

# East Wenatchee Water District

## 2018 Water Quality Report

*Providing clean, fresh drinking water has been our top commitment to you and your family since 1940.*

The Board of Commissioners and the staff at the East Wenatchee Water District would like to reaffirm our promise to you that the quality of drinking water we provide will be an expression of our care for the community we serve. The District has a long history of providing excellent water quality and reliable service to the customers of the Greater East Wenatchee Area and will remain proactive in maintaining pristine water quality that meets or exceeds state and federal standards.

At less than a penny for three gallons, water costs very little compared to its true value.

Water Districts provide water services without imposing property taxes or impacting tax limits and are dedicated to water conservation through rates, metering, consumer education and system efficiencies. With issues of water quality an increasingly common story in the media, we here at the District believe it's important to safeguard the quality and availability of this precious resource.

Your water rates pay for everything it takes to operate our water system, from storage and treatment to delivering the water to your tap. Your water rates also help fund system improvements that ensure we always provide high-quality water.



# How the District is Providing for a Better Future

Clean drinking water is a life-essential resource and is necessary to sustain public health, support our economy and protect the environment.

The District's ability to provide clean, safe drinking water is being challenged as our existing infrastructure is aging and deteriorating. Our extensive system was constructed over many years and as it ages it becomes necessary to replace or upgrade portions of our water distribution system.

Deferring infrastructure investments today will only result in greater expenses tomorrow. Increasing water main breaks, poor water quality and surging costs for emergency repairs are just a few of the burdens that will confront us if we don't take action. Replacing aging water lines will always involve cost, but comprehensive and coordinated planning of the improvements in advance will allow us to get the most from our dollars.

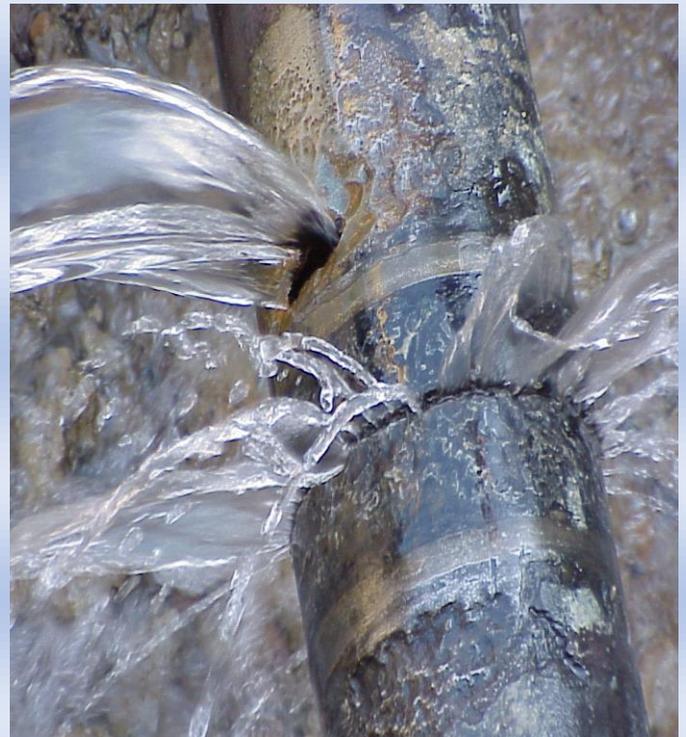
**In 2014, the East Wenatchee Water District (EWWD) adopted water saving goals via a Comprehensive Water System Plan. These goals are intended to:**

- **Reduce distribution system leakage**
- **Reduce per-capita water consumption**
- **Promote public education and awareness**

In 2015 & 2016 we experienced a near-record number of leaks in our system due to aging steel pipe. At that time approximately 76 miles of our 180+ miles of pipe were more than 40 years old and nearing the end of its expected useful life. The District diligently worked to develop and implement an accelerated, more aggressive Capital Facilities Replacement Plan by developing a standalone replacement schedule that prioritizes the replacement of deteriorating infrastructure. This new plan will continue to provide water of the safest and most reliable quality without

interruption to the District's customers and will keep rates fair and equitable for the District's current and future residents.

In 2017 and 2018 new Capital Facilities replacement provided for the replacement of 3.6 miles of deteriorating steel water mains and water appurtenances. In 2019 The Districts Capital Budget plans on the additional replacement of 2.0 miles of aging facilities. These scheduled projects include coordination with both The City of East Wenatchee and Douglas County to maximize the cost/benefit savings by working together to provide a better end product at a lesser overall cost.



As we look into the near future with Capital Replacements being a critical way to restore existing water systems as they reach the end of their useful lives, we need to be diligent by demonstrating and providing the best planning model to serve a growing population. We all must work together to facilitate and demonstrate a strong financial management program that provides the best planning model for our customers.



**The East Wenatchee Water District is proud to partner with the EPA's WaterSense Program.**

- Look for the WaterSense label when you buy water-using fixtures to save water and money!
- Remember that 1" of water per week is all your lawn needs to stay healthy. To easily determine if your lawn needs to be watered, simply walk across it. If you leave footprints it's time to water. Don't waste by over-watering!
- Pick low-water plants. When you buy plants, choose plants for immediate beauty and future water savings. Group plants with similar water needs together. Explore Xeriscape for landscaping ideas.
- Mulch-mow your lawn. Set your mower height at 2-inches and leaving the clippings on the lawn. The clippings help retain moisture and you won't need to bag the clippings!
- Water wisely. When you do water, water deeply, but infrequently. Water only during the cooler hours of the day, between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. to avoid losing up to half of your water to evaporation.
- Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation. Repair leaks in faucets and hoses. Use water-saving nozzles.
- Adjust sprinklers to avoid watering the street, driveways and sidewalks. Choose sprinklers with spray patterns that match the shape of your lawn or garden area.

**CHECK YOUR METER** - Turn off all water-using appliances and fixtures inside and outside your home. Locate the water meter (typically out at the property line in a concrete box. Call us if you're not sure!) Check and record the current meter reading. Wait 10 minutes, without using any water inside or outside the home. While you're waiting check and see if there's a leak detection dial on the meter. It is usually a small red or black triangle that spins if there is water being used and is an indication that there is a leak.

After the 10 minutes, check the meter again and compare readings. If the numbers don't match, you have a leak. The most common culprits are leaking toilets and dripping faucets

**TEST YOUR TOILET** - Lift the lid off of the tank on the back of your toilet and add 5 to 10 drops of food coloring, or a dye tablet (available at our office) into the tank. Wait 5 minutes and then check the toilet bowl. If you see coloring in the bowl, you have a leak. In most cases, replacing the toilet flapper and/or the filling mechanism will correct the problem.

**THE FACTS ON LEAKS**

- 10** percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day
- A leaky faucet dripping at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than **3,000 gallons** per year
- Did you know?** Minor water leaks account for more than **1** trillion gallons of wasted water each year and is equal to annual household water use in the United States
- A shower leaking at **10 Drips** per minute wastes more than **500** gallons per year
- REPAIR** leaks by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary
- Replace old toilets with WaterSense models & save **13,000** gallons of water savings for the average family
- Homeowners can save **10 percent** on their water bills
- Look for **WaterSense** - Meets EPA Criteria

EPA | epa.gov/watersense



## EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that can occur in untreated water include: microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria; inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemicals from industrial or petroleum use, and radioactive materials. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

## INFORMATION ON LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Even though lead is not found in District water sources, pipes and plumbing fixtures in buildings can contribute lead to drinking water. That's why we have worked closely with Eastmont School District and have conducted tests for lead and shared our sampling results.

In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals such as lead may be leached into the line.

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 until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. You can use the 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. Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791** or at:

[www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)

## THE PURPOSE OF DISINFECTION AND THE RESULTING DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

Drinking water is disinfected with chlorine to destroy bacteria, viruses and Giardia. Inadequate disinfection may lead to acute gastrointestinal illnesses. However, as the disinfectant reacts with naturally occurring organic matter in the water, disinfection by-products are formed. Disinfection by-products have been linked to increased cancer risks from drinking water containing high levels over many years. New drinking water regulations provide a balance between required levels of disinfection and the resulting disinfection by-products. We are pleased to announce that after eight years of extensive monitoring for disinfection by-products throughout our District we have seen results well below any state or federal action levels. We also monitor chlorine residual levels throughout our system daily.

### DEFINITIONS:

**LRAA:** Locational running annual average.

**ppb:** Parts of contaminant per billion parts of water, also the same as micrograms per liter.

**ppm:** Parts of contaminant per million parts of water, also the same as milligrams per liter.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL:** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

**N/A:** Not analyzed

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

## WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER AND WHAT ISN'T

The results of the most recent monitoring including that in 2018 are shown in the table below. Water was tested for the presence of potential contaminants, but only those required based on their detection are listed.

Samples were also taken monthly for the presence of Coliform 30 times from 8 different sample sights in 2018. Coliform are naturally present in the environment and a test result showing their presence simply indicates the need for additional sampling. Last year there were no unsatisfactory samples.

State and Federal regulations dictate which contaminants the District must test for and how often. Not all compounds are tested for every year. The results presented represent the most current data for the source and the water system.

ANALYTES	DETECTED LEVEL	UNIT	MCLG	MCL	COMPLY	LIKELY SOURCES
<b>EPA REGULATED</b>						
<b>Arsenic</b>	<0.002	ppb	0.002	0.01	<b>Yes</b>	Erosion of natural deposits and orchard run off
<b>Barium</b>	0.021	ppm	0.1	2	<b>Yes</b>	Erosion of natural deposits and drilling wastes
<b>Nitrite - N</b>	<0.07	ppm	0.5	1	<b>Yes</b>	Erosion of natural deposits, animal waste
<b>Nitrate - N</b>	0.16	ppm	0.5	10	<b>Yes</b>	Erosion of natural deposits, septic, fertilizer
<b>Total Nitrate/Nitrite</b>	0.16	ppm	0.5	10	<b>Yes</b>	Erosion of natural deposits, septic, fertilizer
<b>EPA REGULATED (Secondary)</b>						
<b>Iron</b>	0.001	ppm	0.1		<b>Yes</b>	Naturally occurring
<b>Manganese</b>	<0.005	ppm	0.01		<b>Yes</b>	Naturally occurring
<b>Chloride</b>	1.29	ppm	20		<b>Yes</b>	Naturally occurring
<b>Sulfate</b>	13.6	ppm	10		<b>Yes</b>	Naturally occurring
<b>Sodium</b>	2.2	ppm	5		<b>Yes</b>	Naturally occurring
<b>Hardness</b>	68.6	ppm	10		<b>Yes</b>	Erosion of calcium and mineral deposits
<b>Turbidity</b>	<0.2	NTU	0.3		<b>Yes</b>	Soil erosion
<b>Total Dissolved Solids</b>	97.0	ppm	150		<b>Yes</b>	Erosion of solids
<b>Pesticides</b>						
Dimethoate	NA	ppm		0.70	<b>Yes</b>	
Terbufos Sulfone	NA	ppm		0.40	<b>Yes</b>	
PBDE47	NA	ppm		0.30	<b>Yes</b>	
PBDE 100	NA	ppm		0.50	<b>Yes</b>	
PBDE 99	NA	ppm		0.90	<b>Yes</b>	
2,2',4,4',5,5'-Hexabromobiphenyl	NA	ppm		0.70	<b>Yes</b>	
PBDE 153	NA	ppm		0.80	<b>Yes</b>	
<b>FROM THE TAP RANGE 90th Percentile</b>						
<b>Lead</b>	<0.0002 to 0.0083	ppb	0	15	<b>0.0018</b>	Plumbing corrosion, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Copper</b>	0.017 to 0.949	ppm	1.3	1.3	<b>0.552</b>	Plumbing corrosion, erosion of natural deposits
<b>DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (see below for description)</b>						
<b>Total Trihalomethane</b>	6.34 LRAA	ppb	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes</b>	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Total Haloacetic Acid</b>	0.62 LRAA	ppb	48	60	<b>Yes</b>	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Chlorine Residual</b>	0.33 Avg.	ppm	MRDL=4	MRDL=4	<b>Yes</b>	Measure of remaining disinfectants



Undoubtedly, if you have a fire sprinkler system or an in-ground sprinkler system for your lawn that uses District-supplied water, you are already aware that tests are required annually on your backflow assemblies.

The East Wenatchee Water District works hard to protect your drinking water from any type of contamination. Of course, we all want to prevent drinking water contamination... but doing your part is also required by law.

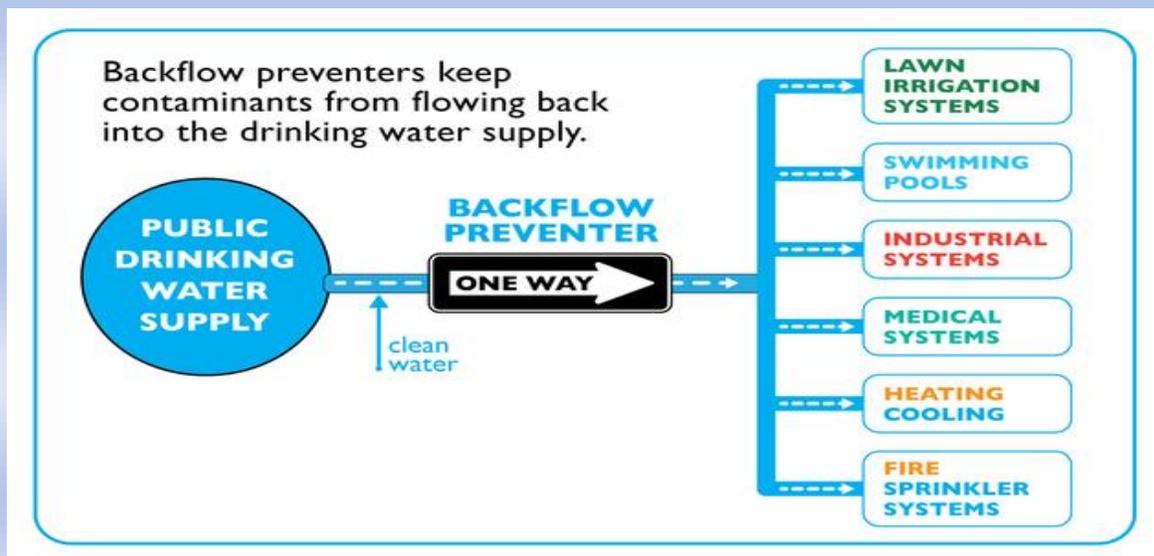
A backflow assembly protects the drinking water supply from contamination due to backflow, which can draw soil, pet waste, fertilizers and pesticides into the public drinking supply via your in-ground sprinkler system. Your backflow assembly is your primary defense that protects you from a potential contamination incident that could cause health effects for you, your family and neighbors, and could result in a financial penalty.

Annual testing is required to ensure that your assembly is functioning properly. An assembly that isn't working properly is providing NO protection. If your backflow assembly fails required testing, it is necessary to have it repaired and re-tested within 30 days.



In 2016 we started requiring all assemblies to be tested no later than **August 1<sup>st</sup>** to avoid late fees. We found that most customers were able to have their assemblies tested and have those test reports submitted to us on time, avoiding any fees.

You should have received a 90-day reminder letter in April of 2019 and a 30-day the last week of June.



## 2018-2021 Water Rates Bi-monthly

Meter Size	2018	2019	2020	2021
	12% Increase	12% Increase	11% Increase	10.5% Increase
5/8 Inch	\$67	\$75	\$83	\$92
1 Inch	\$74	\$83	\$92	\$102
1-1/2 Inch	\$84	\$94	\$104	\$115
2 Inch	\$108	\$121	\$134	\$148
3 Inch	\$289	\$324	\$360	\$398
4 Inch	\$356	\$399	\$443	\$490
Additional Multi-Family Unit	\$54	\$60	\$67	\$74
<b>Excess Water Consumption - *Consumption charge in excess of 1,200cf (cubic feet) per billing cycle.</b>				
Charge per 100cf*	\$2.05	\$2.30	\$2.55	\$2.70
<b>Senior and Low-Income Discount</b>				
Discount Level 1	(\$24.00)	(\$27.00)	(\$30.00)	(\$33.00)
Discount Level 2	(\$19.00)	(\$21.00)	(\$23.00)	(\$26.00)
Discount Level 3	(\$13.00)	(\$14.00)	(\$16.00)	(\$17.00)

### ACCOUNT PAYMENT INFORMATION

You can pay your bill online via our website [ewwd.org](http://ewwd.org). We also have several other payment options available for your convenience. You may have your water bill withdrawn directly from your checking account or you can pay by phone with a credit or debit card. All of these payment methods are free of charge.

### SENIOR CITIZEN & DISABLED PERSON DISCOUNT

We still adjust water service charges for low income senior citizens and disabled persons. The maximum annual income is \$40,000 and you must be exempt from a portion of your property tax through Douglas County. If you think you may qualify, please stop by the District office and complete the paperwork for your adjustment.

### WHERE OUR WATER COMES FROM

East Wenatchee Water District, System #218005. Your water comes from a groundwater source called the East Bank Aquifer. Located in Douglas County near Rocky Reach Dam, the aquifer is tapped by four wells drilled 200 feet in depth. The water from the East Bank Aquifer is of excellent quality and quantity and is capable of supplying an estimated 240 million gallons per day. The District also has two other seasonal groundwater sources that can be used if needed: Wells 4 & 5 located off Rock Island Road, and Well 7 located off of Cascade St. Water was not used from these sources in 2018.

### SOURCE PROTECTION INFORMATION

The Department of Health has Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) data compiled for all community Public Water Systems in Washington. SWAP data for the East Wenatchee Water District is available online at:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/portal/odw/si/Disclaimer.aspx?Page=/portal/odw/si/findwatersystem.aspx>

Check the "I Agree" box then simply enter our system name and ID #218005 for access.