

East Wenatchee Water District

2020 Water Quality Report

Providing clean, fresh drinking water has been our top commitment to you and your family since 1940.

The Board of Commissioners and the staff at the East Wenatchee Water District would like to reaffirm our promise to you that the quality of drinking water we provide will be an expression of our care for the community we serve. The District has a long history of providing excellent water quality and reliable service to the customers of the Greater East Wenatchee Area and will remain proactive in maintaining pristine water quality that meets or exceeds state and federal standards.

At less than a penny for three gallons, water costs very little compared to its true value.

Water Districts provide water services without imposing property taxes or impacting tax limits and are dedicated to water conservation through rates, metering, consumer education and system efficiencies. With issues of water quality an increasingly common story in the media, we here at the District believe it's important to safeguard the quality and availability of this precious resource.

Your water rates pay for everything it takes to operate our water system, from storage and treatment to delivering the water to your tap. Your water rates also help fund system improvements that ensure we always provide high-quality water.



Providing a Better Future

Clean drinking water and the replacement of aging infrastructure will continue to drive the district's need to address system upgrades and replacement. By creating a responsible replacement plan we can minimize increased and delayed costs in the future that are necessary to sustain public health, support our economy and protect the environment.

The ability to foster unique partnerships and working with the ideology of cost-savings by working together, project expenditures have been minimized. The ability to work effectively with both private and public partners involving mutually beneficial projects, have been, and will continue to be an essential priority in keeping costs down. Currently, the District's capital budget will contribute over \$11.5 million dollars into infrastructure additions in 2021. By working closely together with our partners and coordinating the replacement of improvements in advance maximizes financial savings to the district's rate payers. These needed system improvements will contribute greatly to improving the water system and will not impact the district's current customers.

As we have all recently experienced, the COVID-19 pandemic has made us realize that things can change very rapidly. This pandemic has led to many adversities and has challenged the economic structure to which we are accustomed. The pandemic's full social and economic impact remains to be seen as we are facing unprecedented exposure

to something that is new to us all. We, as people, will need to be more diligent and resilient than ever



before. The district's rate payers have been of the utmost importance to the current Commission and staff. A close look at providing a level of affordable service is paramount. As we move forward, the financial impact to the District from COVID-19 remains to be seen. The long-range plan and rate study that is proposed for 2021 will need to take into consideration the recovery of the local economy. Moving forward with a healthy financial plan that benefits the district's current and future customers is of utmost importance and is an issue that will not be neglected by the district.

As we look into the near future with Capital Replacements being a critical way to restore existing water systems as they reach the end of their useful lives, we need to be diligent by demonstrating and providing the best planning model to serve a growing population. We all must work together to facilitate and demonstrate a strong financial management program that provides the best planning model for our customers.



The East Wenatchee Water District is proud to partner with the EPA's WaterSense Program.

- Look for the WaterSense label when you buy water-using fixtures to save water and money!
- Remember that 1" of water per week is all your lawn needs to stay healthy. To easily determine if your lawn needs to be watered, simply walk across it. If you leave footprints, it's time to water. Don't waste by over-watering!
- Pick low-water plants. When you buy plants, choose plants for immediate beauty and future water savings. Group plants with similar water needs together. Explore Xeriscape for landscaping ideas.
- Mulch-mow your lawn. Set your mower height at 2-inches and leaving the clippings on the lawn. The clippings help retain moisture and you won't need to bag the clippings!
- Water wisely. When you do water, water deeply, but infrequently. Water only during the cooler hours of the day, between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. to avoid losing up to half of your water to evaporation.
- Adjust sprinklers to avoid watering the street, driveways and sidewalks. Choose sprinklers with spray patterns that match the shape of your lawn or garden area.

CHECK YOUR METER - Turn off all water-using appliances and fixtures inside and outside your home. Locate the water meter (typically out at the property line in a concrete box. Call us if you're not sure!) Check and record the current meter reading. Wait 10 minutes, without using any water inside or outside the home. While you're waiting check and see if there's a leak detection dial on the meter. It is usually a small red or black triangle that spins if there is water being used and is an indication that there is a leak.

After the 10 minutes, check the meter again and compare readings. If the numbers don't match, you have a leak. The most common culprits are leaking toilets and dripping faucets

TEST YOUR TOILET - Lift the lid off of the tank on the back of your toilet and add 5 to 10 drops of food coloring, or a dye tablet (available at our office) into the tank. Wait 5 minutes and then check the toilet bowl. If you see coloring in the bowl, you have a leak. In most cases, replacing the toilet flapper and/or the filling mechanism will correct the problem.

THE FACTS ON LEAKS

- 10** percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day
- A leaky faucet dripping at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than **3,000 gallons** per year
- Did you know?** Minor water leaks account for more than **1** trillion gallons of wasted water each year and is equal to annual household water use in **11** million homes
- A shower leaking at **10 Drips** per minute wastes more than **500** gallons per year
- REPAIR** leaks by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary
- Replace old toilets with WaterSense models & save **13,000** gallons of water savings for the average family
- Homeowners can save **10** percent on their water bills
- Look for **WaterSense** Meets EPA Criteria

EPA epa.gov/watersense

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that can occur in untreated water include: microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria; inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemicals from industrial or petroleum use, and radioactive materials. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.



THE PURPOSE OF DISINFECTION AND THE RESULTING DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

Drinking water is disinfected with chlorine to destroy bacteria, viruses and Giardia. Inadequate disinfection may lead to acute gastrointestinal illnesses. However, as the disinfectant reacts with naturally occurring organic matter in the water, disinfection by-products are formed. Disinfection by-products have been linked to increased cancer risks from drinking water containing high levels over many years. New drinking water regulations provide a balance between required levels of disinfection and the resulting disinfection by-products. We are pleased to announce that after eight years of extensive monitoring for disinfection by-products

throughout our District we have seen results well below any state or federal action levels. We also monitor chlorine residual levels throughout our system daily.

INFORMATION ON LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Even though lead is not found in District water sources, pipes and plumbing fixtures in buildings can contribute lead to drinking water.

In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals such as lead may be leached into the line.

Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children. To help reduce potential exposure to lead for any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791** or www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

If you're concerned or think you may have lead in your home's pipes or water fixtures, you can test for lead using a home test kit. These inexpensive kits are available online and at most major hardware stores.

If you find that you have lead in your home's water, there are some steps that you can take to begin limiting your exposure.

Drink cold water. If water has not been used for a few hours, run the cold water for two minutes before using. Replace faucets and indoor plumbing with "lead-free" components. Hire a plumber to replace your lead service lines with copper ones.

Why Tap Water is Better than Bottled (and not just in an emergency)

Four Reasons to Stop Buying Bottled Water:

1. The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in tap water. Standard procedures for tap water filtration, disinfection, and treatment removes or inactivates the virus.
2. Each year, 17 million barrels of oil are used to produce the plastic for bottled water (equivalent to 340 million gallons of gasoline).
3. Only 1 in 5 of these plastic water bottles gets recycled.
4. Bottled water is much more expensive than tap water.



Tap water is the safest, most environmentally sound, and least expensive way to remain hydrated.

YOUR WATER IS SAFE FROM COVID-19

The EPA recommends that Americans continue to use and drink tap water as usual. According to the World Health Organization and the Center for Disease Control, “the virus that causes Covid-19 has not been detected in drinking water supplies.”

Conventional water treatment methods that use disinfection, as is the case with our water, should remove or inactivate the virus that causes Covid-19. According to the World Health Organization water, sanitation and hygienic conditions are essential for protecting human health during infectious disease outbreaks and we take pride in providing you these essential services.

We are also taking steps to keep our customers and employees safe to prevent any disruption of these services. While we have closed our office to the public until further notice we are still here to serve you. You may contact us during normal business hours by phone at **(509) 884-3569**.

WHERE OUR WATER COMES FROM

East Wenatchee Water District, System #218005. Your water comes from a groundwater source called the East Bank Aquifer. Located in Douglas County near Rocky Reach Dam, the aquifer is tapped by four wells drilled 200 feet in depth. The water from the East Bank Aquifer is of excellent quality and quantity and is capable of supplying an estimated 240 million gallons per day. The district also has two other seasonal groundwater sources that can be used if needed: Wells 4 & 5 located off Rock Island Road, and Well 7 located off of Cascade St. Water was not used from these sources in 2019.

SOURCE PROTECTION INFORMATION

The Department of Health has Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) data compiled for all community Public Water Systems in Washington. SWAP data for the East Wenatchee Water District is available online at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/sw/assessment.htm>
Simply enter our system name and ID # 218005 for access.

DEFINITIONS:

LRAA: Locational running annual average.

ppb: Parts of contaminant per billion parts of water, also the same as micrograms per liter.

ppm: Parts of contaminant per million parts of water, also the same as milligrams per liter.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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 or 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

N/A: Not analyzed

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER AND WHAT ISN'T

The results of the most recent monitoring including that in 2020 are shown in the table below. Water was tested for the presence of potential contaminants, but only those required based on their detection are listed.

Samples were also taken monthly for the presence of Coliform 30 times from 8 different sample sights in 2020. Coliform are naturally present in the environment and a test result showing their presence simply indicates the need for additional sampling. Last year there were no unsatisfactory samples.

State and Federal regulations dictate which contaminants the district must test for and how often. Not all compounds are tested for every year. The results presented represent the most current data for the source and the water system. All results are representative of a raw water temperature of 47.7F°

ANALYTES	DETECTED LEVEL	UNIT	MCLG	MCL	COMPLY	LIKELY SOURCES
EPA REGULATED						
Arsenic	<0.002	ppb	0.002	0.01	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits and orchard run off
Barium	0.021	ppm	0.1	2	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits and drilling wastes
Nitrite - N	<0.05	ppm	0.5	1	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits, animal waste
Nitrate - N	0.17	ppm	0.5	10	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits, septic, fertilizer
Total Nitrate/Nitrite	0.17	ppm	0.5	10	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits, septic, fertilizer
EPA REGULATED (Secondary)						
Iron	0.001	ppm	0.1		Yes	Naturally occurring
Manganese	<0.005	ppm	0.01		Yes	Naturally occurring
Chloride	1.09	ppm	20		Yes	Naturally occurring
Sulfate	13.6	ppm	10		Yes	Naturally occurring
Sodium	2.2	ppm	5		Yes	Naturally occurring
Hardness	68.6	ppm	10		Yes	Erosion of calcium and mineral deposits
Turbidity	<0.025	NTU	0.3		Yes	Soil erosion
Total Dissolved Solids	97.0	ppm	150		Yes	Erosion of solids
Pesticides						
Dimethoate	NA	ppm		0.70	Yes	
Terbufos Sulfone	NA	ppm		0.40	Yes	
PBDE47	NA	ppm		0.30	Yes	
PBDE 100	NA	ppm		0.50	Yes	
PBDE 99	NA	ppm		0.90	Yes	
2,2',4,4',5,5'-Hexabromobiphenyl	NA	ppm		0.70	Yes	
PBDE 153	NA	ppm		0.80	Yes	
FROM THE TAP						
	RANGE				90th Percentile	
Lead	<0.0002 to 0.0083	ppb	0	15	0.0018	Plumbing corrosion, erosion of natural deposits
Copper	0.017 to 0.949	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.552	Plumbing corrosion, erosion of natural deposits
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS						
Total Trihalomethane	6.55 LRAA	ppb	N/A	N/A	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acid	1.174 LRAA	ppb	48	60	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine Residual	0.31 Avg.	ppm	MRDL=4	MRDL=4	Yes	Measure of remaining disinfectants

Easily Pay Your Bill Online

We've made it safe and easy for you to pay your bill online.

Visit our website www.ewwd.org, click

- Log in
- Follow the prompts to register

Once registered you can sign up for auto pay, go paperless and view your billing history and water consumption for several years.

To pay by phone, please call our new pay by phone number 509-293-4383.

*The district no longer takes phone payments at the 884-3569 number.

SENIOR CITIZEN & DISABLED PERSON DISCOUNT

We still adjust water service charges for low-income senior citizens and disabled persons. The maximum annual income is \$40,000 and you must be exempt from a portion of your property tax through Douglas County. If you think you may qualify, please stop by the district office and complete the paperwork for your adjustment.

2021 Water Rates Bi-monthly	
Meter Size	2021
5/8 Inch	\$83
1 Inch	\$92
1-1/2 Inch	\$104
2 Inch	\$134
3 Inch	\$360
4 Inch	\$443
Additional Multi-Family Unit	\$67
*Consumption charge in excess of 1,200cf	
Charge per 100cf*	\$2.55
Senior and Low-Income Discount	
Discount Level 1	(\$30.00)

Rates for 2022 have not yet been determined due to the changes in District policies instituted because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rates will be posted when available.