

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND

2023 DRINKING WATER SYSTEM CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT



Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI) owns and operates a community drinking water system, which provides purchased, treated, drinking water to employees, residents, and visitors. The following water quality information is being provided to you, our consumer, in accordance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, as implemented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington State Department of Health (DOH) regulations.

Throughout 2023, the drinking water distributed through the Navy water system consistently met federal and state drinking water health standards.



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Where does my drinking water come from?

The NASWI water supply comes from the water treatment facility at Mount Vernon, owned and operated by the City of Anacortes. Raw water from the Skagit River is pumped to the plant where it undergoes full treatment including screening, filtration, and disinfection to make it safe. The treated water is then pumped to the City of Oak Harbor on Whidbey Island via pipeline. The City of Oak Harbor then supplies NASWI with drinking water that passes through a booster pump station located at NASWI, where fluoride is added, and enters the NASWI water system that supplies drinking water to Ault Field and Sea Plane Base. The Base Operating Services Contractor (BOSC), whose contract is managed by the installation Public Works Department, operates the NASWI drinking water system. The Environmental Division reports water sampling results to the EPA and DOH to ensure compliance with all applicable regulations. Water treatment aboard NASWI includes adding fluoride to strengthen teeth and chlorine, only as needed, to ensure adequate disinfection.

Notes:

- (1) There is no potable drinking water system servicing Navy Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Coupeville. Instead, purchased bottled water is provided to Navy personnel working at this site.
- (2) The 2023 CCR published by the City of Oak Harbor is available at <https://oakharbor.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1733/2023-Water-Quality-Report-PDF?bidId=>

What is in my drinking water?

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up other substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water 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 and farming.
- ☞ Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
- ☞ Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are the potential by-products of various industrial processes, petroleum storage and handling, gas station operations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- ☞ Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production, and mining operations.

How is the safety of my drinking water ensured?

To ensure your tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Your water is monitored daily for chlorine and fluoride treatment levels, monthly for the presence of coliform bacteria, and quarterly in four locations for chlorine disinfection by-products. It is monitored every three years for lead and copper, and once every 6 years for asbestos.

Food and Drug Administration 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 contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that



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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).

Can my health be affected?

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 with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders; some elderly; and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections.

Immunocompromised people should seek advice from their health care providers. EPA and Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Is there lead in my drinking water?

EPA and Washington State regulations require NASWI to monitor for the presence of lead and copper at household and non-residential taps every 3 years. Lead was tested in 2022 with no exceedances detected at 30 sampling locations. The next round of testing is scheduled to take place in 2025. If present in your drinking water, lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children. It is possible that lead levels in your home may be higher compared to others due to plumbing construction and service lines. 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 it for drinking or cooking. Additional information about lead in your water is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

What about other contaminants?

The City of Anacortes Water Treatment Plant, as NASWI's water supplier, is required to test for water contaminants at the water source. They reported no violations and a copy of their water quality data is included later in this report. Visit the City of Anacortes' water quality report webpage for more information:

<https://www.cityofanacortes.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=47>

Due to the consistency with meeting requirements and not having water quality exceedances, there has been no need for a public meeting to discuss decisions affecting water quality. If such a meeting becomes necessary in the future, it will be publicized in the NASWI Plan of the Week, NASWI website (<https://cnrnw.cnic.navy.mil/Installations/NAS-Whidbey-Island/>), and social media.

What can I do to save water?

Water is one of our most precious resources. As summer approaches and rainfall becomes scarce, it is particularly important to conserve water at home. Saving water minimizes the effects of drought and water shortages, helps to preserve the environment, and makes water available for recreational purposes.

Things you can do to save water at home include:

- ☞ Turn off the water while brushing teeth or shaving.
- ☞ Take shorter showers.
- ☞ Use your dishwasher and washing machine for full loads only.
- ☞ Check pipes, faucets, and outdoor spigots for slow leaks.

For drinking water quality or conservation comments or questions, please contact the NASWI Environmental Compliance Supervisor, Jennifer Stewart at (360) 207-5898.

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The following table presents the regulatory limits and sampling results for contaminants routinely monitored by NASWI:

LEAD AND COPPER – Testing is completed through the customers’ taps every 3 years. The 2022 results are below:						
Contaminant	Action Level	MCLG	90th percentile	Samples Exceeding Limits	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead	90% of tested homes less than 15 ppb	0 ppb	2 ppb	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Copper	90% of tested homes less than 1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0.182 ppm	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
INORGANIC CHEMICALS - Chloride and Fluoride tested daily. The 2023 results are below:						
Contaminant	EPA's MRDL	MRDLG	Highest Result	Results Range	Violation	Typical Sources
Chlorine	4 ppm	4 ppm	1.2 ppm	0.1 – 1.2 ppm	NO	Added as a drinking water disinfectant.
Contaminant	MCL	Ideal Goal	Highest Result	Range Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride (ppm)	4 ppm	4 ppm	0.88 ppm	0.50 – 0.88 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits, or water additive that promotes strong teeth.
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS - Tested quarterly at 4 locations in the water system The 2023 results are below:						
Contaminant	MCL		Average Detected	Range Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes	80 ppb		23.2 ppb	13.3 – 31.6 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Haloacetic Acids	60 ppb		16.3 ppb	12.8 – 20.2 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
How to Read the Water Quality Data Table: EPA establishes the safe drinking water regulations that limit the amount of contaminants allowed in drinking water. The table shows the concentrations of detected substances in comparison to regulatory limits. Substances not detected are not included in the table.						
Action Level (AL). Action Level is the concentration of lead or copper in drinking water which, if exceeded, may trigger additional water treatment or other corrective actions.						
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 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 Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL). The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.						
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG). The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.						
N/A = not applicable; ND = non-detectable by EPA required lab analysis method (DOH reporting limit is 1 ppb).						
Units in the Table: ppm is an abbreviation for parts per million; ppb is an abbreviation for parts per billion.						

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The following table presents the regulatory limits and sampling results for contaminants routinely monitored by the City of Anacortes (NASWI water supplier):

**2023 Water Quality Data
City of Anacortes Water Treatment Plant
Wholesale Customers**

Compounds and Units	Average Level Detected	Range of Detections	Violations
RAW WATER			
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	0.66	0.45 – 0.91	NONE
FINISHED WATER			
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	0.40	0.26 – 0.58	NONE
Nitrate (ppm)	0.13	ND – 0.13	NONE
Total Coliform Bacteria	Absent	Absent	NONE
Chlorine (ppm)	1.22	1.14 – 1.34	NONE
Haloacetic Acids 5 (ppb)	14.2	9.9 – 20.4	NONE
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	16.0	9.8 – 28.3	NONE
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)*	N/D	N/D	NONE
Sodium (ppm)	4.6	4.5 – 4.7	NONE
Barium (ppm)	0.01063	0.0092 – 0.0122	NONE
Fluoride (ppm)	0.69	0.10 – 1.28	NONE
Turbidity (NTU)	0.018	0.013 – 0.041	NONE

For more information, see the City of Anacortes webpage:
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What are Per- and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) 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 were not published until April 2024. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) sampling results will be available from the City of Anacortes (NASWI water supplier) after April 2024, and details regarding the sampling will be available next year in the 2024 Anacortes Water Quality Report.