2024 Consumer Confidence Report

April 2025

Is my water safe?

The OBCG board is pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

Orchard Beach Community Water Group receives its water from 2 groundwater wells. Well #1 is 72 feet deep and provides 10 GPM. Well #2 is 209 feet deep and provides 60 GPM

The system is located in Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA(14 Kennedy/Goldsborough Watershed

Source water assessment and its availability

SOURCE PROTECTION INFORMATION: The Department of Health Office of Drinking Water has compiled Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) data for all community water systems in Washington State. Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP)

Contaminants in drinking 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline

(800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) can 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 and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; **organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

How can I get involved?

Attend regular annual meetings. Visit obcg.org for more information.

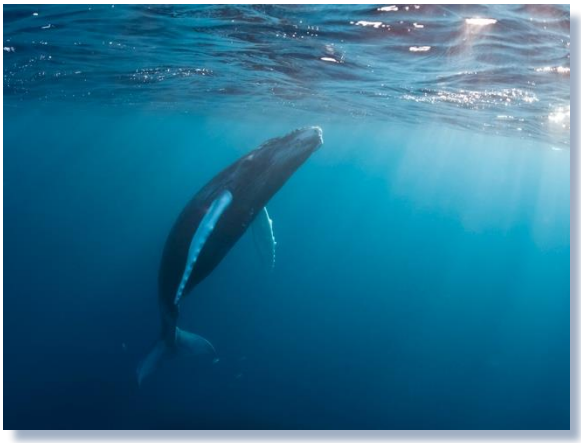
Water conservation tips

There are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

• Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
• Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.

- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.

- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.



Source water protection tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.

- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross connection-control regulations and ensuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. All members of Orchard Beach Community Group must complete the Cross Connection Control Survey. Visit Cross Connection Control Survey to complete the survey online.

Where are cross connections found?

Cross connections are found in all plumbing systems. It is important that each cross connection be identified and evaluated as to the type of backflow protection required to protect the drinking water supply. Some plumbing fixtures have built-in backflow protection in the form of a physical air gap. However, most cross connections will need to be controlled through the installation of an approved mechanical backflow-prevention device or assembly. Some common cross connections found in plumbing and water systems include:

-Wash basins & service sinks	-Auxiliary water supplies	-Boilers
-Hose bibs	-Swimming pools/hot tubs	-Fire sprinkler systems
-Irrigation sprinkler systems	-Solar heat systems	-Water recirculating systems

Additional information for lead

The system inventory does not include lead service lines.
Historical records were examined and verified that no lead service lines exist.
The following link can be used to access inventory information - Lead Inventory Information.

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. ORCHARD BEACH COMMUNITY is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact ORCHARD BEACH COMMUNITY (Public Water System Id: WA64031) by calling 602-478-1614 or emailing orchardwater@yahoo.com. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at Lead in Drinking Water.

Results of radon monitoring

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your state radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

Other information – Before you dig

Call 811 prior to digging in or near the utility easement.

The water mains that follow Orchard Beach Drive on both sides are non-metallic and therefore unlocatable. However, the state law about locating offers a practical alternative: use "other visible water facilities," such as water meters, water valve covers and junction boxes as reference points.

If you draw an imaginary line between the meters on the two parcels in question, and don't dig/trench between that imaginary line and Orchard Beach Drive, there should be no risk to the community water mains.

Should you find the need to dig within the space where our water mains are, be aware that we believe they're at a depth of 12-24 inches. Also, they've been in the ground for around 40 years so should be presumed to be brittle and fragile. We would ask that you notify us prior to digging near the main so a board member can be on site in case there are any issues that would require a shutdown of the system. Also, if anyone is going to be digging near the main we ask that it be done Monday-Thursday, between 9 and 4.

To see the best reasonably available records we have regarding the location of the water mains, go to this link: Map_Master_Water_Line_Connections.pdf

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Water Quality Data Table

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the federal Environmental Protection Agency prescribes limits on contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all drinking-water contaminants OBCG detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in our system's water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the state of Washington requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than a year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar, which is why there are definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	.0023	2.3	2.3	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Copper - source water (ppm)	NA		.02	.02	.02	2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - source water (ppm)	NA		.001	.001	.001	2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	.22	.2	.22	2024	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform (RTCR) (% positive samples/month)	NA	TT	NA	NA	NA	2024	No	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants								
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	.522	.0992	.522	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Range		# Samples Exceeding AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
				Low	High				
Inorganic Contaminants									
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.02	NA	.02	0	2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1	NA	1	0	2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Violations and Exceedances: non detected

Additional Contaminants

In an effort to insure the safest water possible the State has required us to monitor some contaminants not required by Federal regulations. Of those contaminants only the ones listed below were found in your water.

Manganese and iron give our water its color, taste, and odor. They are considered secondary contaminants, and EPA does not enforce these "secondary maximum contaminant levels" at this time. However, when the EPA determines that they are a primary (health concern) then we'll have to make investments to treat/filter the system.

Contaminants	State MCL	Your Water	Violation	Explanation and Comment
Chloride	20 mc/L	2.1 mg/l	No	While chloride in small amounts poses no immediate health risk, higher concentrations can cause significant problems for both your household plumbing and the environment.
Conductivity	700 Umhos/cm	128.2 Umhos/cm	No	Conductivity is useful as a general measure of water quality. Each water body tends to have a relatively constant range of conductivity that, once established, can be used as a baseline for comparison with regular conductivity measurements. Significant changes in conductivity could then be an indicator that a discharge or some other source of pollution has entered the aquatic resource.
Gross Alpha	NA	3 pCi/L	No	Currently, the DOH conducts radiological surveillance in many geographical areas of the state and routinely splits (co-samples) environmental samples with state-licensed and federal environmental monitoring programs.
Iron	.3 mg/L	.59 mg/L	No	Iron in drinking water can cause taste, odor, and staining problems.
PFAS533-PER- & POLY-FLUOROALKYL SBSTNCS 533	2 ng/L	2 ng/L	No	PFAS exposure over a long period of time can cause cancer and other serious illnesses that decrease quality of life or result in death. PFAS exposure during critical life stages can also result in adverse health impacts.

Additional Monitoring

As part of an on-going evaluation program the EPA has required us to monitor some additional contaminants/chemicals. Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants/chemicals will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science.

Name	Reported Level	Range	
		Low	High
Manganese (ug/L)	118	10	118

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definition**
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
% positive samples/month	% positive samples/month: Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	**Definition**
MCLG	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	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

Future information – New well SO3

Drilling for SO3 was completed in November 2024. Next a pump was installed and the new well was capped in January 2025. February 2025 the pump flow test to confirm pumping capacity was conducted along with water testing for Organic Chemicals. By the end of 2025 we hope the engineers at NWS will complete the DOH-required system design; that will enable us to seek quotes for creating the infrastructure to the new well into our existing water system.

For more information please email:

orchardwater@yahoo.com

or Contact: Deann Benitez, Secretary-Treasurer
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