EPA/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 \(1-800-426-4791\)](https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

### About Drinking Water:

**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 include:

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

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The District treats our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### Additional information for Lead:

Lead plumbing was banned in 1985. If present, elevated levels can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The Snoqualmie Pass Utility District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain.

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](https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead) or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### Additional information for Nitrate:

**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.

**Water Quality Data: The table below lists some of the drinking water contaminants that were tested during 2023.** The state requires the District to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than one year old.

	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Year Sampled	Regulation Met	Potential Sources
				Low	High			
<b>Microbiological Testing from Water Distribution System</b>								
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	0	0	ND	NA	NA	2-8 Monthly	YES	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Water Distribution Testing</b>								
Lead (mg/L)	0	AL-15	From 5 locations	ND	0.0055	2022	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (mg/L)	1.3	AL-1.3	From 5 locations	ND	0.77	2022	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Source Monitoring: Wells 4 &amp; 5</b>								
Nitrate (mg/L)	10	10.0	ND	NA	NA	2023	YES	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (mg/L)	1	1.0	ND	NA	NA	2023	YES	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (mg/L)	0	10.0	6.8 avg	6.1	7.6	monthly	YES	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes

The table does not include other volatile organic chemicals, volatile inorganic chemicals, and synthetic organic chemicals (pesticides and herbicides) that were tested for in 2018 but not detected in the drinking water, including many industrial chemicals, herbicides and pesticides also tested but reported as not detected in 2018. Complete test results may be viewed by request at the District office.

In 2023 the District tested for Coliform Bacteria 41 times, and all samples came back negative. The District is only required to perform this test 30 times per year.

**2023 Violations:** No water quality standard violations

**The drinking water does contain low levels of arsenic.** There is a small chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic for many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer, or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory diseases are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water.

### Glossary

- **Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Variations and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL, an action level, or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

- Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.
- Lead and Copper 90th Percentile: the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is a measure of statistical distribution and is used to calculate compliance for lead and copper in drinking water. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile identifies the value for which 90% of the data points are smaller and 10% are larger.

**Acronyms:**

- Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L): ppm or mg/L
- Part per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L): ppb
- Not Detected: ND
- Not Applicable: NA
- Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive: positive samples/month.

**Customer Payment Portal and Water Meter Portal**

Did you know that the District has a payment portal web site?

- The District encourages all customers to register their account in the payment portal. The customer can monitor their historical bills and usage. Customers can also make one-time payments, set up recurring autopayments, and register to receive electronic bills.

Did you know that the District has a portal for customers to monitor their water usage? This began in 2020 when the District installed a fixed radio read system and all new water meters. This system allows hourly communications between the meter and the customer.

- The District encourages all customers to register their water meters in the customer water meter portal. Here you can monitor your water usage and set up leak detection alerts.

\*Please visit the District web site to set up your payment portal and water meter portal accounts. [www.snopass.org](http://www.snopass.org)

<b>SPUD Distribution System Leakage for 2023</b>	
The District continues to reduce the amount of leakage in our distribution system	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Gallons</b>
Water Production and Purchase	27,144,431
Authorized Consumption	22,665,739
Distribution System Leakage (DSL)	4,478,692
Water Rights Limit	54,742,968

**WATER USE EFFICIENCY**

The District has diligently worked to reduce water leaks throughout the entire water distribution system. The District has repaired dozens of leaks. This year's DSL was 16.5%. The DSL three-year average has lowered to 16.2%. The District will continue to investigate, and repair leaks every year to further reduce the missing water.

**Backflow prevention**

An important component of the protection of our drinking water is backflow prevention. Backflow occurs when low pressure in the District's water main causes water to be drawn from lawn sprinkler systems, and commercial enterprises such as breweries, fire suppression systems, restaurants, etc into the District's water distribution system. Customers should complete the cross-connection control survey to determine if their home/business requires a backflow device. Your backflow device is required to be inspected annually and to submit the report to the District each year.

**Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV):** all dwellings are required to have a PRV located within the dwelling. This is required to regulate the water pressure being delivered and to protect the dwellings plumbing from over pressurization.

**Water Shut Off Valve-** all dwellings are required to have a shut off valve (1/4 turn ball valve) located within the dwelling. This allows you to turn the water off when you are not home or when you have a leak.

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