Water Quality Report 2025

This report contains important information about your drinking water and testing results from 2024.

PWS ID 05575B

WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM


Cedar River Watershed

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 sourced 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. 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.


Tolt 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 0.89 parts per million (ppm) in 2024. 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 0.62 ppm in 2024. 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 prevent metals from leaching into the drinking water from your plumbing components and to 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 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.

WATER QUALITY DATA

Your water is monitored and tested extensively throughout the year. After testing nearly 200 chemical compounds, only a few were detected. **This report lists only the compounds that were detected.** 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	0.5 to 1.23	1.24	1.12 to 1.39	Naturally present in the environment
Finished Water								
Turbidity	NTU	NA	TT	0.41	0.19 to 2.1	0.04	0.02 to 0.29	Soil runoff
Arsenic	ppb	0	10	0.4	0.3 to 0.6	0.23	0.2 to 0.4	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	ppb	2000	2000	1.3	1.2 to 1.5	1.2	1.1 to 1.4	Erosion of natural deposits
Bromate	ppb	0	10	1.3	ND to 11	0.1	ND to 3.8	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.65	0.6 to 0.7	0.7	0.6 to 0.8	Water additive
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	ND	One Sample	0.08	One Sample	Erosion of natural deposits
Coliform, Total	%	0	5%	0.1% 2 out of 1,800 samples				Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	NA	80	Average = 31 Range = 21.0 to 43.2				By-products of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (5)	ppb	NA	60	Average = 27 Range = 14.2 to 37.1				
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Average = 0.89 Range = 0.17 – 1.64				Water additive used to control microbes

Definitions for Table Above

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 & COPPER

In 2023, tap water samples were collected and analyzed for lead and copper from 52 homes throughout the Bellevue Utilities service area. These samples are collected every three years as required by the Washington State Department of Health. Our next round of sampling will be in August 2026. Below are the 2023 sample results.

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.

A MESSAGE FROM US EPA

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.

A MESSAGE FROM BELLEVUE UTILITIES

The Washington State Department of Health requires utilities to notify customers in the event of a minor monitoring violation. It was determined that Seattle Public Utilities experienced a minor monitoring violation for the Cedar Treatment Facility on June 21, 2024, when one part of the monitoring equipment failed to record a portion of data for one of the seven operating ultraviolet (UV) treatment units. Other data was available for that UV unit showing that UV treatment was still occurring, so there were no public health implications. Repairs were made, system programing improved, and operators were provided with additional training to help prevent this from happening in the future. If you have any questions about this event, please call Seattle Public Utilities at 206-615-0827.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the USEPA to issue a list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems every five years. The fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) was published on December 27, 2021, and requires water systems to sample for 29 PFAS compounds and lithium between 2023 and 2025. The data collected under UCMR 5 improves understanding of the prevalence and amount of 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium in the nation's drinking water systems. Bellevue Utilities has completed all required sampling in January, April, July, and October, 2024. Out of the 29 PFAS compounds tested, we had only four very minor detections in January; there is no detections in April, July, and October for all 30 compounds. We believe the first quarter detections were errors due to sampling environment and conditions. The table below lists only those that are detected. For the complete list of compounds sampled and their results, please visit www.bellevuewa.gov/PFAS or scan the QR code on this page.

					January 2024 samples		
	MDL	MRL	MCL	MCLG	Tolt	Cedar	Sources
PFBA	0.0750	5	None	None	0.2830J	0.3170J	See Typical Sources below
PFHpA	0.0520	3	None	None	0.0833J	0.0800J	
PFOS	0.0980	4	4	0	0.1170J	0.1200J	
PFOA	0.0750	4	4	0	0.0833J	0.0833J	

Note: all units are in parts-per-trillion or ppt.

Typical Sources for PFAS compounds

PFAS are a group of synthetic chemicals used in a wide range of consumer products and industrial applications including: non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain-resistant fabrics and carpets, cosmetics, firefighting foams, electroplating, and products that resist grease, water, and oil. PFAS are found in the blood of people and animals and in water, air, fish, and soil at locations across the United States and the world.

Definitions for Table Above

MDL: *Method Detection Limit* - lowest level the testing method can detect.
MRL: *Method Reporting Limit* – lowest level the testing method can quantify with high confidence.
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. On April 10, 2024, USEPA established MCL for five PFAS compounds.
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.
ND: *Not Detected*
J: a "J" at the end of a result number means it is an estimated value. This usually happens to a result that is below MRL but above MDL.
1 ppb = 1000 ppt

So what exactly is 1 ppt like? To put it in perspective:

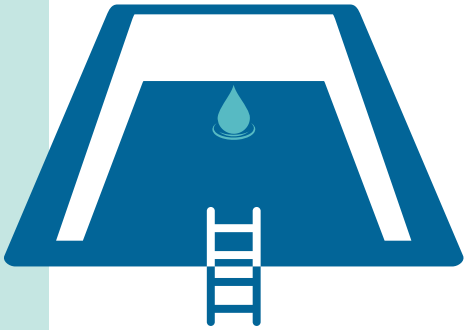
1 inch in 16 million miles -

600+ times around the earth

A single drop of food coloring in 18 million gallons of water, or a little over

27

Olympic sized pools.



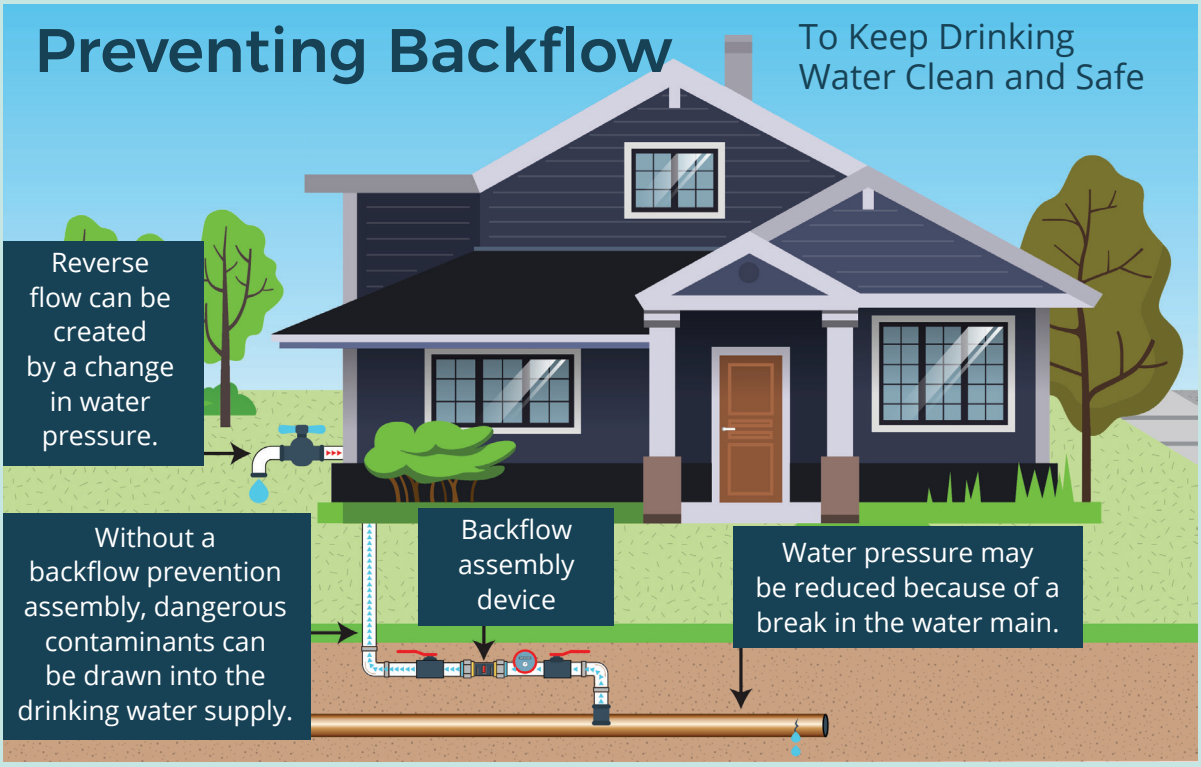
1 second out of **32,000 years**

PFAS and Drinking Water

PFAS are a large family of human-made chemicals in use since the 1950s to make a wide variety of stain-resistant, water-resistant, and non-stick consumer products. Some examples include food packaging, outdoor clothing, and non-stick pans. PFAS also have many industrial uses because of their special properties. In Washington State, PFAS have been used in certain types of firefighting foams utilized by the U.S. military, local fire departments, and airports. PFAS can get into drinking water if they are made, used, disposed of, or spilled near your water source. Because PFAS do not break down easily, they may remain in water supplies for many years. Bellevue's drinking water comes from two very large, pristine, and very well-protected watersheds in Cascade foothills. At Bellevue Utilities, we will continue to monitor this emerging family of contaminants per federal and state guidelines to protect you and your family. For more information on PFAS and drinking water, please visit Washington State Department of Health website: https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/contaminants/pfas

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.

In addition, if you have any auxiliary water supply such as a well or utilizing lake water for landscape irrigation, you are required to have a Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RPBA) 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 the City's water distribution system.

WATER USE EFFICIENCY

Cascade provides water efficiency programs and services on behalf of its members. Highlights of the 2024 Cascade water efficiency program include:

- Provided water education school programs on diverse topics, such as Microplastics, Water Supply, Waterwise Gardening, All About Groundwater, and Carbon, Climate, and Conservation.
- Co-created and supported the Problem-Based Learning for Water Systems (PBL4WS) program with Sustainability Ambassadors for teachers and students who want more in-depth learning about water systems.
- Provided over 4,000 EnergyStar-labeled and WaterSense-labeled appliance rebates.
- Distributed over 500 conservation items such as shower timers, rain gauges, toilet leak detection dye, and others through Cascade's website.
- Provided many gardening, landscaping, and irrigation workshops to promote efficient use of water.
- Continued partnership with Lake Washington Institute of Technology to offer the Sustainable Landscape Technologies accredited program to train students and industry professionals on the fundamentals of efficient irrigation system management and sustainable landscaping.
- Produced podcasts and social media content.

These programs and services promoted water efficiency and stewardship of water resources throughout the region resulting in thousands of student, teacher, business, and customer engagements representing all Cascade members and achieved an estimated savings of 83,401 gallons of water per day in 2024. Along with 2019-23 savings, this represents 69% of Cascade's 2019 – 26 Water Use Efficiency Goal.

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 will dedicate outreach, education, and programmatic resources necessary to achieve a cumulative drinking water savings of 0.5 million gallons per day for the period 2019 – 2026.

In 2024, Bellevue Utilities supplied 5.7 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 3.8 percent of total consumption in 2024, well below the Washington State standard of 10 percent.

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 & odor in drinking water generally are caused by two issues:

1. **Stagnant water** - 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 other part of the house, for example, kitchen. You simply need to flush all cold water faucet, inside and outside, for about 3 to 5 minutes to refresh your plumbing system. This usually resolve any taste and odor issues.

2. **Connected garden hose** - If you do experience very strong chemical taste or odor, check to see if you have connected garden hose, especially in the backyard. 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 1.47 grains per gallon or 25.2 mg/L.

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 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.

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

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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**

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 보고서에는 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 о н 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**

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