Lead in Drinking Water

The City of Langley is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. Through source water blending and aeration, we increase the pH of our water to reduce the corrosive properties that draw heavy metals into the water.

Lead levels in drinking water are likely to be higher

- If your home has lead pipes or has a lead service line
- If your home has copper pipe with lead solder
- If you home was built before 1986
- If you have soft or acidic water
- If your water sits in the pipes for several hours

Minimize your families exposure by following these steps

You cannot see, taste or smell lead in your drinking water and boiling won’t remove it.

- Flush tap 30 seconds to 2 minutes before drinking or cooking with water if the faucet has gone unused for 6 hours or more.
- Try to avoid cooking with or drinking from a hot water faucet
- Periodically remove screens from faucet and run water for 3-5 minutes to flush out any loose debris.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.

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 additional steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline toll free at 1-800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Water System Accomplishments

- Deep well pump (#1) was replaced.
- Staff worked with customers to achieve 100% compliance for backflow assembly testing.
- Installed Air gap’s in production piping to eliminate any potential cross contamination.
- New waterline installed between 1st and 3rd on Park Avenue to improve fire flows in the Langley city center.

2016 Water Saver Challenge

The City of Langley’s single largest electric expense is to pump and treat water. Join this summer’s effort to reduce our energy footprint by taking part in the 2016 Water Saver Challenge. Save money on your water bill at the same time!

Sign up by July 13th - email your name and address to langleyutilities@whidbey.com
- Or visit the city hall front desk (M-TH, 9AM-5PM)

Save as much water as possible using conservation tips provided via weekly emails. The Public Works Department will analyze your water usage this summer (July 15th—August 31st). You will receive an mid cycle meter read to track your progress. The participant who saves the most will receive an award and recognition.
The City of Langley is pleased to present the 2015 Annual Water Quality Report. This report informs you about the quality of the water that the City of Langley provided last year. Included are details on where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. This report covers state required information and is a valuable service to our water customers who depend on the City’s water system.

Your drinking water is highly regulated by the EPA and is tested regularly. Keeping pace with upgraded water testing and more stringent federal standards is a challenge but one that the City of Langley strongly supports. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe source of drinking water.

Our Water System

The City of Langley (ID # 45950) is a water utility of 959 connections. Our water system consists of 3 wells, an additional emergency well and a storage tank, which are located west of Island County Fairgrounds, in our watershed area well field. After the water is drawn from the wells we add disinfectant (chlorine) to protect you against microbial contaminants. The Mayor, City Council Members, and Director of Public Works work with the Utility Supervisor and three certified water operators, to bring you good quality water.

Presence of Contaminants in Drinking Water

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 1-800-426-4791 or looking on the website at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/

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, radio-active material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before it is chlorinated 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 be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water 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 or residential uses.
- Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring.
- 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Health (DOH) and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to DOH and EPA's regulations. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 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).

Why does the taste and odor of the water sometimes differ? Water naturally varies in taste and odor at different times of the year. Taste and odor problems can also come from new or old pipelines, plumbing fixtures or changes in water quality. Customers may notice changes during severe winter storms, when reservoirs are low, or during hot weather. The City of Langley closely monitors such changes to ensure they do not affect the safety of the water.
The table below lists drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2015 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2015. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminant Type</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Langley Water</th>
<th>Range of Detection</th>
<th>Sample Date</th>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Typical Sources of Contaminant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disinfection Residual</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Water additive to control microbes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine as Cl2 (mg/l)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>.09</td>
<td>.01-1.69</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiological Contaminants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Coliform Bacteria</td>
<td>Does not apply</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Naturally present in the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inorganic Contaminants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate as nitrogen (ppm)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>ND-2.55</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Runoff from fertilizer use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asbestos (MFL)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>0-.72</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of nature deposits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arsenic (ppb)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>.003-9.7</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>NO*</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Volatile Organic Contaminates</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Trihalomethanes (ug/l)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>ND-1.4</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halo-Acetic Acids(HAA5) (ug/l)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Your drinking water currently meets EPA’s standard for arsenic. However, it does contain low levels of arsenic. There is a small chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic for many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer, or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory disease are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. EPA’s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water.

**Terminology**

**MCL** (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

**MCLG** (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

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

**ppm** (parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)): about the same as 1/2 an aspirin tablet dissolved in a bathtub full (50 gallons of water).

**ppb** (parts per billion or micrograms per liter): about the same as 1 dissolved aspirin in a 100,000 gallon swimming pool.

**MFL** (Million Fibers per Liter)

**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.

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

**Source Water Protection Information**

Source Water Assessment Program data for the City’s water system is available online at http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/SourceWaterProtection/Assessment.aspx

If you don’t have access to the web, we encourage you to use the Internet service available through the public library system.

**Conclusion**

Through water monitoring and testing we have learned that some elements have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels. Every month our system is tested for Fecal Coliform Bacteria. All water samples came back from the lab with a good report.

*We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements.*
Langley residential water customers use an estimated 47 gallons of water per day per person. This is well below the national average of 80-100 gallons per person per day (USGS estimate).

In 2010, The City Council established a consumer use goal of reducing residential water use by 2% in the summer months of July and August, by September 1st 2016. The City estimates 22,181,472 gallons have been saved by our residential customers since the goals establishment!

The City Water Department continues to focus on system efficiency. Our goal is to reduce the amount of water lost between production and consumption to 10% or less annually. A goal we are proud to say we’ve reached 2 years in a row. Our annual average loss in 2014 was 6.6% in 2015 it increased a bit to 7.9%. Our 3-year average is 9.3%.

The City will continue to replace old sections of piping, calibrate and replace aging water meters to minimize losses. Crews will use acoustic listening devices to detect and locate leaks below the surface to be repaired. We will continue to promote responsible water use to conserve our valued resource.

**SIGN UP FOR THE CITY OF LANGLEY WATER SAVER CHALLENGE TO SEE HOW MUCH YOU CAN SAVE!**

**DETAILS ON COVER PAGE**

The Water Department often needs to contact our customers regarding billing, water leaks or other issues that may arise.

Please update your contact information today!
Contact Darlene by emailing frontdesk@langleywa.org or call (360)221-4246 x 0