A young woman with voluminous curly hair is smiling broadly, looking off to the side. She is wearing a light grey t-shirt and holding a clear glass filled with water. The background is a kitchen with white subway tiles and a black range hood.

Water Quality Report 2024

This report contains important information about your drinking water and testing results from 2023.



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 (SPU) 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. 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.

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 0.91 parts per million (ppm) in 2023.



Fluoride is added by SPU during treatment to prevent tooth decay, in accordance with a Seattle public vote in 1968. The average fluoride level in your drinking water was 0.65 ppm in 2023. 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.

Information from US Environmental Protection Agency

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (US 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. 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. US EPA/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.

Water Use Efficiency



In 2023, Bellevue Utilities supplied 6.1 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 distribution system. Distribution system leakage or water loss was 6.4 percent of total consumption in 2023, below the Washington Department of Health 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. Cascade has dedicated outreach, education, and programmatic resources necessary to achieve a cumulative drinking water savings of 0.5 million gallons per day for the period 2019 – 2024.

Some of the initiatives by Cascade include:

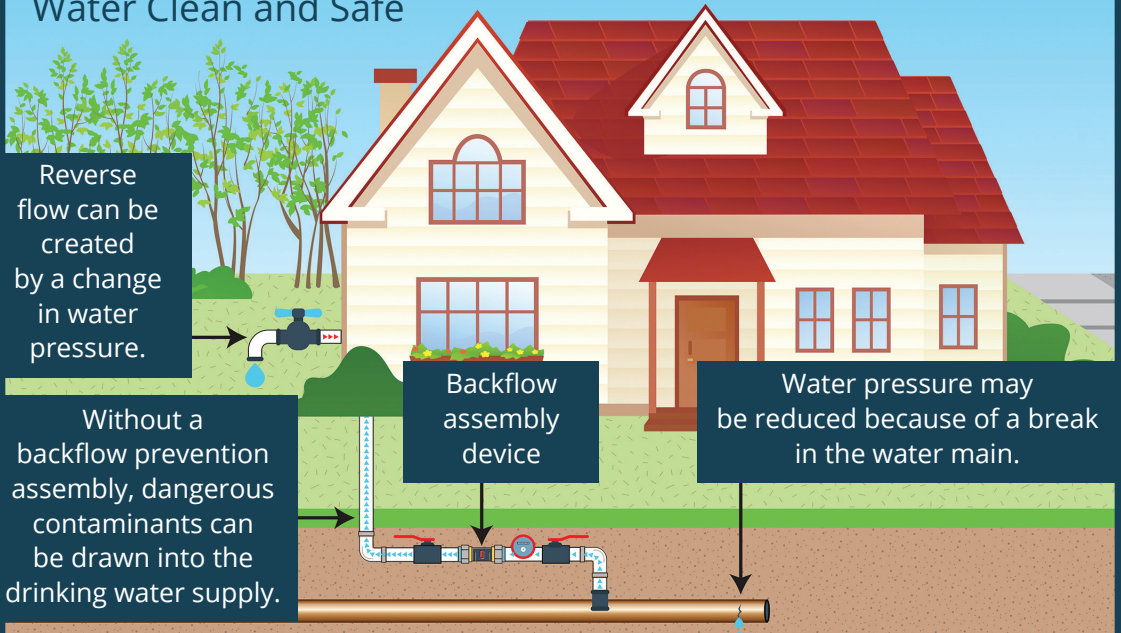
- **Provided over 1,000 EnergyStar and WaterSense-labeled rebates**
- **Distributed over 5,000 conservation items at community events, through Cascade's website, and through direct delivery to multifamily properties**
- **Provided water education to schools through classroom presentations, remote learning materials, and remote classes**
- **Promoted water conservation in gardening and landscaping community events and classes**

For more highlights in water use efficiency, visit www.bellevuewa.gov/water-use-efficiency or scan the QR code.



Preventing Backflow

To Keep 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.

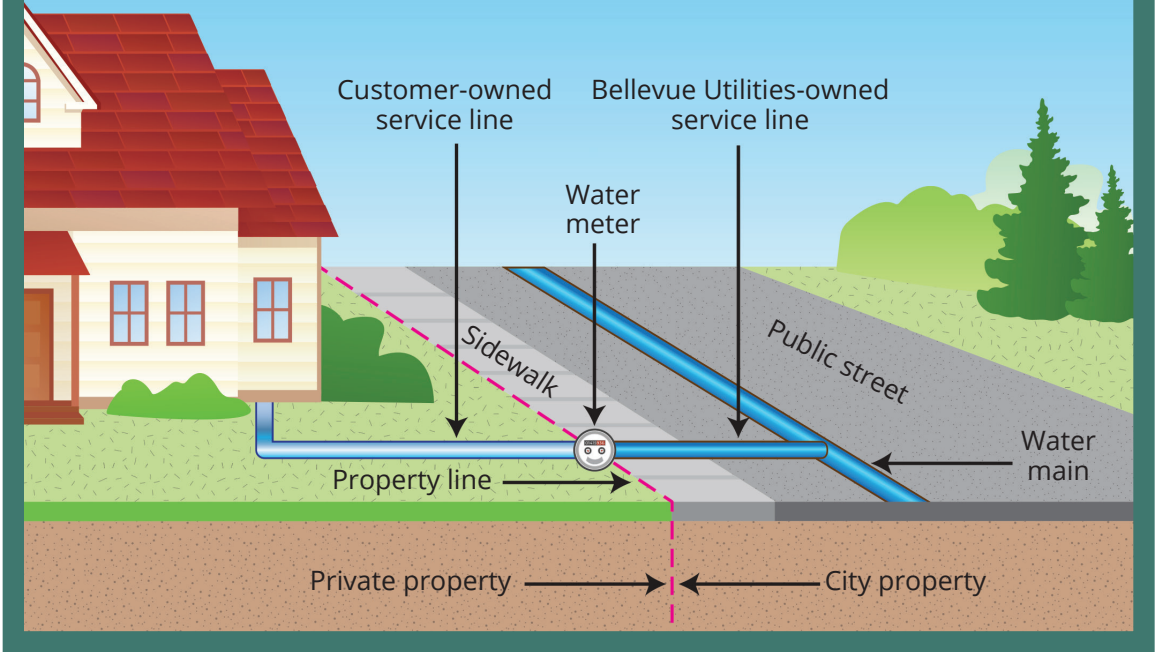
Test your backflow assembly device annually.

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.

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.

Service Line Inventory



The US EPA is requiring all water utilities to perform a Lead Service Line Inventory and to provide the results by October 16, 2024, in an effort to lower the risk of exposure to lead in the nation's drinking water. The service line is the smaller pipe that runs from the water main to the water meter (owned by Bellevue Utilities) and from the water meter to the home (owned by the Homeowner). Bellevue Utilities has never used lead in service lines from the water main to the water meter, and the use of lead service lines was banned in all of King County in 1968. However, homes built before 1968 could have lead pipes from the water meter to the house.

Bellevue Utilities has compiled an inventory of service lines, both owned by Bellevue Utilities and by the homeowner. However, historically

Bellevue Utilities has not collected material data on the homeowner-side of the service line; therefore, these will be shown as "Unknown" in the inventory. We are notifying our customers of this uncertainty. In the future, we will be working to update our data with both Bellevue Utilities side and customer side service line material information to reduce the number of unknown service lines typed by material.

In 2017, 2020, and again in 2023, Bellevue Utilities conducted lead sampling from residential taps ranging from 52-68 homes in accordance with the current US EPA's Lead and Copper Rule. On all three sampling events, none of the samples was above the action level. Occasional low-level detections are associated with customer's fixtures and customer's sampling techniques.

As we are developing an online tool that will allow our customers to look up the data associated with their homes and businesses, we are asking for your help in providing information about your service line should you know the material or the date of replacement. Additionally, should you have questions or concerns, we are happy to assist in determining the material associated with the service line connection.

More information on the US EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revision and the Lead Service Line Inventory can be found on the City's website at www.bellevuewa.gov/lead-service-line or by scanning the QR code below.



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.

		EPA's Allowable Limits		Levels in Cedar Water		Levels in Tolt Water		
Detected Compounds	Units	MCLG	MCL	Average	Range	Average	Range	Typical Sources
Raw Water								
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	NA	TT	0.76	0.42 to 1.12	1.26	0.99 to 2.49	Naturally present in the environment
Finished Water								
Turbidity	NTU	NA	TT	0.38	0.19 to 3.5	0.04	0.02 to 0.12	Soil runoff
Arsenic	ppb	0	10	0.4	0.3 to 0.6	0.3	0.2 to 0.4	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	ppb	2000	2000	1.5	1.3 to 1.7	1.2	1.1 to 1.4	Erosion of natural deposits
Bromate**	ppb	0	10	0.7	ND to 11	0.1	ND to 2	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.7	0.5 to 0.8	0.7	0.6 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 = 27 Range = 13.6 to 47.4				By-products of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (5)	ppb	NA	60	Average = 23 Range = 14.5 to 27.7				
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Average = 0.91 Range = 0.06 - 1.72				Water additive used to control microbes

**Seattle Public Utilities, where Bellevue purchase its water, is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether your drinking water meets health standards. In October 2023, a bromate sample was not analyzed for the Tolt supply, and therefore SPU cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. However, based on historical data and results since October 2023, Tolt bromate levels are generally non-detectable.

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 2023 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 2023 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

Lead and copper monitoring results					
Parameter and Units	MCLG	Action Level+	2023 Results*	Homes Exceeding Action Level	Source
Lead, ppb	0	15	3.7	0 of 52	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper, ppm	1.3	1.3	0.11	0 of 52	

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

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

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>.



Water FAQs

Is Bellevue's water safe to drink and use?

Absolutely yes! Bellevue's water is very clear and disinfected with ozone and chlorine. You can drink it right out of the faucet. It is not necessary to filter or boil the water before drinking or using it. Bottled water is convenient for travel, but it is not necessary when you are at home where you can simply turn on the faucet. Do you know some of the bottled water are bottled right here in Bellevue?

Why do I have taste and odor issues with my drinking water?

From our experience, taste and odor issues are generally caused by stagnant water or charged garden hose. Water pipes branch out in all different directions in a home plumbing system. If there is any section that is not normally used,

the water in there can degrade and foul causing taste and odor issues as water passes by, going to another part of the house, for example, the kitchen. You simply need to flush all cold water faucets, inside and outside, for about 3 to 5 minutes to refresh your plumbing system. This usually resolves any taste and odor issues.

If you do experience very strong chemical taste or odor, check to see if you have a connected garden hose. Leaving your garden hose connected and pressurized would allow the water in the garden hose to backflow into your home plumbing system, causing the water to taste or smell like rubber or a very strong chemical. To correct this issue, disconnect all garden hoses and then flush all cold faucets for 3 to 5 minutes to refresh your plumbing system. It is always a good habit to disconnect the garden hose when not in use.

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 1.48 grains per gallon or 25.4 mg/L.

I have 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.



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.

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

Randomly appeared black colored water is typically associated with an 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.

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

A change in your water's smell, taste, or color may not always be 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.



My water appears white and milky.

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



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Important Contact Information

Bellevue Utilities
 450 110th Avenue NE
 Bellevue, WA 98004
 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 for meeting dates and other information.

Utility Billing 425-452-6973
 To pay your utility bill online, please visit myutilitybill.bellevuewa.gov

Permit Processing 425-452-4898
mybuildingpermit.com

This report contains important information about your drinking water. To read it in other languages, visit www.bellevuewa.gov/drinkingwaterquality



MyBellevue app available at:



Scan to view the reports online

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

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

इस रिपोर्ट में आपके पीने के पानी के बारे में महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी है। इसे अन्य भाषाओं में पढ़ने के लिए 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 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

Este informe contiene información importante acerca del agua potable. Para leerla en otros idiomas, visite 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

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



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-6168 (voice) or email adatitleVI@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.