

A close-up photograph of clear water being poured from a glass pitcher into a clear glass. The water is captured in motion, creating a dynamic splash and numerous bubbles within the glass. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The overall composition is clean and emphasizes the purity of the water.

# Water Quality Report 2023

This report  
contains important  
information about  
your drinking water  
and testing results  
from 2022.



PWS ID 05575B

# Where Your Water Comes From

The clean and safe water you drink every day comes from the Cedar River and the south fork of the Tolt River. This water is obtained through Cascade Water Alliance (Cascade) which purchases its water from Seattle Public Utilities on behalf of its member utilities. Cascade also owns Lake Tapps, which can serve as a future source of municipal drinking water if needed. Cascade is a municipal corporation formed in 1999 to provide a reliable source of water to municipalities in the region. It includes Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Redmond, Tukwila, Sammamish Plateau Water, and the Skyway Water and Sewer District. Each member has a voice in determining its community's future availability of clean, safe and reliable drinking water. In addition, Cascade plans and implements programs, events, outreach and education to all its partner agency residents, students, businesses and the community at large. These programs help demonstrate the best ways to use water

wisely, including providing free conservation items and resources found at [www.cascadewater.org](http://www.cascadewater.org). Saving water today means delaying the need to develop additional water sources in the future. Cascade works with its members as well as other major water providers in the Central Puget Sound

region to collaboratively plan for regional water supply needs now and into the future. This will ensure that water will be available for the future, and in case of natural or other emergencies. Bellevue Utilities and Cascade are planning to meet our water needs, now and in the future.



Cedar River Watershed

# Water Treatment

To protect your health and improve the water quality, our drinking water supply from the Tolt River and Cedar River is disinfected with ultraviolet light (UV) and ozone. Disinfection using ozone is very effective at destroying *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial organisms. Chlorine is added to your water to prevent diseases such as cholera, giardiasis, and salmonellosis and to act as a protective barrier from recontamination while water is in the distribution system. The average level of chlorine in your drinking water was 0.88 parts per million (ppm) in 2022. Fluoride is added during treatment to prevent tooth decay, in accordance with a Seattle public vote in 1968. The average fluoride level in your drinking water was 0.7 ppm in 2022. In addition, sodium hydroxide is added to the water supply to raise pH levels (a measurement of acidity) to a target of 8.2. These pH levels are adjusted to make the water less corrosive to plumbing and reduce the amount of lead and copper that can dissolve into drinking water. After treatment, your water contains very few contaminants, and those present are below the allowable limits.



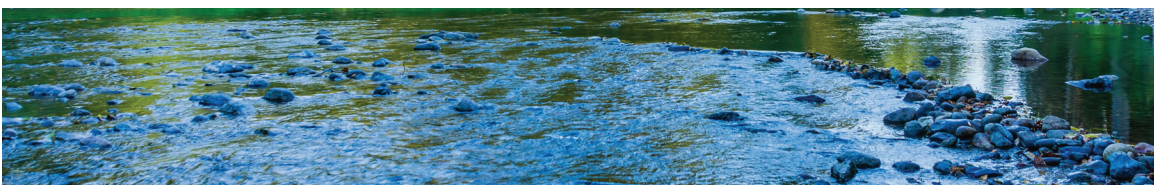
Treatment Plant Pipe Gallery

## Information from US EPA

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, in some cases, radioactive material; and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the 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 at 1-800-426-4791. 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency/ Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Your water is monitored and tested extensively throughout the year. After testing nearly 200 chemical compounds, only a few were detected (see table below). If you would like to see the complete list of chemical compounds that were tested but not detected, please call Water Quality at 425-452-6192 or visit [bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality](http://bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality).

		EPA's Allowable Limits		Levels in Cedar Water		Levels in Tolt Water		
Detected Compounds	Units	MCLG	MCL	Average	Range	Average	Range	Typical Sources
<b>Raw Water</b>								
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	NA	TT	0.72	0.39 to 0.97	1.24	1.10 to 1.41	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Finished Water</b>								
Turbidity	NTU	NA	TT	0.35	0.19 to 1.93	0.04	0.02 to 0.24	Soil runoff
Arsenic	ppb	0	10	0.43	0.34 to 0.52	0.28	0.22 to 0.38	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	ppb	2000	2000	1.26	1.02 to 1.43	1.21	1.14 to 1.30	Erosion of natural deposits
Bromate	ppb	0	10	0.4	ND to 5	ND	ND	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.7	0.6 to 0.8	0.7	0 to 0.8	Water additive, which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.1	One Sample	0.1	One Sample	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	NA	80	Average = 24 Range = 11.8 to 32.8				By-products of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (5)	ppb	NA	60	Average = 32 Range = 16.3 to 51.7				
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Average = 0.88 Range = 0.05 - 1.83				Water additive used to control microbes



## Lead and copper monitoring results (Bellevue)

Parameter and Units	MCLG	Action Level*	2020 Results**	Homes Exceeding Action Level	Source
Lead, ppb	0	15	5.1	0 of 62	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper, ppm	1.3	1.3	0.16	0 of 62	

\*The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

\*\* 90th Percentile: i.e. 90 percent of the samples were less than the values shown.

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. Bellevue Utilities 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 the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.



### Definitions for Table on Previous Page

**MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - 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.

**MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level - 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.

**MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level - 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.

**MRDLG:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal - 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.

**TT:** Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit - Turbidity is a measure of how clear the water looks. The turbidity MCL that applied to the Cedar supply in 2022 is 5 NTU, and for the Tolt supply it was 0.3 NTU for at least 95% of the samples in a month. 100% of Tolt samples in 2022 were below 0.3 NTU.

**NA:** Not Applicable      **ND:** Not Detected

**ppm:** 1 part per million = 1 mg/L = 1 milligram per liter

**ppb:** 1 part per billion = 1 ug/L = 1 microgram per liter

**1 ppm** = 1000 ppb

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# How Is Your Water Protected

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Water is essential to our daily life. We use it to make our coffee. We use it to fill our water bottles. We use it to prepare our meals. In addition, we use it for various cleaning tasks – dishes, laundry, showering, and around the house. Without water, we cannot get too far along the day. Yet we do not usually give it too much thought; we simply turn on the faucet. Bellevue Utilities has a dedicated team of professionals ensuring you have safe and reliable drinking water, 24/7.

Below are the types of **barriers** that protect your drinking water from the source to your tap.

**Physical Barriers** prevent external contaminants from entering the drinking water supply.

- On-going water main replacement program to replace aging water mains.
- Water reservoirs are inspected and cleaned to ensure their physical integrities and to maintain the water quality.
- Stringent water main repair practices to protect your health and keep out the contaminants.
- Comprehensive water main installation procedures to make sure newly installed pipes are safe to carry our drinking water.

**Hydraulic Barriers** maintain water pressure.

- Water pressure keeps the contaminants out, even if there is a break in the pipe. It makes sure the water continues to flow out and prevents contaminants from going into the pipe.
- Through managed pumping, water is moved through to keep it fresh throughout our distribution system

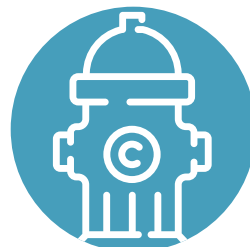
**Water Quality Barriers** include frequent sampling.

- 150 bacteriological samples are taken each month.
- Numerous chemical analyses throughout the year, including disinfection by-products, hundreds of chlorine verification samples.
- 18 analyzers in the distribution system continuously monitoring chlorine, pH, and temperature 24/7.



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Bellevue has  
**5,900**  
fire hydrants.

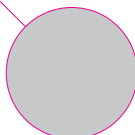


# Water Quality Emergency


Water main breaks do happen. Occasionally, we need to issue a boil water notice out of abundance of caution. The boil water notice is only temporary and is normally in place for two days. This gives us time to conduct sampling to verify the water quality. For updated information on boil water notice or other language translations, visit [bellevuewa.gov/boil-water-notice](http://bellevuewa.gov/boil-water-notice) or scan the code.





Date

Time

## Boil Water Notice



**Boil your water before drinking**

Đun sôi nước trước khi uống

Кипятите воду перед употреблением


Hierva el agua antes de beberla

飲む前に水道水を煮沸してください

수돗물을 끓여서 드세요

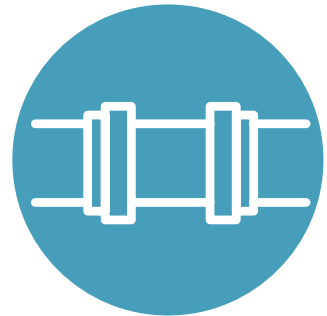
請將水煮沸後再飲用

पीने से पहले अपना पानी उबाल लें



For updated information, please visit  
[BellevueWA.gov/Boil-Water-Notice](http://BellevueWA.gov/Boil-Water-Notice)  
See reverse for more information

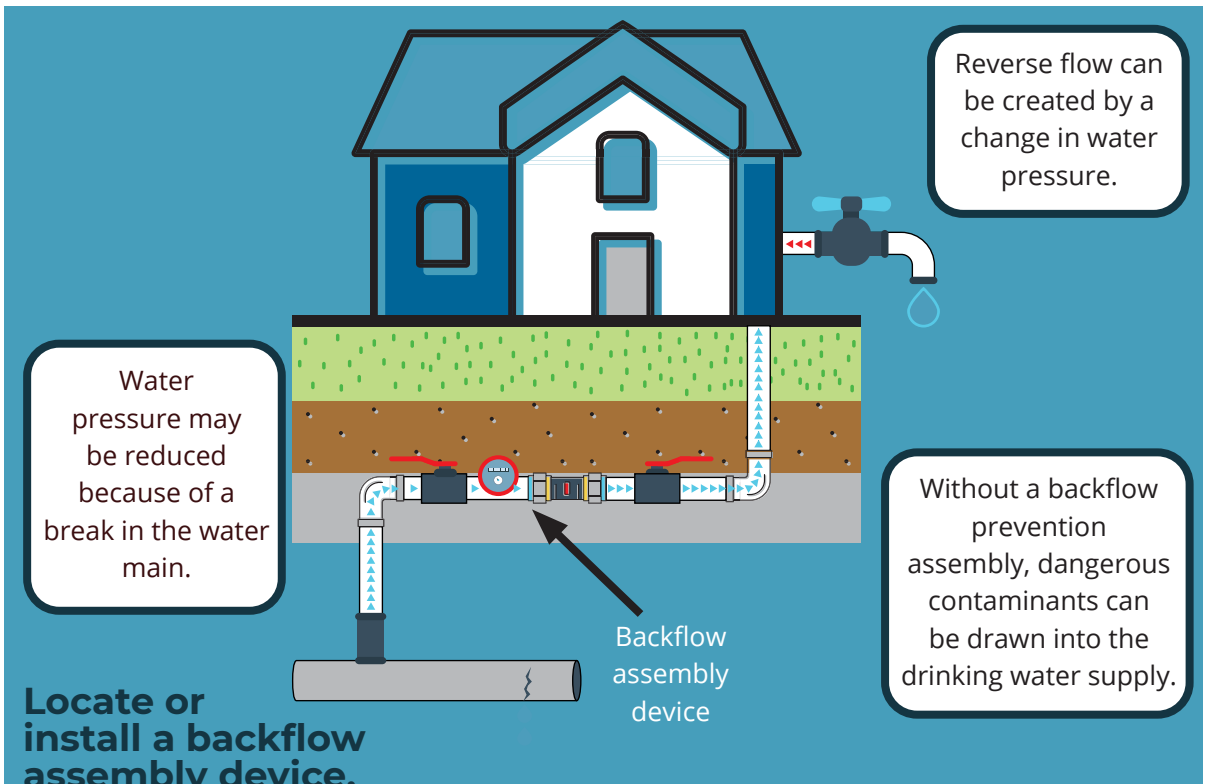
Bellevue has  
**610**  
miles of  
water main.



Bellevue has  
**24**  
reservoirs.

# Preventing Backflow

To Keep Our Drinking Water Clean and Safe



## Locate or install a backflow assembly device.

If you have an underground irrigation system, check to see if you have a backflow assembly. The backflow assembly is a brass valve usually found between your water meter and the point where your water service line enters your home, usually in a small green box similar to a meter box. If your irrigation system does not include a backflow assembly or if you are installing a new underground irrigation system, City of Bellevue plumbing code requires you to install a Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA) at a minimum.

## Test your backflow assembly device annually.

Once installed or located, you must have the assembly tested annually by a state-certified backflow assembly tester. This ensures that the assembly is functioning properly to protect the public drinking water. For a list of state-certified testers or any questions on backflow assembly testing, please contact City of Bellevue Backflow Prevention at 425-452-4201 or visit [bellevuewa.gov/backflow](http://bellevuewa.gov/backflow).

## Properly maintain your irrigation system.

When winterizing your irrigation system, make sure the compressed air is connected to a properly installed blowout connection to avoid inadvertently introducing air into our water distribution system.



# Water Use Efficiency

Using water efficiently is important to provide a safe, reliable supply of water for our community's needs today and in the future.

In 2022, Bellevue Utilities supplied 5.8 billion gallons of water to its customers. Bellevue's water system is fully metered. The city does its part to encourage the efficient use of water by minimizing water loss caused by leaks throughout its distributions system. Distribution system leakage or water loss was 5.6 percent of total consumption in 2022, below the Washington State standard of 10 percent.

Using water efficiently is important to provide a safe, reliable supply of water for our community's needs today and in the future. On behalf of Bellevue and other members, Cascade dedicates outreach, education, and programmatic resources necessary to achieve a cumulative drinking water savings of 0.5 million gallons per day for the time period 2019 - 2024. These programs and services promote water efficiency and stewardship of water resources throughout the region and achieved an estimated savings of 11,553 gallons of water per day in 2022. Along with 2019-21 savings, this represents 48% of Cascade's 2019 - 24 Water Use Efficiency Goal.

For highlights of the 2022 Cascade water efficiency program, visit [bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality](https://bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality).



# Water FAQs

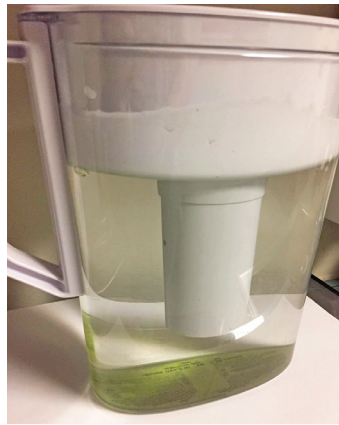
## Is Bellevue's drinking water hard or soft?

Bellevue's drinking water is very soft. It is not necessary to use special water softeners for your clothes or dishwashing machines. Water's "hardness" and "softness" is due to its concentration of minerals, such as calcium and magnesium. Water is considered "softer" when it contains a lower mineral content. Bellevue's drinking water has a hardness of approximately 1.44 grains per gallon or 24.6 mg/L.



## Why does my pitcher filter look a little green?

Pitcher type of water filters are mainly carbon filters, and carbon filters are very effective at removing the disinfectant, chlorine, from



the drinking water. Therefore, the filtered water is prone to microbial growth. Airborne algae, fungus, or mildew tends to grow more rapidly in the filtered water if conditions are optimal. For using this type of filters, be sure to keep the pitcher in the refrigerator so that it is kept cold and out of sunlight. Also, clean the pitcher regularly and replace the cartridge following manufacturer's instructions.

## Should I get my water tested?

Bellevue's drinking water has been tested and monitored extensively to ensure its

safety and quality. In addition to 16 online analyzers that monitor the water quality 24/7, 150 bacteriological samples are collected every month. Moreover, extensive chemical analyses are done every quarter. If you like to proceed with self-conducted testing, we recommend using a state-certified drinking water laboratory and avoid any home test kits or online vendors that are not certified by the state. To find a certified laboratory, please visit [ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Permits-certifications/Laboratory-Accreditation](http://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Permits-certifications/Laboratory-Accreditation). For sampling results or questions on testing, please contact Water Quality at 425-452-6192.

## Why are there pink or black stains in sinks and around drains?

Those pink or black stains are a mixed culture of airborne yeast, mold, and/or bacteria which grow well in moist conditions. They are not from your drinking water. These occurrences can increase especially in the summer when humidity and warmer temperatures increase microbial growth rates. Frequent cleaning can remove these.



Randomly appearing black colored water is typically associated with aging hot water tank. The extremely fine black particles are from the internal corrosion of the hot water tank. A typical electric or gas hot water tank has a service life of about 8 to 10 years. If you are experiencing occasional black water and your hot water tank is over eight years old, you may want to plan to have your hot water tank replaced.

### My water appears white and milky. What do I do?

White or milky water is most likely due to fine air bubbles in the water. If you place the water in a clear glass and observe, the water should clear from the

bottom in about two minutes. Aeration has no health risk and can originate in our distribution system or home plumbing system. Please contact Bellevue Utilities Water Quality if you have any concerns.

### Who should I contact if my water has an unusual smell, taste, or appearance?

A change in your water's smell, taste, or color is not necessarily a health concern. However, sometimes changes can be a sign of problems. If you notice a change in your water, please call Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-7840.

### I have black water randomly coming out of my faucet and then quickly disappears. What is it?





City of Bellevue Utilities  
 PO Box 90012  
 Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

PRSR STD  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Bellevue, WA  
 Permit NO. 61

**ECRWSS  
 POSTAL CUSTOMER**

**Important Contact Information**

City of Bellevue Utilities  
 Operations and Maintenance  
 2901 115th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004  
 Monday thru Friday: 7:00 am – 3:30 pm  
 Email: OMSupport@bellevuewa.gov  
 Website: www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities

Utilities employees are on-call to respond to emergencies 24 hours a day. For questions or help with drinking water quality, cross connections and backflow assembly testing, water main breaks, flooding, sewer overflows, or pollutant spills, please call 425-452-7840.

During non-working hours, emergency calls are answered by staff who will contact the appropriate stand-by personnel.

Get involved! The Environmental Services Commission is a citizen group that advises the Bellevue City Council on Utilities issues. Email ESC@bellevuewa.gov or visit [bellevuewa.gov/ESC](http://bellevuewa.gov/ESC) for meeting dates and other information.

Utility Billing 425-452-6973

To pay your utility bill online, please visit [myutilitybill.bellevuewa.gov](http://myutilitybill.bellevuewa.gov)

Permit Processing 425-452-4898  
[mybuildingpermit.com](http://mybuildingpermit.com)

This report contains important information about your drinking water. To read it in other languages, visit [www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality)



MyBellevue app  
 available at:



本报告包含与您的饮用水有关的重要信息。如需阅读其他语言版本，请访问 [www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality)

本報告內含關於您飲用水的重要資訊。若需要使用其他語言閱讀此資訊，請參觀網站 [www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality)

इस रिपोर्ट में आपके पीने के पानी के बारे में महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी है। इसे अन्य भाषाओं में पढ़ने के लिए [www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality) पर जाएं

本報告書にはあなたの飲料水に関する重要な情報が記載されています。英語以外の言語でお読みになる場合、[www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality) をご覧ください。

이 보고서는 식수에 관한 중요한 정보가 들어 있습니다. 다른 언어로 읽으시려면, 다음 웹페이지를 방문하십시오: [www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality)

Este informe contiene información importante acerca del agua potable. Para leerla en otros idiomas, visite [www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality)

Данный отчет содержит важные сведения о питьевой воде в вашем регионе. На других языках он доступен по адресу: [www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality)

Các báo cáo này chứa các thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của quý vị. Để đọc bằng các thứ tiếng khác, truy cập [www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality)



Scan to view the reports online



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-6168 (voice) or email [adatitleVI@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:adatitleVI@bellevuewa.gov). For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice) or email [adatitleVI@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:adatitleVI@bellevuewa.gov). If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.