

# City of Milton Consumer Confidence



1000 Laurel Street  
Milton, WA 98354

## 2009 Water Quality Report

### About Our Water

The City of Milton is pleased to provide you with the annual drinking water report. This report summarizes the water quality testing that Milton Water Utility staff performed on our water supply through 2009. Each year, all public water systems are required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act to provide their customers with reports on the quality of their drinking water. We are pleased to inform you that our water meets the strict guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Drinking water quality is a complex subject and

some of the information is technical in nature. This report is designed to present this important information in a way that is easy to understand.

The information will allow all of our customers, especially those with special health needs, to make informed decisions regarding their drinking water. If you have questions regarding your drinking water or this report, please contact your Milton Water Utility at 253-922-8738.



### Where Does Our Water Come From?

The City of Milton utilizes groundwater aquifers for our water supply. Well #3, Well #10, and Well #12 are all located within the Redondo/Milton Aquifer. Well #5 is within the Edgewood/Eastern Upland Aquifer. Corridor Wells #1 and #2 are also in the Redondo/Milton Aquifer and were put into operation in 2008 until November when source testing revealed high levels of iron and manganese. Iron and manganese are secondary contaminants and do not pose a health risk. Further testing and design is necessary to determine available methods for removal of iron and manganese.

Aquifers are natural, underground water sources that carry and store significant amounts of groundwater within layers of gravel, rocks, and sand. Aquifers are re-supplied or "re-charged" as water slowly

filters down through the soil layers.

After the water comes out of the wells, we treat it to raise the PH level and we add disinfectant to protect from microbial contaminants.

Milton has two emergency interties to be used in case of any unpredicted emergencies or equipment failures. One intertie is with Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company located near Milton's border in Edgewood. Mt. View-Edgewood's water is obtained entirely from groundwater sources. The other intertie is with Lakehaven Utility District along Pacific Highway East. Lakehaven obtains its water from a combination of surface water and groundwater.

### Information

System ID 54950V

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[www.cityofmilton.net](http://www.cityofmilton.net)

City of Milton regular Council Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

### Special points of interest:

- Milton's Water Source
- City of Milton Monitoring Results
- Cross Connections and Drinking Water Safety
- Conserving our Water Resource
- Important Phone Numbers

## Definitions

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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 (e.g. chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide).

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Nephelometric turbidity unit (NTU):** The unit of measure of turbidity (cloudiness of water).

**Treatment technique:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## Monitoring Requirements

Washington State Law requires water systems to monitor for numerous contaminants on a regular basis. The City of Milton is in compliance with existing water quality monitoring requirements, as summarized in Table A.

**Table A: WATER QUALITY MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

<u>Contaminant Type</u>	<u>Monitoring Requirement</u>
Bacteriological Contaminants	Samples twice per month in the distribution system for a total of 15 samples, including wells
Inorganic Chemicals	1 sample every 3 years at each well
Lead and Copper	Sampled every 3 years
Volatile organic chemicals	1 sample every 3 years at each well
Synthetic organic materials	1 sample every 3 years at each well
Radionuclides	2 samples every 3 years at each well
Nitrates	1 sample every year at each well
Trihalomethanes	Not required at this time

## Monitoring Results

The items listed in Tables B and C were detected in the City of Milton's water between 1999-2009. We continue to test for over 100 other compounds in the City's water and none have been detected since 1999. Ppm (parts per million) is equivalent to milligrams per liter. One ppm equals approximately 1 drop in 22 gallons of water. Additional information on chemical analyses can be obtained by calling the Public Works Department at 253-922-8738.

**Table B: PRIMARY CONTAMINANTS**

<u>Contaminant</u>	<u>Highest Level Allowed (MCL)</u>	<u>Highest Level Detected</u>	<u>MCL Goal</u>	<u>Possible Sources of Contamination</u>
Turbidity	1.0 NTU	1.4 NTU	N/A	Soil erosion, iron, manganese particulates
Nitrate	10.0 ppm	3.4 ppm	10.0 ppm	Natural deposits
Fluoride	4 ppm	0.2 ppm	4 ppm	Natural deposits

**Table C: SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS**

<u>Contaminant</u>	<u>Highest Level Allowed (MCL)</u>	<u>Highest Level Detected</u>	<u>MCL Goal</u>	<u>Possible Sources of Contamination</u>
Iron	.3 ppm	.37 ppm	.3 ppm	Dissolving of natural deposits
Manganese	.05 ppm	.06 ppm	.05 ppm	Dissolving of natural deposits
Chloride	250 ppm	7 ppm	250 ppm	Dissolving of natural deposits
Sodium	N/A	21 ppm	250 ppm	Naturally occurring

## Who Sets the Standards for Water Quality?

The City of Milton continually monitors its water supply to meet strict standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA regulations protect public health by limiting the amount of allowable contaminants in public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations require the same protection for bottled water.

### Water Quality

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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/CDC (Center for Disease Control) 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).

### Contaminants History

In the past, two contaminants have been detected in the City's water: trichloroethane and copper.

**1,1,1 Trichloroethane (EPA code 2981)** was detected in April 1997 at a level of .5 ug/l (micrograms per liter) in Well #3. The maximum contaminant level allowed for 1,1,1. *Trichloroethane* is 200 ug/l. Trichloroethane is a solvent used in dry cleaning as well as other processes. We increased our monitoring frequency at this source location to once per year, and subsequent test results have all been negative for this compound. In 2002, the Washington State Department of Health reduced the testing requirement to one sample every 3 years. There has been no detection of trichloroethane in Well #3 since 1997.

**Copper Action Level** was exceeded in lead/copper monitoring in 1993 and 1994. Out of 40 samples taken from households with confirmed copper plumbing, nine samples on average exceeded the action level for copper content. In response to these results, we coordinated with the Washington State Department of Health in September of 1999 to treat the water originating from Well #3, Well #10, and Well #12.

We have successfully completed follow-up monitoring of the treated water for 3 years to verify that the corrosion level to household plumbing has decreased to a point below the action level as outlined by the state statute. The 2003 samples were well below the action levels so the Department of Health has reduced the requirement to monitor lead/copper testing to once every three years. The 2009 Lead and Copper testing results were well below the action level. The next testing will be in the summer of 2012.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short period of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

### Cross Connections and Drinking Water Safety

The City of Milton strives for excellence in delivering high quality drinking water to your home. But customers also play a role in safeguarding our drinking water. Once water passes through the meter and enters your property, you need to properly protect and maintain your cross connections. Residential "cross connections" are defined as actual or potential links between the potable water supply and any non-drinkable liquid, solid or gas. Examples of cross connections include hose ends submerged in pools (both underground and above ground), hot tubs or buckets, irrigation systems and most hose-end spray applications. Cross connections are extremely dangerous because they provide opportunities for contaminated fluids to be pulled back into the water system. To protect our water supply, avoid using hose-end sprayers, maintain an air gap by keeping the hose end above the water surface when filling containers, and install a backflow assembly on irrigation systems. Backflow assemblies must be inspected by a cross connection specialist, and must be tested by a certified tester when installed and each year thereafter. For more information or a list of certified testers, call the Water Utility at 253-922-8738.





### Water Service Meters

All water users including all public and City facilities have individual service meters. Many of the residential meters are more than 20 years old. Older meters tend to wear out, which can cause unregistered water to pass through the meter resulting in loss of consumption accuracy. In November 2005 the City started and is currently in the process of replacing older meters with new Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) meters. These radio-read meters increase the accuracy of the consumption recorded. The City of Milton's goal is to replace all remaining meters with the AMR meters by 2012.



### How Can I Learn More?

For questions about Milton's Water Utility, to report problems, or for questions on cross-connection, call the Public Works Office at 253-922-8738.

For questions about your utility bill, call the Administration Office at 253-922-8733.

For questions about drinking water safety, call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or visit the website at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

For questions about health issues, call the State Dept. of Health at 253-395-6750, or visit their web site at [www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw).

Check the agenda of upcoming City Council meetings on our city web site at [www.cityofmilton.net](http://www.cityofmilton.net) for agenda issues regarding water or storm water issues and for our Water Efficiency Report.

### What if my water is cloudy?

Cloudiness usually results from water line construction, routine water line blow-offs, or fire hydrant operations in your area, and is caused by disturbance of residual sedimentation in the water line and/or tiny air bubbles in the water. Generally this will disappear if you run your cold water tap for a few minutes. If you try this and the cloudiness persists, please call us.

## Water: A Precious Resource

Here in the rainy northwest, it's easy to take our water supply for granted. But citizens are now realizing that quality, reliable sources of drinking water are not an endless supply.

Sensible steps to conserve water resources are today more important than ever—for protecting our environment and for maintaining a reliable supply of drinking water.

#### Conserve Water Inside Your Home:

- Repair leaky toilets and faucets.
- Take shorter showers.
- Use efficiency shower heads.
- Run washing machines and dishwashers only when you have a full load.
- Replace old, inefficient water fixtures with low-flow models.

- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap.

#### Conserve Water Outside Your Home:

In the summer, 50% to 70% of your water bill is for outdoor use. Over-watering is the number one waste of water during the summer and the leading cause of disease and insect problems.

- Check the soil 2-4 inches deep to see if your lawn needs watering.
- Reduce the amount of turf in your landscape that needs irrigation.
- Learn to recognize when plants need water.
- If you must water, do so late at night or early in the morning to reduce evaporation. Apply only

about 1 inch of water per week (including rainfall). One inch of water on one square foot of grass equals two-thirds of a gallon of water. Catch water in an empty tuna can to measure sprinkler output.

- Set mower blades to 1.5 "- 2" and keep them sharp to cut grass cleanly and to retain moisture longer.
- Clean driveways and sidewalks with a broom instead of the hose.
- Wash your car with a bucket of soapy water and use a nozzle to stop the flow of water from the hose between rinses.
- Adjust sprinklers to avoid watering the street and sidewalk.

**Do your part and be water smart!!!**