

Drinking Water quality

Report 2015

City of Everett Public
Works Department



Taste, Quality & Value

Water is a life-essential resource. Yet, at less than a penny a gallon, it costs very little compared to its value.

Your water rates pay for everything it takes to operate our water system, from storage and treatment, to delivering the water to your tap. Your water rates also help pay for water system improvements that ensure that we will provide high-quality drinking water for generations to come.

As this year's Drinking Water Quality Report shows, this is an exceptional value for the clean, safe, great-tasting drinking water you receive.

Clean, Safe Drinking Water Delivered to Your Tap

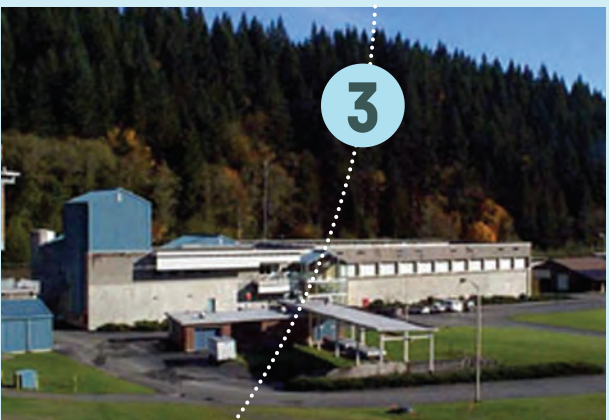
Your drinking water comes from Spada Lake Reservoir, located about 30 miles east of Everett at the headwaters of the Sultan River. This 50-billion-gallon storage facility serves as a collection point for rain and snowmelt from the Cascade Mountains. It was created in 1964 through a partnership between the City of Everett and the Snohomish County PUD as part of the Jackson Hydroelectric Project.

Spada Lake Reservoir is located in the Upper Sultan River Watershed, an area encompassing more than 80 square miles. This is one of the wettest watersheds in the continental United States. The average annual rainfall is about 165 inches—five times the rainfall in Everett.

Water quality in the Sultan Basin is carefully monitored. To protect the naturally pristine water in Spada Lake Reservoir, the watershed is patrolled and human activities are limited to minimize the impact on water quality. We continue to evaluate and adjust our security measures on an ongoing basis.



1. Precipitation and snowmelt from the Cascade Mountains are collected in Spada Lake Reservoir.
2. From Spada, water travels to Chaplain Reservoir, where the City's water treatment plant is located.
3. The Everett Drinking Water Treatment Plant treats the water using coagulation, flocculation, filtration and disinfection.
4. Water transmission pipelines carry drinking water to Everett.
5. Treated water is delivered to about 570,000 people or 80 percent of the businesses and households in Snohomish County.



*The following statements are required by the
US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).*

All water sources (both tap water and bottled water) contain impurities. As water flows 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 surface water, 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 surface water and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may 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.

Your Drinking Water

Facts & Figures

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, US Environmental Protection Agency (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.

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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 and US Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Lead & Drinking Water

Everett's source water contains virtually no lead and Everett has eliminated lead pipes and connections from its distribution system. However, lead can enter drinking water through household plumbing materials.

In 1991, EPA published a regulation to control lead and copper in drinking water. This regulation, known as the Lead and Copper Rule, requires water systems to monitor the presence of lead in drinking water at customer taps. If lead concentrations exceed an action level of 15 parts per billion in more than 10% of customer taps sampled, the system must undertake a number of actions.

Everett conducted its latest round of monitoring in 2015. The highest level found in the 108 homes tested was 8 parts per billion. The 90th percentile result—the highest result obtained in 90 percent of the samples—was 2 parts per billion. This indicates that lead found at household taps is most likely due to the corrosion of home plumbing systems with lead-containing pipes, fixtures or solder.

There are simple steps you can take to reduce the risk of lead in your drinking water. If you live in housing built before the mid-1940s, run your tap for at least 2 minutes after water has sat in your pipes for more than 6 hours. If you live in newer housing, run your tap until the water is noticeably cooler. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula, as hot water carries more lead. You can also have your water tested by a certified lab.

For more information on lead in drinking water, steps you can take to minimize exposure, or to find a certified lab, go to www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/Contaminants/Lead.

We test your
drinking water

365
days a year.



USEPA required lead statement. The USEPA drinking water regulations require this statement be included with the lead and copper sampling results regardless of the levels observed:

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. The City of Everett Utilities Division 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 two 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 the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

ENSURING AN Adequate Supply

FUTURE GENERATIONS
DEPEND ON US
TODAY.



Water is a precious resource. Conservation helps fill the needs of people, industries, businesses and farms, while also keeping fish and other aquatic life alive and well.

Since Everett provides water to the majority of water systems in Snohomish County, we operate a regional water conservation program. This program is planned and developed with the water systems we serve and funded from water system revenues.

More than \$7 million has been invested in regional water conservation activities since 2001. This includes such things as school education, indoor and outdoor water conservation kits, rebates for water efficient clothes washers and toilets, leak detection, business water audits and school irrigation audits. Through these efforts, we have saved more than 3.7 million gallons per day (MGD) through 2015—enough water to fill more than 88,000 bathtubs a day.

Previous regional conservation programs were planned and implemented in six-year cycles, as part of Everett's comprehensive water plan. The first plan covered the period from 2001 through 2006; the second from 2007 through 2012. Everett's latest comprehensive water plan covers the period through 2020. The water conservation program will continue to include school education and conservation kits, and will also include new activities to assist large water users.

In 2015, 620 water conservation workshops were conducted in classrooms throughout Snohomish County, reaching more than 15,600 students. Participating water systems also distributed more than 2,400 indoor conservation kits and 2,800 outdoor conservation kits. These activities are estimated to have saved about 0.64 million gallons per day (MGD) regionally.

CONSERVATION tips:

- Install water-efficient showerheads and take shorter showers.
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets. Leaks waste a lot of water.
- Install low-flow toilets. This can reduce indoor water use by as much as 20 percent.
- Only run full loads in your dishwasher and clothes washer.
- Use a soaker hose on steep slopes to prevent wasteful runoff.
- Water small areas by hand to avoid watering the sidewalk and driveway.
- Replace grass in seldom-used areas of your yard with groundcovers and plants that use less water.
- Adjust your mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn retains moisture and requires less water.
- Put a layer of mulch around plants and trees. Mulch holds moisture and discourages weed growth.

For more information about our water conservation programs, go to www.everettwa.gov/conservation.

Drought Prompts Advisory

In July, 2015, Everett activated its Drought Response Plan—the first time since the plan was created in 2001. The drought plan is activated when the water level in Spada Lake or snowpack drops below normal levels and there is a reasonable probability that conditions will not return to normal. At the time, the level of Spada Lake was 68 percent of normal which triggered the first “advisory” stage of the plan. The advisory stage asks consumers to use water wisely and advises them that further actions may be required if conditions don’t improve.



In August, as water supply conditions continued to worsen, Everett moved to the second “voluntary” stage of the plan. The voluntary stage asks consumers to reduce discretionary water use and advises them that water-use restriction may be required if conditions don’t improve. The goal was to reduce water use by 10 percent. Through the efforts of local homes and businesses this goal was surpassed and, with the return of fall rains, the drought response plan was deactivated in November.

We thank our customers who played a huge role in helping us to stretch our water supplies during the drought. The response showed a real commitment to the environment and the natural resources we all depend on. With the current water supply, the challenge has passed and outlook is good. However, we will keep a close eye on the situation as we head into 2016.



**City of Everett
Public Works Department**

3200 Cedar Street
Everett, WA 98201

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EVERETT, WA

INSIDE:

- **Clean, Safe Drinking Water
Delivered to Your Tap**
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Report: Water Analysis Results;
Facts & Figures**
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In 2015, your water was tested for more than 100 possible contaminants. What does all the information in this report mean? Simply put, the data confirms that your drinking water meets or exceeds all government standards and is

safe to drink.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS

Let us know how we're doing and what you think about your water. Call 425-257-8800 or email us at everettpw@everettwa.gov.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

CONSERVE • BE INFORMED • GET INVOLVED

City of Everett Water Quality Office

Phone: 425-257-8800

Website: www.everettwa.gov/water

State Department of Health (DOH)

Phone: 1-800-521-0323

Website: www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Phone: 1-800-426-4791

Website: www.epa.gov/safewater

To get involved in decisions affecting your drinking water, attend and comment at Everett City Council meetings every Wednesday in the Council Chambers at 3002 Wetmore Ave.

Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m., except the meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month which is at 12:30 p.m. Agendas are available on the City's website at www.everettwa.gov/citycouncil.

City of Everett Elected Officials

MAYOR: Ray Stephanson

CITY COUNCIL: Scott Murphy (President),
Scott Bader, Cassie Franklin, Jeff Moore,
Paul Roberts, Brenda Stonecipher, Judy Tuohy

Learn more about your water at www.everettwa.gov/water