



# 2024 Water Quality Report

## (For Water Tests completed in 2021-2023)

The City of Ellensburg Water Division (**PWS: 22950M**) is once again proud to present to you our annual water quality report, which is required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to delivering drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. We continually strive to adopt new and better methods of delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we will be vigilant in maintaining our objective of providing quality drinking water at an affordable price. If you have any concerns relating to the information in this report, we encourage you to contact your health care provider. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023.

### So What Is The Bottom Line?

**Ellensburg's water meets or exceeds state and federal standards.** Water is tested regularly through a certified laboratory. State and federal regulators routinely monitor our compliance and testing protocols to assure safe delivery of drinking water to our customers. If you have further questions or comments about the information in this report, please call the City of Ellensburg Water Department at 509-962-7230. We welcome your interest in Ellensburg's water system!

## Important Water Facts

### The Source of Ellensburg's Water

The City of Ellensburg takes water from eleven wells. The oldest well, City Well, is located near the Yakima River. The City also utilizes nine deep wells (300 feet to 1250 feet deep). Seven wells are located within the City limits of Ellensburg, and three wells are located outside our boundaries. An additional deep well is owned by Central Washington University and is utilized by the City to supplement summer demands. The water pumped from these wells is blended together throughout our system.

We are fortunate to benefit from high quality water sources. These sources are treated with chlorine prior to entering the distribution system for disinfection purposes. Fluoride is also added as the water enters the distribution system.

### Ellensburg Water: A Great Value!

Your water rates pay for delivering high quality water to your door and keeping the water system in top condition. Currently, the City is making a number of improvements to its overall water system to ensure the reliability and quality of its water and its service. The money received from water customers funds planning and conservation programs, water supply and treatment, system operation and maintenance, and building and maintenance of the water facilities. Every dollar paid for water is invested in your water system.

### Water Use Efficiency Program

The City of Ellensburg has set a goal of 10% or less distribution system leakage (DSL) over the planning period of 2020-2040. In order to accomplish this goal, the City has hired (on an annual basis) an outside leak detection contractor to help pinpoint where underground water leaks may be occurring. The City will also continue its comprehensive meter change-out program for all aging meters in the overall system.

In addition to pumping less water, the City of Ellensburg has established a goal of reducing overall demand per equivalent residential unit (ERU) by 5% over the next 10 years, then maintaining this demand per ERU for the following 10 years. In order to reach this goal, the City will be making water efficiency

educational materials available to the public at large through various distribution methods.

### Additional Information About Water Quality

As water travels 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 water sources are microbes, pesticides, herbicides, naturally occurring radioactive materials, organic and/or inorganic chemicals.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets limits on the amount of certain contaminants that can be present in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sets the limits for contaminants in bottled water. 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's Safe Drinking Water hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

**If you have any questions, call us at 509-962-7230.**

## Lead and Copper Monitoring Program Results

Below are the 2023 results (averages) of 35 homes and/or businesses which were tested for lead and copper levels in their drinking water. None of the homes and/or businesses had concentrations of lead or copper that exceeded the Federal Action Level. Exceeding the Action Level would require additional treatment or other requirements for the City of Ellensburg's water system. We will be monitoring customer homes/businesses again in September 2026.

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 Ellensburg 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>.

Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Average Detected Level	Major Sources	Violations
LEAD	9/27/2023	mg/L	0	0.015	0.0005	Corrosion of Household Plumbing Systems	None
COPPER	9/27/2023	mg/L	1.300	1.300	0.0174	Corrosion of Household Plumbing Systems	None

## Water Quality Monitoring Results

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires that water systems report annually on contaminants that have been detected in their water supplies. Ellensburg Water monitors over 170 contaminants, including pesticides, at each of our eleven wells (Contaminants to be monitored in a given year are determined by the State of Washington). In addition, the City also collects samples from customer taps to monitor for chlorine and coliforms. We collect samples at our reservoirs, distribution system, and at customers' taps. When contaminants have been detected, they have been below the levels that EPA considers of concern. Ellensburg's water meets or surpasses federal and state drinking water standards.

### Important Definitions (Used for the table below)

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant which is allowed in drinking water. MCL is set by EPA & DOH  
**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which is no expected risk to health.  
**Milligrams per Liter (mg/l):** These units describe the levels of detected contaminants. One milligram per liter is about 1/2 of a dissolved aspirin tablet (162.5 mg) in a full bathtub of water (about 50gal).  
**Micrograms per Liter (ug/l):** These units are 1/1000's the size of a milligram per liter.  
**Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L):** A measure of Radioactivity  
**Detected Level:** Detection results from testing done at a Certified Laboratory.

Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Detected Level	Major Sources	Violations
Benzene	May 21	ug/L	0	5	Non-Detect	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks	None
Halo-Acetic Acids	Feb 23	ug/L	n/a	60	Non-Detect	By-Product of drinking water disinfection	None
Fluoride	Oct 23	mg/L	4	4	0.64	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and Aluminum factories	None
Nitrate	Mar 23	mg/L	10	10	0.33	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	None
Radium 228	Apr 23	pCi/L	n/a	5	Non-Detect	Naturally occurring in soil & rocks (Radioactive decay of uranium and thorium)	None
Trihalomethanes	Feb 23	ug/L	n/a	80	Non-Detect	By-Product of drinking water disinfection	None
Styrene	May 21	ug/L	100	100	Non-Detect	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks	None
Toluene	May 21	ug/L	1000	1000	Non-Detect	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks	None
Chromium	Aug 22	Mg/L	0.1	0.1	.003	Discharge from steel pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits	None

**Lead Service Line Inventory:** In accordance with the EPA's Lead & Copper Rule Revisions, the City will be developing a comprehensive water service line inventory by October 2024. You may be contacted in the future regarding your water service line material and age of service construction.