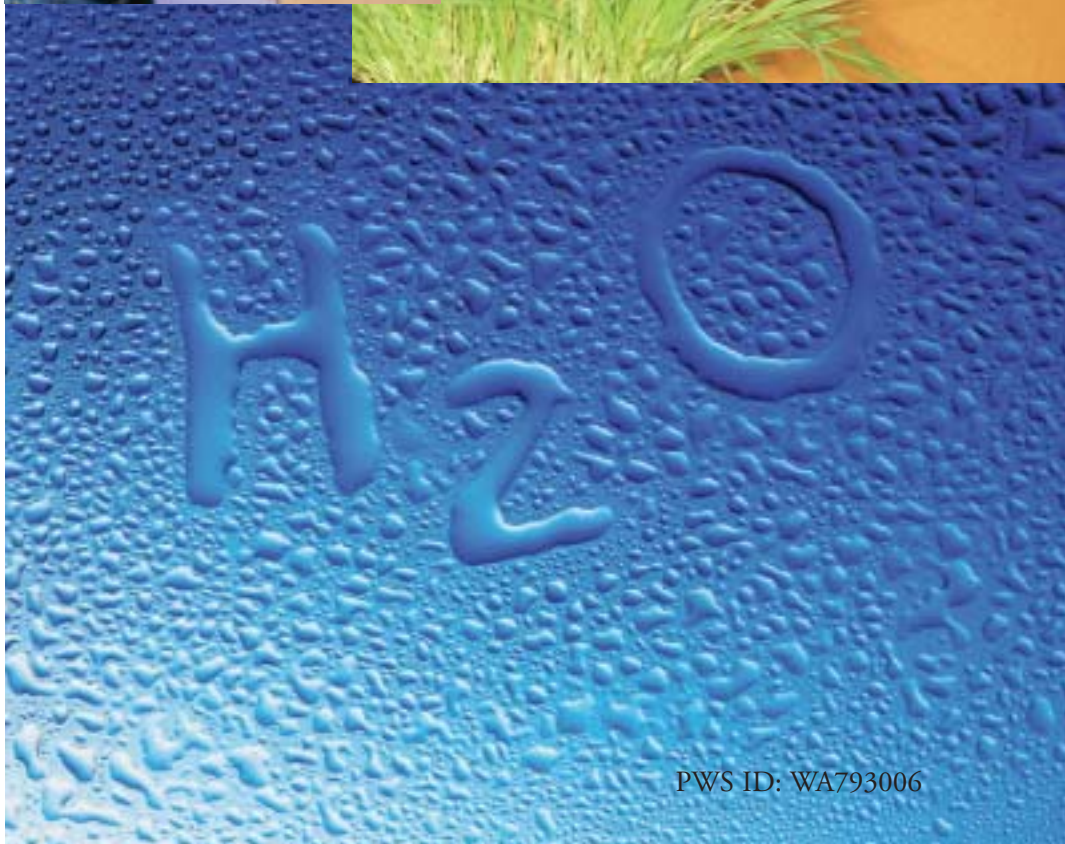


Silverdale Water District

Annual Water Quality Report

Water testing performed in 2004



PWS ID: WA793006

Continuing Our Commitment

Once again we proudly present our annual water quality report. This edition covers all testing completed from January through December 2004. We are pleased to tell you that our compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. As in the past, we are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Skip Beahm, Operations Supervisor, at (360) 447-3500.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Silverdale Water District customers are fortunate because we enjoy an abundant groundwater supply. Our 15 wells are drilled in three distinct and separate zones: the Shallow Aquifer, the Sea Level Aquifer, and the Deep Aquifer. Combined, our wells can produce up to 6,520 gallons of water per minute. These aquifers are not exposed to air and are not subject to direct pollution and contamination. In fact, groundwater is the highest quality water available to meet the public health demand of water intended for human consumption.



Community Participation

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND OUR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING AND VOICE YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER. WE MEET THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH BEGINNING AT 9 A.M. AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE LOCATED AT 5300 NW NEWBERRY HILL ROAD.



Contamination from Cross-Connections

Cross-connections that could contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems) or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand) causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

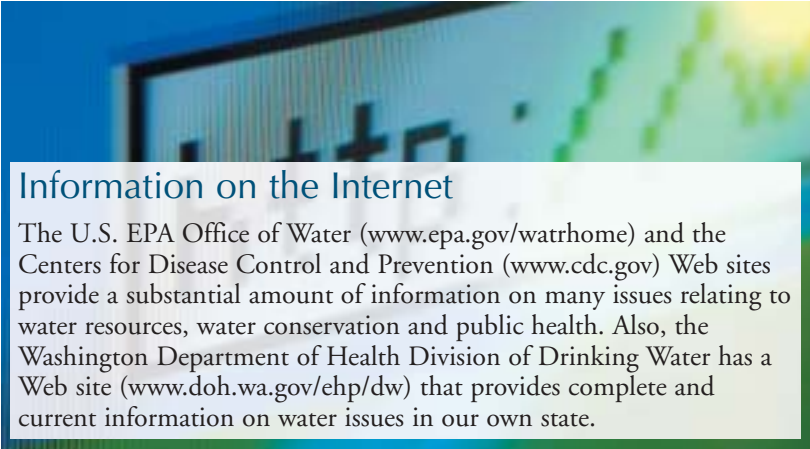
Community water supplies are continually jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed all industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that all potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test each backflow preventer to make sure that it is providing maximum protection.

For more information, visit the Web site of the American Backflow Prevention Association (www.abpa.org) for a discussion on current issues.



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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 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.



Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water (www.epa.gov/watrhome) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the Washington Department of Health Division of Drinking Water has a Web site (www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw) that provides complete and current information on water issues in our own state.

The state has determined that Silverdale Water District's sources have a low to moderate risk of contamination. A copy of the assessment is available at the district office.



GROUNDWATER IS THE HIGHEST QUALITY WATER AVAILABLE TO MEET THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEMAND OF WATER INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. SILVERDALE WATER DISTRICT CUSTOMERS ARE FORTUNATE BECAUSE WE ENJOY AN ABUNDANT GROUNDWATER SUPPLY.

Substances That Might Be in Drinking Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material; and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring 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 which may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

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

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our source water, but also can save you money by reducing your water bill. Here are a few suggestions:

Conservation measures you can use inside your home:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Replace old fixtures; install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers.
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Soak dishes before washing.
- Run the dishwasher only when full.

You can conserve outdoors as well:

- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.
- Use water-saving nozzles.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.

Information on other ways that you can help conserve water can be found at www.epa.gov/safewater/publicoutreach/index.html.

Sampling Results

We are pleased to report that during the last year, the water delivered to your home or business complied with, or did better than, all state and federal requirements. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. Although all of the substances listed here are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by the U.S. EPA, we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water. The state requires us to monitor 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 are included, along with the year in which the sample was collected.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2004	10 ¹	0 ¹	9	2–9	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Nitrate (ppm)	2004	10	10	1.5	0.2–1.5	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 30 homes throughout the service area (*Copper was not detected at the 90th percentile*)

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	ACTION LEVEL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH % TILE)	HOMES ABOVE ACTION LEVEL	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Lead (ppb)	2003	15	0	8	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

¹These arsenic values are effective January 23, 2006. Until then, the MCL is 50 ppb and there is no MCLG. While your drinking water meets the U.S. EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

New Arsenic Regulation

Arsenic contamination of drinking water sources may result from either natural or human activities. Volcanic activity, erosion of rocks and minerals, and forest fires are natural sources that can release arsenic into the environment. Although about 90% of the arsenic used by industry is for wood preservatives, it is also used in paints, drugs, dyes, soaps, metals, and semiconductors. Agricultural applications, mining, and smelting also contribute to arsenic releases. Arsenic is usually found in the environment combined with other elements such as oxygen, chlorine, and sulfur (inorganic arsenic); or combined with carbon and hydrogen (organic arsenic). Organic forms are usually less harmful than inorganic forms.

Low levels of arsenic are naturally present in water—about 2 parts arsenic per billion parts of water (ppb). Thus, you normally take in small amounts of arsenic in the water you drink. Some areas of the country have unusually high natural levels of arsenic in rock, which can lead to unusually high levels of arsenic in water.

In January 2001, the U.S. EPA lowered the arsenic Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) from 50 to 10 ppb in response to new and compelling research linking high arsenic levels in drinking water with certain forms of cancer. All water utilities are required to implement this new MCL starting in 2006.

Removing arsenic from drinking water is a costly procedure but well worth the expense considering the health benefits. For a more complete discussion visit the U.S. EPA's arsenic Web site at www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic.html.

Table Definitions

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

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).