

2023
Annual Consumer Confidence Report on the Quality of
Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton Drinking Water

This is an annual report on the quality of water delivered by the drinking water system at Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton. Presented in this report is information on the source of our water, its constituents, and the health risks associated with any contaminants. Please read on for a full explanation of the quality of our water.

Our water is safe to drink.

Source of our Water

Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton purchases drinking water from the City of Bremerton. Bremerton's water sources consist of surface water from the Union River Reservoir and groundwater from production wells located in Kitsap County. All sources are managed per Washington State Department of Health (WDOH) requirements, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, and best management practices for water supply systems. The City of Bremerton owns and protects the 3,000 acre watershed surrounding the Union River supply. Access to the watershed is secured, patrolled, and limited to water supply and forestry management activities. Groundwater wells are also safeguarded through their wellhead protection efforts. Further information about the City of Bremerton's water system can be found at their website at <https://www.bremertonwa.gov/282/Drinking-Water-Quality-Report>.

Both the Naval Base Kitsap Bremerton and City of Bremerton's water systems are operated and maintained by experienced personnel licensed by the state of Washington. The Washington State Department of Health determined the City of Bremerton's water sources were of such good quality the City was not required to install filtration as long as all water quality, operational, and watershed protection requirements were met. The City of Bremerton consistently meets these quality standards. Treatment of Bremerton's water currently consists of ultraviolet light and chlorine for disinfection and adjustment to increase pH to reduce corrosion of lead and copper from customer plumbing. Corrosion control has been in place since 1999.

Information from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land and through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. These substances are referred to as contaminants by the EPA.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- a. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;
- b. 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;
- c. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;
- d. 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;
- e. 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, the EPA and the Washington Department of Health (WDOH) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Washington State Department of Agriculture (WDOA) 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 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 at 800-426-4791.

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 from their health care providers about drinking water. EPA/Center 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 (1-800-426-4791).

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Household Cross Connection Protection

A cross connection happens when your drinking water plumbing is connected or in contact with a non-drinking water system such as a lawn sprayer, soap dispenser, sprinkler system, swimming pool, irrigation system, or water heating and cooling system. When water flows back from the non-drinking water system into your drinking water plumbing system, your drinking water becomes contaminated. Signs of contamination include discolored water and unusual smells. See attached pamphlet titled *Help Protect Your Drinking Water from Contamination* for more information on how to protect your drinking water from cross connections.

Additional Information for Lead

In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water sits in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children.

To help reduce potential exposure to lead: for any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap for thirty seconds to two minutes, or until the water is noticeably colder, before using for drinking or cooking. You can use the initial flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Compliance (Action Level) for lead and copper samples is based on a 90th percentile. This means that the concentration of lead and copper must be less than or equal to the action level in at least 90% of the samples collected. In other words, to be in compliance with EPA regulations, 9 out of every 10 locations sampled, must be at or below the Action Level.

Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule

Unregulated contaminants are those for which U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2023 (PWS Name) participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). We are pleased to report that there were no detections for any of the contaminants monitored for under UCMR 5. Information about these contaminants can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule> and <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/data-summary-fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>.

Water Quality Summary

The Navy has water testing requirements in addition to the City of Bremerton’s water quality program. The below information provides a summary of the water testing conducted by the Navy. Our water system operators use only EPA approved laboratory methods to analyze your drinking water. Samples are drawn from designated sample sites in the distribution system by licensed Water Shop personnel. The samples are then transported to an accredited laboratory where a full spectrum of water quality analyses are performed for the parameters listed below.

Sampling Schedule	
Parameter	Frequency
Coliform Monitoring ¹	Monthly
Chlorine Residual	Daily ²
Lead and Copper	Every 3 years
Total Trihalomethane (THM)	Quarterly
Halo-Acetic Acids (HAA5)	Quarterly

¹ Contaminants in this group include total coliform.

² Samples taken on weekdays only.

Detected Contaminants

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and WDOH prescribe regulations, which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. 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 2023 calendar year. The EPA or the State

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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 the data, though representative, may be more than one year old.

The City of Bremerton tests for over 50 inorganic and organic compounds in the source water. Compounds detected in the City of Bremerton's source water during 2023 met all the protective standards set by federal and state agencies.

Due to being a consecutive system, meaning we purchase our water from the City of Bremerton, there are only a few water quality parameters that are tested for in our water system within the fence line of the base. The tables below list the drinking water contaminants that we detected by water testing performed on the NBK Bremerton water system within the fence line of the base. Please refer to the tables below for 2023 for complete test results. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Distribution Monitoring for Disinfectant Byproducts								
Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources
				Low	High			
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (ppb)	N/A	60	51.9 ¹	0	67.3	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) (ppb)	N/A	80	68.4 ¹	36.3	94.3	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

¹ Denotes the highest Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) for the 2023 calendar year.

Distribution Monitoring for Lead and Copper							
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water (90 th %)	Sample Date	# of Samples Exceeding AL	Violation	Typical Sources
Inorganic Contaminants							
Lead (ppb)	0	15	12.6 ¹	2021	3 ²	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	0	1.3	0.10 ¹	2021	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

¹ This is the 90th % value from the most recent testing which is below the AL demonstrating our system is in compliance with the Lead & Copper Rule.

² Samples exceeding the AL occurred on 7/21/2021 at Bldg. 885 #6, Bldg. 981, and Bldg. 448.

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Definitions and Abbreviations

AL (Action Level) – The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment techniques or other requirements, which must be followed.

Level Detected – Laboratory analytical result for a contaminant; this value is evaluated against an MCL or AL to determine compliance.

LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average) – The average of analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

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 based on the best available treatment technology. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the EPA establishes these MCLs for compliance purposes.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal) – In drinking water, 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.

N/A – Not Applicable

ND – Not Detected. The compound was not detected above the Lab's Method Detection Limit

ppb – 1 part per billion (equivalent to one penny in \$10,000,000 and the same as a **ug/L** (microgram per liter)).

ppm – 1 part per million (equivalent to one penny in \$10,000).

pCi/l – stands for picocuries per liter. A curie is a unit of radioactivity regarding the rate disintegration.

Range – Represents the lowest and highest analytical results of a reported contaminant.

Treatment Technique – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Public Involvement

Further drinking water system information can be obtained by contacting the Naval Base Kitsap Public Affairs Office, at 360-627-4031.

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PFAS Information

What are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and where do they come from?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of thousands of man-made chemicals. PFAS have been used in a variety of industries and consumer products around the globe, including in the U.S., since the 1940s. PFAS have been used to make coatings and products that are used as oil and water repellents for carpets, clothing, paper packaging for food, and cookware. They are also contained in some foams (aqueous film-forming foam or AFFF) currently used for fighting petroleum fires at airfields and in industrial fire suppression processes. PFAS chemicals are persistent in the environment, and some are persistent in the human body – meaning they do not break down and they can accumulate over time.

Is there a regulation for PFAS in drinking water?

On April 10, 2024, the US EPA established MCLs for a subset of PFAS chemicals.

Compound	Final MCLG	Final MCL (enforceable levels)
PFOA	Zero	4.0 parts per trillion (ppt) (also expressed as ng/L)
PFOS	Zero	4.0 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt	10 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX Chemicals)	10 ppt	10 ppt
Mixtures containing two or more of: PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	1 (unitless) Hazard Index	1 (unitless) Hazard Index

EPA requires implementation of sampling in accordance with the new MCLs within three years of the publication date and implementation of any required treatment within five years.

These limits did not apply for the 2023 calendar year because they had not been published. However, the DoD proactively promulgated policies to monitor drinking water for PFAS at all service owned and operated water systems at a minimum of every two years. The DoD policy states that if water sampling results confirm that drinking water contains PFOA and PFOS at individual or combined concentrations greater than the 2016 EPA health advisory (HA) level of 70 ppt, water systems must take immediate action to reduce exposure to PFOS or PFAS. For levels less than 70 ppt but above the 4 ppt level (draft at the time of policy publication), DoD committed to planning for implementation of the levels once EPA’s published MCLs take effect.

Has Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton tested its water for PFAS in 2023?

Yes. In September 2023, samples were collected at an intertie with the city of Bremerton.

We are pleased to report that drinking water testing results were below the Method Reporting Limit (MRL) for all 29 PFAS compounds covered by the sampling method, including PFOA and PFOS. This means that PFAS were not detected in your water.

Common Household Hazards

Chemical Spray Applicators

The chemicals used on your lawn and garden can be toxic or fatal if ingested. These chemicals include pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Even strong cleaning chemicals sprayed on cars, house siding, etc., may cause health problems if ingested.

Submerged Hoses

Water held in pools, ponds or other vats open to the air and exposed to humans or animals may contain microbiological contaminants. Hoses submerged in buckets or containers can act as a conduit for contaminants under backflow conditions.

Underground Lawn Irrigation Systems

Underground irrigation systems often have puddles of standing water around the ground-level sprinkler heads. The sprinkler heads **are not** designed to be drip-tight under backflow conditions. The puddles of water may contain microbiological contaminants, such as excrement from animals or chemical residue from fertilizer and herbicides sprayed on the lawn.



For further
information
contact your
local water
purveyor or the
PNWS/AWWA
Cross-Connection
Control Committee
through the
PNWS office at
(877) 767-2992
or on the web at
www.pnws-awwa.org

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Help protect your
Drinking Water
from
Contamination

Household Hazards



American Water Works Association
Pacific Northwest Section

How Contamination Occurs

Water normally flows in one direction, from the public water system through the customer's cold or hot water plumbing to a sink tap or other plumbing fixture. The plumbing fixture is the end of the potable water system and the start of the waste disposal system.

Under certain conditions water can flow in the reverse direction. This is known as **backflow**. Backflow occurs when a backsiphonage or backpressure condition is created in a water line.

Backsiphonage may occur due to a loss of pressure in the water distribution system during a high withdrawal of water for fire protection, a water main or plumbing system break, or a shutdown of a water main or plumbing system for repair. A reduction of pressure below atmospheric pressure creates a vacuum in the piping. If a hose bib was open and the hose was submerged in a wading pool during these conditions, the non-potable water in the pool would be siphoned into the house's plumbing and back into the public water system.

Backpressure may be created when a source of pressure, such as a pump, creates a pressure greater than that supplied from the distribution system. If a pump supplied from a non-potable source, such as a landscape pond, was accidentally connected to the plumbing system, the non-potable water could be pumped into the potable water supply.

How to Prevent Contamination of Your Drinking Water

Protect your drinking water by taking the following precautions:

Don't:

- Submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, sinks, ponds, etc.
- Use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device.
- Connect waste pipes from water softeners or other treatment systems to the sewer, submerged drain pipe, etc.
- Use a hose to unplug blocked toilets, sewers, etc.

Do:

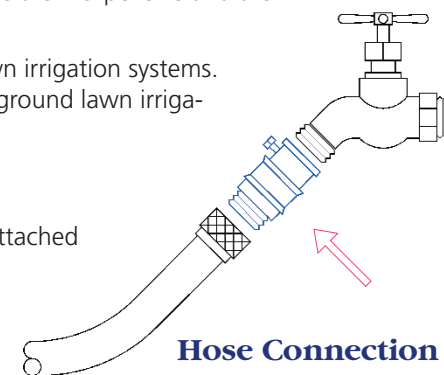
- ✓ Keep the ends of hoses clear of all possible contaminants.
- ✓ If not already equipped with an integral (built-in) vacuum breaker, buy and install hose bib type vacuum breakers on all threaded faucets around your home. These devices are inexpensive and are available at hardware stores and home improvement centers.
- ✓ Install an approved backflow prevention assembly on all underground lawn irrigation systems. Remember, a plumbing permit is required for the connection of an underground lawn irrigation system to your plumbing system.

Hose Connection Vacuum Breaker

Hose connection vacuum breakers are specifically made for portable hoses attached to threaded faucets. Their purpose is to prevent the flow of contaminated water back into the drinking water. These devices screw directly to the faucet outlet. They can be used on a wide variety of installations, such as service sinks, hose faucets near a wading pool, laundry tub faucets, etc.

Some units are designed for manual draining for freezing conditions. Some are furnished with breakaway set screws as a tamper proof feature.

These device are not intended for operation under continuous pressure.



Hose Connection Vacuum Breaker

Protection of the Water Purveyor's Distribution System

In general, the installation of plumbing in compliance with the plumbing code will provide adequate protection for your plumbing system from contamination.

However, the water purveyor may require (as a condition of service) the installation of a backflow prevention assembly on the water service to provide additional protection for the public water system. A backflow prevention assembly will normally be required where a single-family residence has special plumbing that increases the hazard above the normal level found in residential homes, or where a hazard survey cannot be completed.

To help determine if a backflow prevention assembly is required, the water purveyor may send residential customers a Cross Connection Control Survey Questionnaire. The water purveyor will evaluate the returned questionnaires to assess the risk of contamination to the public water system. Based on the results of the evaluation, the installation of backflow prevention assemblies may be required on services to some customers.