



City of Spokane Water Department

2025

# Technical Drinking Water Report

# REPORT ON CITY OF SPOKANE DRINKING WATER FOR 2025

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# Executive Summary

Spokane's drinking water meets all State and Federal drinking water quality standards. This annual report prepared by the City of Spokane's Water Department supports and informs our Water Department annual Consumer Confidence Report, distributed as the City of Spokane Water Quality Report. This report provides wholesale water customers, businesses, and the public with a more detailed discussion, with additional references, a complete list of the year's testing, and thorough consideration on the reasons for testing. The sampling and testing plan follows a three year rotation with each well sampled at least once in that period.

The City tested for 35 different inorganic parameters. There were detections of regulated chemicals; arsenic, barium, and nitrate.

The City tested six of our eight source wells for 25 per-and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS). There were detections above 2 parts per trillion (ng/L) at five wells; Grace, Havana, Hoffman, Nevada, and Ray Street. Grace, Havana, Ray Street and Well Electric were sampled each quarter in 2025. The highest detection was at Ray Street for PFOS (Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid) at 6.29 ng/L on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Compliance will be based on a running annual average (RAA) for each compound at each location. The highest RAA at Ray Street for PFOS was 3.97 ng/L. The proposed Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFOS is 4 ng/L.

The drinking water was tested for 154 organic compounds, and none were detected.

Radionuclide testing revealed detectable levels of radon in the drinking water.

In home testing for lead and copper was performed in August of 2024. 56 homes were sampled. The highest concentration of lead in a sample was 3.54 µg/L (ppb) for lead and 157 µg/L for copper. The regulatory point is the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile sample. For lead this was 1.98 µg/L and for copper 96.8 µg/L. These results for lead and copper are less than the 15 µg/L Action Level for lead and the 1300 µg/L Action Level for copper. The homes tested had copper service lines. The City completed the removal of all known residential lead service lines in 2018.

The City disinfects the drinking water with chlorine gas, resulting in the generation of low concentrations of disinfection byproducts. The City tests for nine of these compounds quarterly. There were detections at the farthest reaches of the distribution system.

The City tests both the source water and the distribution system for microbiological contaminants. In 2025, there were two unconfirmed detections of total coliform in the distribution system.

The following narrative and attachments summarize and explain recent results in more detail. Appendix VI and the last two pages of this narrative (General Information) contain information relevant to the annual Consumer Confidence Report. As such, the information may be redundant relative to the main text of this report.

The detections mentioned are below applicable drinking water standards. The results were within the range of results from previous testing. Arsenic, Barium, and radon are from naturally occurring geological sources. Nitrate is primarily from anthropogenic sources such as fertilizer and septic systems but has declined in recent years with the conversion of individual septic systems to centralized sewer systems.

## Introduction and Source Water Information

All the City of Spokane’s drinking water comes from the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer - designated a sole source aquifer in 1978. It is the only significant source of drinking water for the City. The Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer slowly flows through two different states and a number of different counties and is the source water for a large number of water purveyors, including the City of Spokane. This water and any contaminants freely move across political boundaries. Multiple stakeholders rely on this water for diverse purposes. Some of these competing interests include (but are not limited to) drinking water rights, irrigation, fisheries, hydroelectric power, and industrial processes. The Spokane Aquifer (that portion of the larger aquifer lying within Washington State) and the Spokane River exchange water. While the aquifer contains a large volume of water, many factors play into the volume of water in the Spokane River, complicating the management of these resources. Some of these factors include pumping for irrigation and potable water, hydroelectric dam operations, and the variations of weather and precipitation. Learn more about the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer by downloading the Aquifer Atlas from [www.spokanecounty.org/1227/SVRP-Aquifer-Home](http://www.spokanecounty.org/1227/SVRP-Aquifer-Home)

The City of Spokane's Water Department delivers up to 150 million gallons of clean, safe drinking water every day to more than 320,000 people in our community. The City's water system is the fourth largest in the state of Washington based on number of connections behind Seattle, Tacoma, and Vancouver. Our water system includes pumps, reservoirs, eight source wells, and more than 1,000 miles of water mains and smaller water lines that bring water from our wells to homes and businesses.

Due to the porous nature of the ground surface and the number of potential contaminant sources, the possibility of contaminating the aquifer exists if good housekeeping measures are not followed for all activity over and adjacent to the aquifer. The physical and economic health of our area depends on the quality of our drinking water. To safeguard water quality, the City continues its efforts to make available to the community information about, and appropriate disposal mechanisms for, dangerous wastes that are generated in the Aquifer Sensitive Area. The City, in cooperation with other local governments and the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board (SAJB), continues to work toward strengthening regulations for the storage and use of critical materials to safeguard the local water supply. The SAJB is composed of 21 local water purveyors that work together to ensure safe drinking water for all their customers.

For additional information regarding the City of Spokane’s drinking water or related issues:

City of Spokane Water Department	(509) 625-7800	<a href="http://www.spokanewater.org/">www.spokanewater.org/</a>
Spokane County - Water Resources	(509) 477-7579	<a href="http://www.spokanecounty.org/1200/Water-Resources">www.spokanecounty.org/1200/Water-Resources</a>
Spokane Regional Health District – Environmental Health Div.	(509) 324-1560	<a href="http://www.srhd.org/programs-and-services/#-environmental-hazards-resources">www.srhd.org/programs-and-services/#-environmental-hazards-resources</a>
Washington State Department of Health – Office of Drinking Water	(800) 521-0323	<a href="http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/HealthyHome/DrinkingWater">www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/HealthyHome/DrinkingWater</a>
Washington State Department of Ecology – Eastern Regional Office	(509) 329-3400	<a href="http://www.ecy.wa.gov/">www.ecy.wa.gov/</a>
U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline	1-800-426-4791	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water">www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water</a>

**Table 1 List of Resources**



# QUALITY Drinking Water

## An Invaluable Community Resource

### INORGANICS

The City typically has a Washington State Department of Ecology accredited laboratory run a full drinking water inorganics analysis once every three years on each of our source wells. In addition, nitrates are tested annually, as required. The most recent inorganic results for all wells are in Appendix III. **All sources are in compliance with existing National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Inorganic MCL's.**

### ARSENIC

**The arsenic readings at Central and Well Electric source wells were 3.6 µg/L, and 5.0 µg/L, respectively.** The MCL for arsenic is 10 µg/L, or parts per billion (ppb). For City drinking water, 5.13 µg/L of arsenic in 2009 from Ray Street Well represents the highest result to date.

**City drinking water currently meets EPA's drinking water standard for arsenic.** However, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. 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.

Further information concerning health impact issues, regulatory requirements, and compliance costs for water utilities/water customers can be found at [www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/331-167.pdf](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/331-167.pdf).

### BARIUM

**The barium readings in 2025 for the Central and Well Electric source wells were 0.022 mg/L, and 0.020 mg/L, respectively.** The MCL for barium is 2 mg/L. For City drinking water the highest result for barium was 0.0595 mg/L from the Ray Street well in 2018.

### LEAD - COPPER

**Lead and copper testing of source water and 56 at-risk residences was conducted in 2024. The highest reading of lead in a home was 3.54 µg/L (ppb). The highest reading for copper was 157 µg/L.** These results for lead and copper are less than the 15 µg/L Action Level for lead and the 1300 µg/L Action Level for copper. The lead results, based on City in-home sampling, also continue to qualify our water system as having "Optimized Corrosion Control." The City is on a 3-year sampling schedule. The next in-home sampling is scheduled for 2027.

**City drinking water currently meets EPA's drinking water standards for lead and copper.** The EPA standard for lead balances the current understanding of lead health effects against the effectiveness and cost of corrosion control processes. The EPA released revised rules for lead and copper testing in December of 2024 which will be effective in October 2027. For more information on the revised lead and copper rule visit the EPA page at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-and-copper-rule-improvements>

In May 2016, the City initiated a program to eliminate the final 486 lead service lines. In July of 2018, the City completed its program to remove the remaining lead service lines in the City's water system. City records indicate that

originally some 981 homes built during World War II were connected to the City’s distribution system with lead alloy pipes. In addition, before lead solder was banned in 1988, it was commonly used to connect copper piping in homes.

Sampling methods require testing water left sitting in lead-containing pipes, including those copper service lines with lead solder, for at least 6 hours. This results in a worst-case scenario for lead to move into the water. The City encourages anyone with this kind of plumbing, drawing water for cooking or drinking purposes, to let water run from the tap until cold before filling their container, especially if the water is to be given to infants or children.

For further information concerning lead in drinking water, you can go to the Washington State Department of Health [www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/Contaminants/Lead](http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/Contaminants/Lead). Or the EPA at [www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water)

Further information about copper in drinking water can be found at [www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/Contaminants/Copper](http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/Contaminants/Copper)

Drinking water is only one of many potential sources of exposure to lead. An EPA publication titled “Protect Your Family From Lead In Your Home” can be downloaded from [www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-lead-your-home](http://www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-lead-your-home).

### NITRATE - NITROGEN

The Ray Street Well continues to be monitored quarterly for Nitrate-N. **In 2025, the highest accredited lab quarterly result for the Ray Street Well was 3.0 mg/L**, or parts per million (ppm). The federal MCL for Nitrate –N is 10 mg/L. The result from a duplicate sample analyzed by the Riverside Park Water Reclamation Facility (RPWRF) Laboratory was 2.30 mg/L. The quarterly results for Ray Street Well for 2025 are as follows:

<i>Sample Date</i>	<i>Accredited Laboratory Result - Nitrate-N, mg/L</i>	<i>RPWRF Laboratory Result – Nitrate+Nitrite-N, mg/L</i>
28-January-2025	2.83	3.10
22-April-2025	3.0	3.04
29-July -2025	1.57	2.04
28-October-2025	2.58	2.86

Table 2 Ray Street Well Nitrate levels

**All other City sources average 1.24 mg/L for 2025, less than a fifth of the MCL for nitrate-nitrogen.** The 2025 results for the other City source wells are as follows:

<i>Source Well</i>	<i>Accredited Laboratory Result - Nitrate-N, mg/L</i>	<i>RPWRF Laboratory Result – Nitrate+Nitrite-N, mg/L</i>
Well Electric	1.29	1.53
Parkwater	1.52	1.26
Hoffman	1.23	1.26
Grace	0.73	0.82
Havana	2.34	
Nevada	0.75	0.93
Central	0.80	0.95
Federal MCL	10	

Table 3 City Source Well Nitrate levels

For further information concerning nitrate in drinking water and potential health issues, you can access the Washington State Dept. of Health website at [www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/331-214.pdf](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/331-214.pdf).

(Para ver información adicional, visite al; [www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/331-214s.pdf](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/331-214s.pdf))

## RADIONUCLIDES & RADON

### RADIONUCLIDES

**In 2025, the City of Spokane tested the Central, Hoffman, and Nevada source wells for Radium 228 and Gross Alpha.** The following table has the results.

	Gross Alpha	Radium 228	Combined 226 / 228
Central	< 3	< 1	1.5
Hoffman	< 3	< 1	1.5
Nevada	< 3	< 1	1.5
MCL	15		5

**Table 4 Radionuclide Results**

All results in picocuries per liter (pCi/L)

Gross Alpha particle activity has an MCL of 15 pCi/L. The federal MCL for Radium 226 and Radium 228 (combined) is 5 pCi/L. **The City of Spokane results were below the MCL.**

The radionuclide rule allows Gross Alpha results to be used in lieu of Radium 226 if the Gross Alpha particle activity is below 5 pCi/L. If the gross alpha particle activity result is below the detection limit, one-half of the detection limit is used to determine compliance<sup>1</sup>. The radionuclide rule also allows a Gross Alpha particle activity measurement to be substituted for the required uranium measurement provided that the measured gross alpha particle activity does not exceed 15 pCi/L. The Gross Alpha activity was below 15 pCi/L, therefore the City did not test for uranium.

For more information on radionuclides visit the EPA at <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/radionuclides-rule>

\* If the Radium 228 or 226 value is <1.0, a value of zero will be used to calculate the Combined Radium 226/228<sup>2</sup>.

### RADON

**The Water Department monitored the Central, Hoffman, and Nevada source wells for radon in 2025, with results of 367 pCi/L, 524 pCi/L, and 365 pCi/L, respectively.**

The Environmental Protection Agency has published a proposed rule for regulating the concentration of radon-222 in drinking water. The rule proposes a maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) of zero, a maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 300 pCi/L, and an alternative maximum contaminant level (AMCL) of 4000 pCi/L.

Comments for the proposed rule were accepted until February 4, 2000; however no final rule was promulgated and at this time the regulatory action is not on the EPA agenda list.

Currently, water purveyors are required to inform their customers of known results for Radon-222 testing, which the City of Spokane voluntarily monitors.

Radon gas is one of several radioactive elements that result from the radioactive decay of uranium found locally in natural deposits. Exposure to excessive amounts of radon may increase cancer risk. Most of these risks result from exposure to radon in indoor air. The EPA has determined that 1-2% of the radon in indoor air comes from drinking water. General

<sup>1</sup> 40 CFR 141.26a (5)

<sup>2</sup> 40 CFR 141.26c (3) v

information concerning radon in the environment and the associated health issues, including drinking water, can be found at [www.epa.gov/radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon) or call the Radon Hotline at *1-800-SOS-RADON* [1-800-767-7236]. An EPA publication titled “A Citizen’s Guide to Radon” can be downloaded from [2016 a citizens guide to radon.pdf \(epa.gov\)](https://www.epa.gov/radon/national-radon-action-plan-strategy-saving-lives) The EPA has published a National Radon Action Plan (<https://www.epa.gov/radon/national-radon-action-plan-strategy-saving-lives>) to more broadly mitigate Radon exposure.

## ORGANICS

### DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS – DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

**The maximum value during 2025 compliance monitoring of the distribution system for total trihalomethanes (TTHM) was 3.90 µg/L and for haloacetic acids (HAA5) was no detection. This is well below the federal MCL of 80 µg/L for total trihalomethanes and 60 µg/L for the sum of five haloacetic acids. The by-products are only detected at the extreme end of the distribution system.** The Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-products Rule requires a Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) be used for reporting compliance. This is the average of four quarterly samples for each sampling location. The City uses small amounts of chlorine as a drinking water disinfectant. However, the disinfectants themselves can react with materials in the water to form byproducts, which may pose health risks. The maximum value for TTHM was 5.55 µg/L. Appendix IV has the results for all 2025 quarterly sampling. There were no detections of haloacetic acids at any sampling sites in 2024.

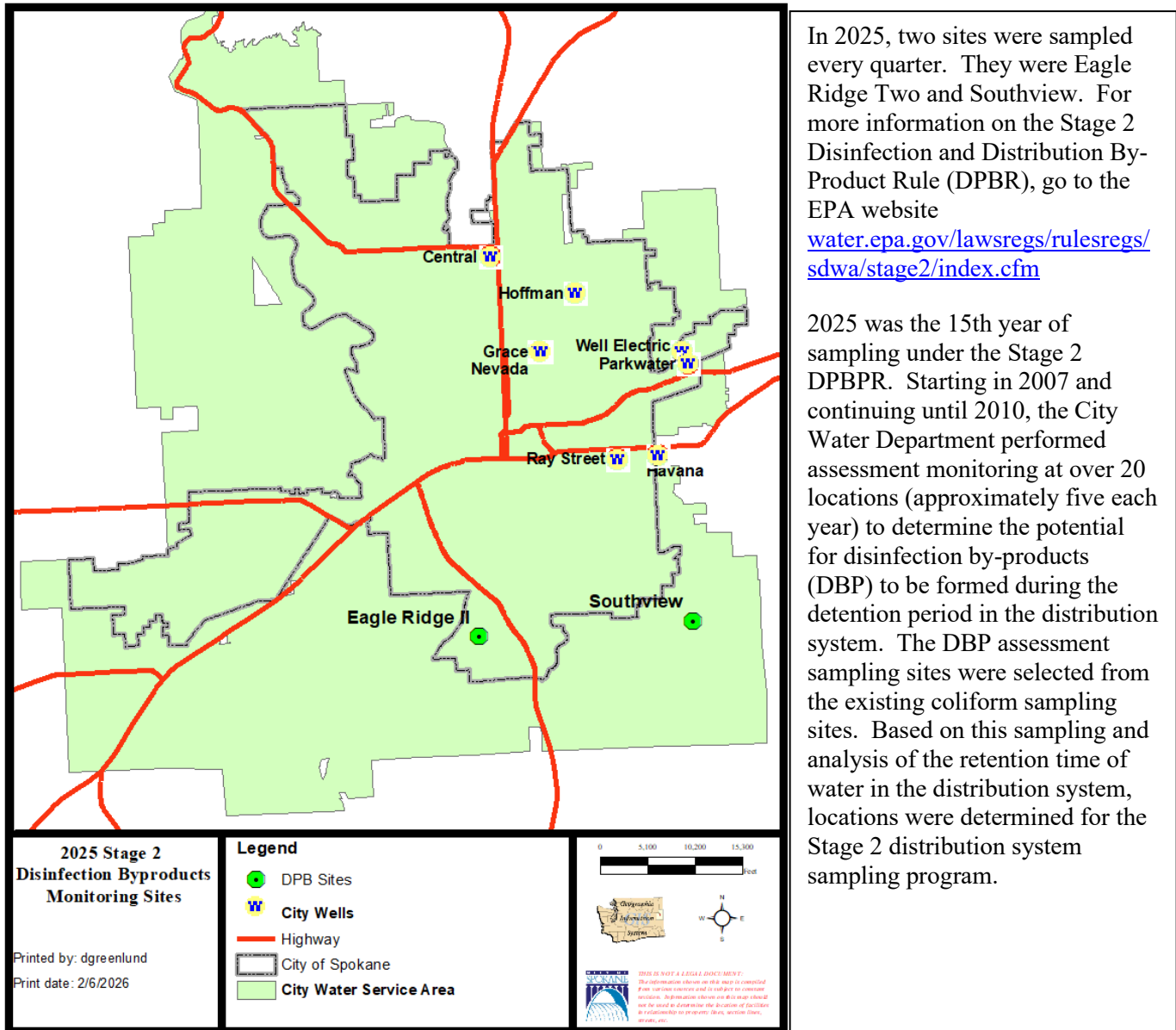


Figure 1 Disinfection Byproduct Monitoring Sites

### VOLATILE ORGANICS

**In 2025, the City of Spokane tested the Grace, Havana, and Hoffman source wells for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC). There were no detections.** A complete list of the chemicals analyzed is in Appendix I.

Trihalomethanes (THMs; chloroform, bromoform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane) are one group of volatile organic compounds in the test panel, disinfection by-products. They can originate from chemical interactions between a disinfectant (chlorine gas in the City’s system) and any organic matter present in the raw water. **There were no detections of THMs in source water monitoring for 2025.**

## SYNTHETIC ORGANICS

**The City of Spokane sampled the Havana source well for Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC's) in 2025.** There were no detections of SOC's. Appendix I contains the list of 99 compounds. This includes pesticides, herbicides, PCB, and phthalates (plasticizers).

### PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

In 2025 the City tested six of our eight source wells for 25 PFAS. There were detections at Grace, Havana, Hoffman, Nevada, and Ray Street wells, with a state reporting limit of 2 ng/L (parts per trillion). The complete list of compounds and laboratory results is in Appendix V. The EPA and State have established a running annual average (RAA) by compound and location as the compliance point. The RAA is the MCL divided by sum of four quarterly sample results for the compound. For compliance determination purposes only, a sample result less than the EPA Practical Quantitation Limit (PQL) for the monitored PFAS will use zero to calculate the RAA. The PQL for PFOS is 4 ng/L. Havana did not have 4 quarterly samples until April 2025.

Compound	1/28/2025	4/22/2025	7/29/2025	10/28/2025	MCL
Ray Street PFOS RAA	1.57	2.86	2.86	3.97	4
Havana PFOS RAA	n/a	0.00	1.08	2.26	4

**Table 5 PFAS RAA by well and compound**

In January of 2026 the State of Washington adopted the EPA MCL values for the State Action Levels (SAL). The SALs provide state public health recommendations for the safe, long-term consumption of drinking water, below which there is no known or expected health risk. For more information on the state rule including a list of the PFAS and the SALs visit, [www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Contaminants/PFAS](http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Contaminants/PFAS). This DOH website includes information on health effects, exposure pathways and reducing your exposure.

The Washington State Department of Health has developed a statewide PFAS testing results dashboard. PFAS testing results are displayed for the entire state. Visit the site at [www.doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/pfas/dashboard](http://www.doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/pfas/dashboard)

In April of 2024 the EPA posted the final rules on PFAS. These rules will be fully enforced in 2029. There are federally enforceable MCLs for 6 compounds. Visit this EPA site for the rule [www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas](http://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas) For information on work the EPA is undertaking on PFAS in many areas including drinking water visit the EPA at [www.epa.gov/pfas](http://www.epa.gov/pfas)

## MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

### COLIFORM BACTERIA - SOURCE

The City of Spokane well station raw source water (the water before disinfectant chlorination) has been tested regularly for coliform bacteria. While historically there has been no requirement to test for coliform bacteria in source water, the City has monitored for this water quality parameter. More recently, testing requirements to determine whether hydraulic continuity exists with the Spokane River have increased the testing frequency. **In 2025 there were 82 tests for coliform bacteria in the City source water wells with no detections of total or fecal coliform.**

Out of 381 tests over the five-year period from 2021 through 2025, two positive total coliform results were found. The most recent detection was in 2024. There have been no detections of fecal coliform in the source water during this time frame.

## HETEROTROPHIC PLATE COUNT BACTERIA – SOURCE

**In 2025, out of 74 Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC) tests on source water, there were 11 positive results. The greatest concentration was 47 colonies per milliliter of sample at the Ray Street well.** HPC tests were conducted 367 times over the five-year period from 2021 through 2025 on raw source water. There have been 71 positive HPC results. The maximum detection during this five-year period was 65 colonies per milliliter at the Central Well in 2022. Without regard to source water HPC levels, City source water is treated with chlorine to safeguard drinking water quality. This is done based on the historical use of open reservoirs (which no longer exist) and to preserve the sanitary quality when a well or piping is open to the environment during construction, repair, or routine maintenance. Some water utilities drawing from the same aquifer do not use disinfectant treatment.

## COLIFORM BACTERIA - DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Coliform testing is typically done three days a week from various points in the distribution system. The Water Department has more than 320,000 customers. Based on this population tier<sup>3</sup>, 180 samples per month are required. This was adopted as the target for distribution system coliform monitoring in 2024. **During 2025, the City Water Department had 2183 coliform bacteria samples analyzed. There were two unconfirmed detections of coliform in the distribution system.** On July 14th there was a positive total coliform result in the distribution system. Pursuant to the Revised Total Coliform Rule, three resamples were obtained (one at the original sample site and two nearby customer connections). Also, pursuant to the Groundwater Rule, raw water samples were taken from source wells contributing to the pressure zone. The coliform detection was **not confirmed**. Then again on July 21 there was a positive coliform result. The required resampling was conducted. The coliform detection was **not confirmed**. 2,154 coliform bacteria samples were analyzed in 2024 and, 1,987 samples were analyzed in 2023.

The Water Department staff has worked to refine the sampling sites for the distribution system. Concerns about inadvertent contamination of sampling sites and locations that don't adequately represent the distribution of the water system has caused the Water Department staff to establish more dedicated sampling sites at locations more representative of the entire system. Figure 2 is a map of the distribution system sampling sites during 2025, overlaid on the City's water service area. It is important to note that the sample sites are evenly placed based on the distribution system, which may not currently reach all parts of the water service area, and population density.

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<sup>3</sup> WAC 246-290-300(3)(e-Table 2)

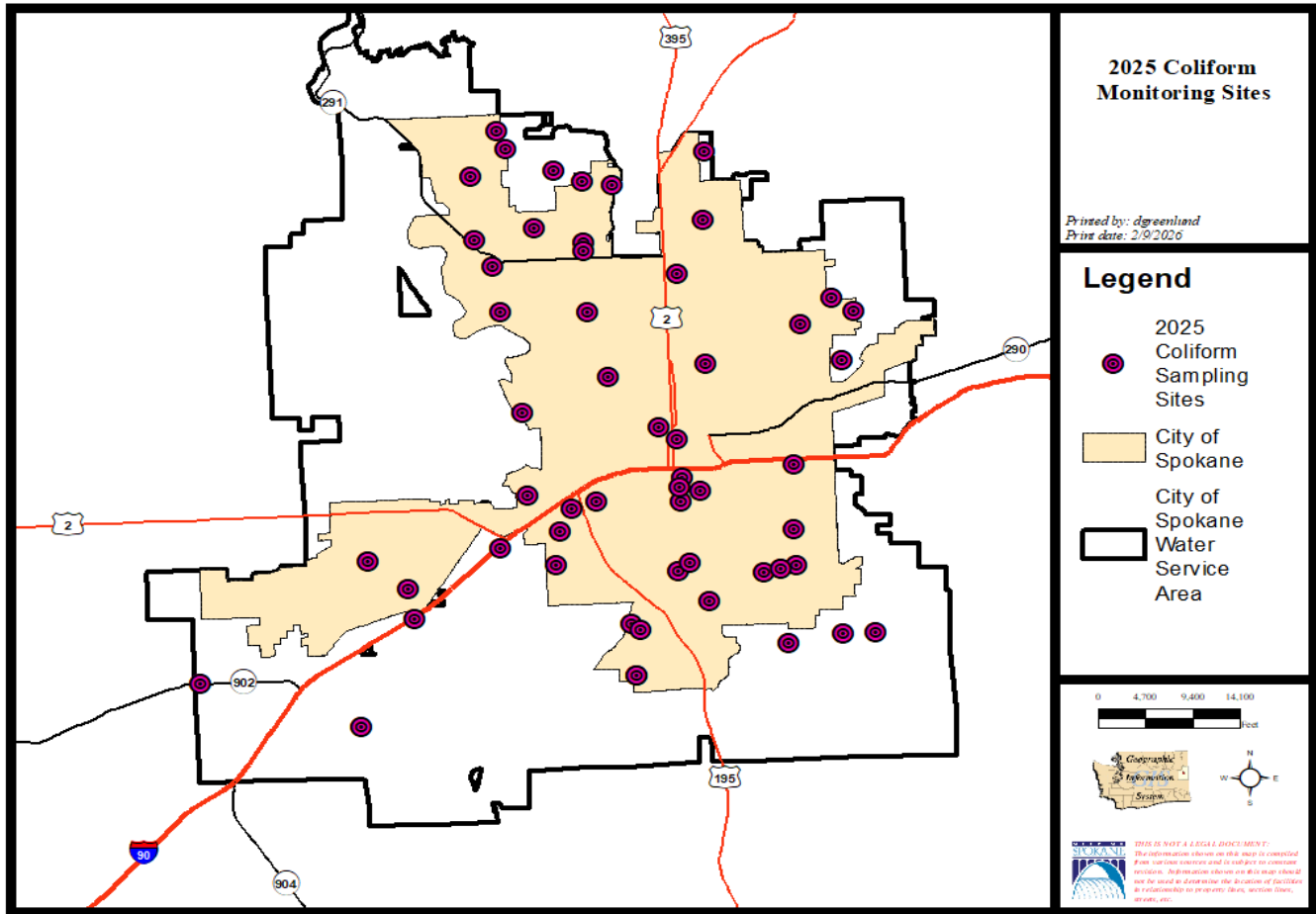


Figure 2 Coliform Monitoring Sites

## PROTOZOA

A number of cities and towns throughout the country, in years past, have experienced problems with giardia and/or cryptosporidium getting into the distribution systems. Most times, problems with these parasitic organisms in potable water have been associated with surface water sources. The City of Spokane uses groundwater for our source of drinking water. The City of Spokane is not aware of cases where infections with these organisms were traced back to the City's water system.

Please note that cryptosporidium and other water borne organisms can be spread in many ways. People who become ill as a result of consuming giardia and/or cryptosporidium typically recover after suffering severe bouts of diarrhea. However, small children, people whose immune systems are compromised, or those who are otherwise in poor health can die because of these infections. For further information concerning the potential health effects issues, access the websites at the CDC at [www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto/index.html) (cryptosporidium) and [www.cdc.gov/parasites/giardia/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/giardia/index.html) (giardia).

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### English:

This report contains important information about the drinking water supplied by the City of Spokane. Translate it or speak with someone who understands it well.

### Spanish:

Este reporte contiene información importante acerca del agua potable suministrada por la Ciudad de Spokane. Tradúzcalo, o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. (Para ver información adicional, visite al; <http://espanol.epa.gov/espanol/agua>)

### Russian:

В этом отчете содержится важная информация относительно питьевой воды, поставляемой службой города Спокэн. Переведите этот отчет или поговорите с тем, кто его хорошо понимает.

### Vietnamese:

Bản phúc trình này chứa đựng những thông tin quan trọng về nước uống được cung cấp bởi City of Spokane. Hãy phiên dịch, hay hỏi thăm người nào hiểu rõ về tài liệu này.

Across the nation, 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 radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Biological 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 run-off, 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, storm water run-off, and residential uses.
- Organic chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off and septic systems.
- Radioactive materials, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protections 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 contacting the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791), on line at [www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline](http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline), or you can access additional

information at EPA website: [www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water)

## HEALTH INFORMATION

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).

Additional information concerning:

**Radon:** During 2025, the City conducted tests at Central, Hoffman and Nevada wells for Radon-222. The results were 367 pCi/L, 524 pCi/L, and 365 pCi/L. The EPA has proposed a MCL of 300 pCi/L, which has not been finalized.

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell and is a known carcinogen. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will, in most cases, be a small source of radon in indoor air. Breathing air

containing radon can lead to lung cancer and/or drinking water containing radon also may cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call EPA's Radon Hotline (1-800-557-2366) or access the EPA website at [www.epa.gov/radon/radon-hotlines-and-information-resources](http://www.epa.gov/radon/radon-hotlines-and-information-resources)

Arsenic: The arsenic readings in 2025 at the Central and Well Electric wells were 3.6, and 5.0 ppb respectively. The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Arsenic is 10 ppb.

City of Spokane drinking water currently meets EPA's revised drinking water standard for arsenic. However, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. Information on arsenic in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

Lead: In-home testing for lead was performed in 2024. The City tested 56 at-risk residences for lead. The single highest result was 3.54 ppb. This result for lead is below the 15 ppb Action Level for lead. The lead results, based on City in-home sampling, also continue to qualify our water system as having "Optimized Corrosion Control". Source water is analyzed for lead concurrent with the in-home testing. In 2024 the maximum concentration in the source water testing of all the wells for lead was less than 0.10 ppb.

All remaining known lead service lines in the City's water system were replaced during a program from 2016 to 2018.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Spokane is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water).

## CITY OF SPOKANE'S SYSTEM

All the City of Spokane's drinking water comes from the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) Aquifer - designated a "sole source" aquifer in 1978. The Spokane Aquifer (that portion of the SVRP aquifer lying within Washington State) and the Spokane River exchange water. The rates and locations of exchange are the subject of continued study.

Due to the porous nature of the ground surface and the number of potential contaminant sources, the possibility of contaminating the aquifer exists if good "housekeeping" measures are not followed for all activity over and adjacent to the aquifer. To safeguard water quality, the City, in coordination with other stakeholders, is currently implementing a Wellhead Protection Program. This program endeavors to inform the public about the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, and about appropriate disposal mechanisms for dangerous and/or critical materials that are generated in the Aquifer Sensitive Area. The program is advocating land use regulations to help protect drinking water wells from contamination.

For additional information regarding the City of Spokane's Drinking Water or related issues, you can call:

City of Spokane Water & Hydroelectric Services

509-625-7800

The Mayor recommends Water and Hydroelectric Services policy and rates to the Spokane City Council.  
The Council meets most Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at  
Spokane City Hall (808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, WA).