

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024



Presented By
Star Sewer and Water

PWS ID#: 4010220



Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Star Sewer and Water District customers are fortunate because we enjoy an abundant water supply from four sources. Our main well (Well Site No. 7) draws water from an aquifer over 700 feet below the surface. The district has four backup wells that all draw from aquifers over 300 feet below the surface. In addition to these water sources, the district has two reservoirs that store a combined total of 1.25 million gallons of water. These reservoirs increase flow and storage for our customers via gravity. Combined, our water sources are capable of pumping over five million gallons of clean water every day. We have an upper-pressure zone that is supplied by a booster station; this station has five pumps with enough capacity to provide flow demands for this upper-pressure zone, including fire protection.

About Our Monitoring Violation

Source: Distribution system

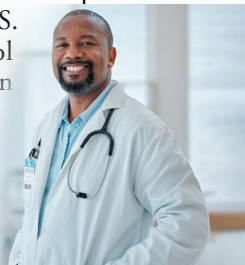
Contaminant or Report: Chlorine residual Number of samples required: 15

Monitoring period: December 1-31, 2024

Fifteen coliform samples were taken and submitted; however, the district did not write down the chlorine residual level on one of the samples. Our drinking water meets health standards, and in January 2025, the 15 samples were all submitted with the chlorine residual marked on each sample.

Important Health Information

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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater.



Public Meetings

Our district board meets on the third Friday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at the district office.

FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)

You may not be aware of it, but every time you pour fat, oil, or grease (FOG) down your sink (e.g., bacon grease), you are contributing to a costly problem in the sewer collection system. FOG coats the inner walls of the plumbing in your house as well as the walls of underground piping throughout the community. Over time, these greasy materials build up and form blockages in pipes, which can lead to wastewater backing up into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains. These backups allow FOG to contaminate local waters, including drinking water. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public health hazard. FOG discharged into septic systems and drain fields can also cause malfunctions, resulting in more frequent tank pump-outs and other expenses.

Communities spend billions of dollars every year to unplug or replace grease-blocked pipes, repair pump stations, and clean up costly and illegal wastewater spills. Here are some tips that you and your family can follow to help maintain a well-run system now and in the future:

NEVER:

- Pour FOG down the house or storm drains.
- Dispose of food scraps by flushing them.
- Use the toilet as a wastebasket.

ALWAYS:

- Scrape and collect FOG into a waste container such as an empty coffee can, and dispose of it with your garbage.
- Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid wastes.
- Place a wastebasket in each bathroom for solid wastes like disposable diapers, creams and lotions, and personal hygiene products, including nonbiodegradable wipes.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report or for any questions about your drinking water, please contact our office at (208) 286-7388 or Kevin McLeod, Water Manager, at kmcleod@starswd.com.

Substances That Could Be in Water

The 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 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 source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally in the soil or groundwater or may 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.

Radioactive Contaminants, which can occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. 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.

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 mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by contacting the U.S. EPA by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visiting epa.gov/safewater.

Source Water Assessment

In 1996 Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act to emphasize the protection of surface and groundwater sources used for public drinking water. The amendments require that each state possessing primacy over its drinking water develop a source water assessment plan for drinking water sources, conduct assessments on all public water systems, and make the assessments available to the consumer. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has prepared source water assessment reports for all active wells for Star Sewer and Water District (Public Water System ID4010220). These reports are available from DEQ at www2.deq.idaho.gov/water/swaOnline/Search.



Lead in Home Plumbing

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. Star Sewer and Water District is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes. Still, it 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, showering, doing laundry, or running 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. Analytical Laboratories Inc. provides the water testing for Star Sewer and Water District. If you are concerned about lead and wish to have your water tested, contact Analytical Laboratories at (208) 342-5515. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Star Sewer and Water District has completed the initial lead service line inventory required by U.S. EPA's Lead and Copper Rule revisions. The deadline for the initial inventories was October 16, 2024.

Through completing a historical records review, field investigations, and statistical analysis, the district has determined that its distribution system has no lead or galvanized requiring replacement service lines. Please get in touch with us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES								
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE	
Arsenic (ppb)	2022	10	0	3.8	ND–3.8	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes	
Barium (ppm)	2022	2	2	0.060	ND–0.060	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	
Chlorine (ppm)	2024	[4]	[4]	0.51 ¹	0.40–1.0	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
Fluoride (ppm)	2022	4	4	0.510	0.380–0.510	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Nitrate (ppm)	2024	10	10	0.85	ND–1.500	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community								
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2022	1.3	1.3	0.070	NA	0/40	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2022	15	0	ND	NA	0/40	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits
UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES ²								
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED		AMOUNT DETECTED		RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE		
Lithium (ppb)	2024		17.97		15.7–20	Naturally occurring		

¹ Average; the district takes 15 samples per month.

² UCMR5 sampling.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

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.

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.

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.

NA: Not applicable.

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

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

Q&A

Why save water?

Although 80 percent of the Earth's surface is water, only 1 percent is suitable for drinking. The rest is either saltwater or permanently frozen, and we can't drink it, wash with it, or use it to water plants.

Which household activity wastes the most water?

Most people would say the majority of water use comes from showering or washing dishes; however, toilet flushing is by far the largest single use of water in a home (accounting for 40% of total water use). Toilets use about 4 to 6 gallons per flush, so consider an ultra-low-flow (ULF) toilet, which requires only 1.5 gallons.

Should I be concerned about what I'm pouring down my drain?

If your home is served by a sewage system, your drain is an entrance to your wastewater disposal system and eventually to a drinking water source. Consider purchasing environmentally friendly home products whenever possible, and never pour hazardous materials (e.g., car engine oil) down the drain. Check with your health department for more information on proper disposal methods.

How long can I store drinking water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water can be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

How long does it take a water supplier to produce one glass of treated drinking water?

It can take up to 45 minutes to produce a single glass of drinking water.

BY THE NUMBERS



3.4
BILLION

The daily volume gallons of water recycled and reused in the U.S., reducing waste and conserving resources.



28%

The percent reduction in per capita water use in the U.S. since 1980, thanks to efficiency improvements.



99.9%

The percent effectiveness of modern water treatment plants in removing harmful bacteria and viruses from drinking water.



1.2
MILLION

The length in miles of drinking water pipes in the U.S., delivering clean water to millions of homes and businesses daily.



1.7
MILLION

The number of jobs supported by the U.S. water sector.



2

How often in minutes a water main breaks.

