

Sumas Water Quality

2024 Consumer Confidence Report

This Brochure ...

.. is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we have provided.

Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards.

We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

For more information about your water, call (360) 988-5711 and ask for Sunny Aulakh, Public Works Director.

Our City Council meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers, 433 Cherry St., Sumas. Please feel free to participate in these meetings. Minutes and agendas are available at www.cityofsumas.com

Your 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 materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Your water comes from three municipal wells sunk about 80 feet into an underground source of water called the Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer.

These wells are located west of town at Kneuman and Barbo roads.

The town owns the land around these wells and restricts any activity that could contaminate them.

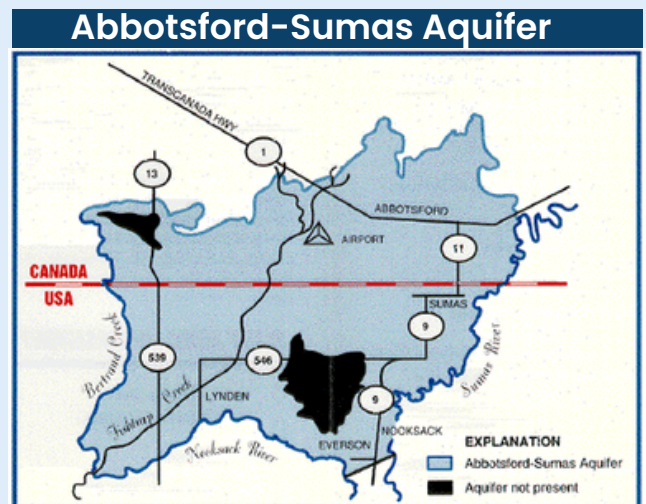
After the water comes out of the wells, we pump it to the reservoir and out to our consumer system.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by our public water systems. At this time, our water meets EPA standards in its untreated condition. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. In past years we conducted more than 180 tests for over 80 drinking water contaminants.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment 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 production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural and residential uses.
- Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring.
- 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 stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

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's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)



We are proud to report that our water meets federal and state standards.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?

The state and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We test every month for coliform bacteria and quarterly for nitrate and nitrate levels. We periodically test for volatile organic (VOC), synthetic organic (SOC), inorganic (C), and radioactive contaminants. We also test for lead and copper.

About Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels about 10ppm 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.

- Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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/CDA guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).
- Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants.

Water Quality Data

The table below lists the drinking water contaminants that we detected during 2024. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once a 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, is more than one year old but is tested monthly.

Inorganic or Organic Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Average Level Detected	Range of Detection	Dates Tested	In Compliance	Typical Source of Contaminant
Nitrate as nitrogen (ppm)	10	10	3.50	nd-7.67	2024	Yes	Fertilizer Runoff
Coliform	1	0	0*	absent - present	2024	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

Terms and abbreviations that may be used:

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (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.
- Treatment Technique (TT)
- Action Level (AL)
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)
- MRDL Goal (MRDLG)
- n/a: not applicable. -nd: not detectible at testing limit. -ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter
- Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

*We had positive coliform samples and the follow-up samples were also positive, which by protocol required us to complete a Department of Health Level 2 Assessment. The City hired consultants to come in and help us with the assessment. As a result of the assessment we found a significant flaw and fixed it. As a result of this Level 2 assessment, the Department of Health required us to engineer a disinfection plan. The City must provide zero positive coliform samples for 2025. If the City receives a positive sample, we will be instructed to treat our system.