

# 2024 Water Quality Report



## **Public Works**

487 S 56th Place

7:30 AM - 4:30 PM

(360) 887-8251

# Ridgefield Drinking Water Quality is Excellent

The City of Ridgefield is pleased to present its annual Water Quality Report, also referred to as **Consumer Confidence Report**. This provides information about your drinking water monitoring, testing and treatment activities as required by State and Federal regulations.

In addition to required tests, we regularly take water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic or synthetic organic contaminants, including pesticides and herbicides and had no detection.

Ridgefield is proud to inform you that **our water quality continues to exceed state and federal standards**. Please contact Public Works at (360) 887-8251 if you have any questions about the information contained in this report.

## Ridgefield Water Supply and Service

Ridgefield's drinking water comes from six wells. Five that are drawn from the underground Troutdale Aquifer and the Junction well at 56<sup>th</sup> which draws from the Sand and Gravel Aquifer (SGA). Pumped water is first sent through a filter plant to remove minerals, then a safe level of chlorine is added to ensure the water delivered to your home is free of harmful bacteria. We don't add any other chemicals, such as fluoride to the water you drink.

After treatment, water is distributed through a closed, protected and monitored system made up of 68 miles of distribution lines and three reservoirs.

Our ongoing efforts to provide you with a healthy water supply include:

- Regular testing of our wells and distribution system.
- Checking water quality at key locations throughout the distribution system.
- Routinely inspecting above ground water storage reservoirs.
- Cross Connection control program and regular flushing of dead-end water mains to protect against potential contaminants entering the potable water system.

Rates paid by water customers support around-the-clock operations and maintenance, as well as ongoing improvements to infrastructure and to the security of our water system.

**CLARK PUBLIC UTILITIES:** In addition, the city purchases water from Clark Public Utilities as a back-up to our own water sources. [Visit their website](#) for a copy of their Regional Water Quality Report.

**WATER TREATMENT:** The City voluntarily chlorinates its water supply with 4% sodium hypochlorite solution to effectively kill any pathogenic bacteria. The City does not fluoridate your water.

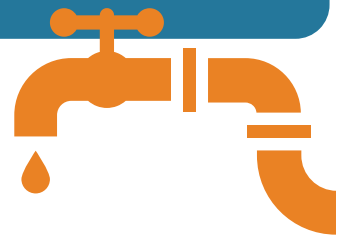
**MODERATELY HARD WATER:** The City has moderately hard water (determined by mineral level content) rated at an average of 100 parts per million when last tested. In addition, City water typically contains 55 parts per million silica. Hard water is not a health hazard but can result in spots or deposits left from tap water that has dried on glass or chrome.

**15,790**  
**CUSTOMERS**  
served in 2024

**68 MILES**  
of distribution lines

**6 WELLS**  
pumping groundwater

**2 MILLION**  
gallons of storage  
capacity



# Water Conservation

Water is a precious resource, and conserving it helps ensure a sustainable supply for our community today and into the future. While conservation efforts are always valued, the City recently adopted a [Water Conservation Strategy](#) that outlines specific actions depending on water supply and demand levels—meaning there may be times when conservation becomes especially critical. By working together and following these guidelines, we can all help protect Ridgefield's water resources.

The average family uses 200 gallons of water a day. Peak summer use can exceed 500 gallons a day due to irrigation. Small adjustments by individual households can make a significant difference for the water system.

Learn more about Ridgefield's Water Conservation Strategy at [www.RidgefieldWa.us/Conservation](http://www.RidgefieldWa.us/Conservation)

## Actions You Can Take

- Water your lawn in the evening 3 days/week:
  - Properties with ODD addresses water Monday, Wednesday & Friday
  - Properties with EVEN addresses water Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday
- Install water efficient toilets, faucets, showerheads, and appliances. Convert irrigation systems to drip systems.
- Ensure irrigation systems aim is limited to the lawn or garden.
- Repair leaks on toilets, faucets and hose bibs immediately.
- Limit water consumption to beneficial uses.
- Ensure pools, spas and ornamental fountains/ponds are equipped with recirculation pumps.

## Water Use Efficiency Plan

In the Fall of 2024, City of Ridgefield updated our Water System Plan (WSP). The following conservation goals were maintained:

- **Demand Side Goal:** Reduce the average daily consumption per ERU ADD (Equivelant Residential Unit, Average Daily Demand) by 1 percent per year for the next 10 years.
- **Supply Side Goal:** Maintain DSL (Distribution System Leakage) and loss below 10%.

[View the latest Water Use Efficiency Report \(PDF\)](#)



## Utility Rates & Your Water Consumption

Your conservation efforts help us to maintain a reliable, low cost water supply for current and future residents. Conservation also saves you money, especially in the summer months when water use is high.

City of Ridgefield uses a tiered water utility rate structure to encourage water conservation. For customers who are conscious of their water use, the City also offers a conservation rate. Residents who use 1,000 cubic feet or less every cycle may benefit from lower water bills when enrolled in the conservation rate.

Everything you need to manage your utility account can be found [on our website](#). If you have any questions or need assistance, email [utilities@ridgefieldwa.us](mailto:utilities@ridgefieldwa.us) or call 360-887-6000





# Test Results Summary

**Water Monitoring** - The City is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis, including lead and copper per Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Health. Data from the latest water sampling period is listed below.

**Bacteriological Testing** - The City collected on average a minimum of 20 samples per month in 2024 in various locations, testing for coliform bacteria. No sample collected showed any indication of bacteriological growth. The City also collects samples from new construction sites, new exploratory sample points or when there are questions pertaining to water quality.

Substance (unit)	MRDLG	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Range of Level Detected	SRL	Sample Year	Typical source of Contaminant
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## REGULATED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	0.22 - 1.12	NA	2024	Additive for disinfectant residual
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Substance (unit)	MCLG	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Range of Level Detected	SRL	Sample Year	Typical source of Contaminant
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## REGULATED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Total Trihalomethanes (ug/L)	NA	80	ND - 2.78	NA	2024	By-product of disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ug/L)	NA	60	ND - ND	NA	2024	By-product of disinfection

## PRIMARY REGULATED AT THE WELL

Arsenic (ppb)	NA	10	1.7 - 1.7	1	2022	Naturally occurring mineral
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	20 - 20	7	2021	Discharge from steel & pulp mill; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	NA	4	0.2 - 0.2	0.2	2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate-N (ppm)	10	10	0.50 - 0.50	0.5	2024	Runoff from fertilizer use

## SECONDARY REGULATED AT THE WELL

Iron (ppb)	NA	300	ND - 230	100	2021	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste
Manganese (ppb)	NA	50	ND - 14	10	2021	Leaching from natural deposits
Chloride (ppm)	NA	250	3.2 - 6.1	20	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Conductivity (um hos/cm)	NA	700	220 - 240	70	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	NA	250	2.2 - 3.5	50	2022	Erosion of natural deposits

## LEAD AND COPPER

Substance (unit)	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	Your Water (90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Sample Year	# of Samples Exceeding AL	Typical source of Contaminant
Lead (ppm)	NA	0.015	0.0018	2023	0 of 30	Erosion of natural deposits Household plumbing
Copper (ppm)	NA	1.3	0.78	2023	0 of 30	Erosion of natural deposits Household plumbing

In 2023, samples collected from our customers' taps showed that levels of lead and copper are both well below the EPA's action level. The next required sample period is 2026.



ADDITIONAL SUBSTANCES OF CUSTOMER INTEREST

Substance (measuring unit)	Range of Level Detected	SRL	Sample Year	Typical source of Contaminant
Calcium (ppm)	20 - 24	0.05	2022	Naturally occurring
Sodium (ppm)	8.5 - 10	5	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness (ppm)	86 - 110	20	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	0.13 - 0.16	0.1	2022	Erosion of natural deposits

Water Sources and Contaminants

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791), or [visit EPA.gov](#).

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 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).

Throughout the country, sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. The City of Ridgefield relies 100% on groundwater. As water travels through aquifers, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and can pick up inorganic contaminants, which are naturally occurring, and organic contaminants, such as byproducts of industrial processes. To ensure safe tap water, EPA and Washington Board of Health regulate certain contaminants in public drinking water. All results, shown in this report, meet or are better than required by EPA and Washington State Department of Health.

Lead

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 Ridgefield is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing components in your home. 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 (1-800-426-4791) or [visit EPA.gov](#).

Lead Service Line Inventory Rule

To address possible lead in drinking water, In 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required all water providers to identify and replace all lead service lines within 10 years. Under the new rule, all cities, including the City of Ridgefield, are required to develop an inventory of water service lines and inform customers of this project. These requirements target residential service lines installed prior to 1986. The goal is to identify if there are lead plumbing components in the water distribution system, its location (customer side/city side) and notify the resident of our findings and next steps. To learn more, please [visit our website](#).

## PFAS

Per state and federal regulations, 2024 was the first year Ridgefield was required to test for PFAS. In August 2024 we sampled all city wells and hired an independent, certified lab to test for six regulated PFAS. **The City of Ridgefield is happy to report that none of the contaminants were detected in our drinking water.**

### WHAT ARE PFAS?

Pre- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), are synthetic chemicals that are human-made. Such items include, but are not limited to, household cleaning products, outdoor chemical sprays, non-stick cookware, and firefighting foam. These chemicals do not breakdown easily in the environment. To learn more about PFAS visit the [Washington State Department of Health](#) or [EPA](#) websites.

## Annual Checkup Required: Backflow and Cross Connection

Backflow is the plumbing term for an unwanted flow of water in the reverse direction. To prevent contamination, a backflow prevention device is required where cross-connections between the public water system and a source containing non-potable water. A backflow prevention device provides a physical barrier to backflow to protect the city's water supply. Common cross connections include irrigation systems, hot tubs, swimming pools or fountains.

As required by the State of Washington Department of Health, City of Ridgefield's [Cross Connection Control Program](#) requires any customer who has a backflow prevention device to test their backflow assemblies annually by a certified backflow assembly tester. As a courtesy, our Public Works Department sends reminder letters when it is time to have your backflow assembly tested.

[View a list of City Approved and Certified Backflow Testers.](#)

## Terms and Definitions

**AL:** Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers additional treatment by the public system.

**Color:** Color Units. A unit used to measure color.

**EPA:** United States Environmental Protection Agency, which enforces the Safe Drinking Water Act

**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 technology.

**MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant level. The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary for microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Goal. The level of 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.

**NA:** Not Applicable.

**ND:** Not detected. Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units. A measure of water clarity.

**pCi/L:** Picocuries per liter, measure of radioactivity.

**ppb:** parts per billion. Equivalent to microgram per liter (ug/L) unit of measure. One part per billion is comparable to one penny out of \$10,000,000.

**ppm:** parts per million. Equivalent to milligrams per liter (mg/L) unit of measure. One part per million is comparable to one penny out of \$10,000,000.

**SRL:** State Reporting Level

**ug/L:** Micrograms per Liter

**Umhos/cm:** Micro Siemen per centimeter. A measure of electrical conductance.

**WSDOH:** Washington State Department of Health, which enforces the Safe Drinking Water Act within the State of Washington.





# CONTACT US

## Public Works

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## Utility Billing Customer Service

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## City of Ridgefield Water Utilities Staff:

(left to right) Jesse Hague, Lisa Blake, Kyle Johnson, Kim Strickler, Steve Sampson, Nick Johnson, Julie Swarts, Ryan Thamert, Kyle Henker

