



**9701 50th Ave. E**  
**Tacoma, WA 98446-5444**  
 (253) 537-7781 **PH** • (253) 536-1759 **FAX**  
 service@summitwater.org

**OFFICERS:**

President: Greg Armstrong  
 Vice President: Clayton Posey  
 Treasurer: Mike Craig  
 Secretary-Manager: Darryl Scott

**TRUSTEES:**

Gary Houston  
 Jeff Ytreeide  
 Bob Pietzke

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**Water Use Efficiency Program**

In December 2020, Summit Water re-established its Water Use Efficiency goals as outlined by the State Health Department. Two of the goals set were to reduce our Average Daily Demand (ADD) per user by at least 0.25% based on a six-year rolling average and to reduce our distribution system leakage to 10% or less based on a three-year rolling average. Our goal for 2023 was to have reduced our ADD per users to at least 230.2 gallons per day (gpd). For the second consecutive year, our actual ADD per user was 230.2 gallons per day, which met our established goal for 2023. Total water produced/purchased for 2023 was 675,218,838 gallons while metered/accounted for water for the same period was 608,542,144. This resulted in a "Distribution System Leakage" (DSL) or unaccounted for water loss of 9.9% (66,676,694 gallons) for 2023 compared to 6.9% (41,533,918 gallons) for 2022. Based on our average distribution leakage for 2021 (11.8%), 2022 (6.9%) and 2023 (9.9%) our three-year rolling distribution system leakage average is 9.5%.

**Water Conservation**

Water conservation is an important step in protecting our water supply. With Summer just around the corner, here are some helpful websites to help you not only conserve water but save some cash as well.

[www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org)  
[www.getwise.org](http://www.getwise.org)  
[www.americanwater.com](http://www.americanwater.com)  
[www.irrigation.org](http://www.irrigation.org)

**Drinking Water Quality**

This is the 25th report describing Summit Water & Supply Company's (Summit Water) drinking water sources, quality testing, and programs that protect the quality of the water supply. This publication conforms to a federal regulation requiring water utilities to **provide this information annually**. The last report was provided to the members and customers in June of 2023. Although the report format may look the same as prior reports there is specific information and statements required by statute. This report covers the year 2023. The report's due date for delivery to every consumer of water delivered by the Summit Water system is July 1 of each year.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington Health Department's Drinking Water Program Division (DOH) are the agencies responsible for establishing drinking water quality standards. To ensure your tap water is safe to drink, EPA and DOH prescribe regulations stating the allowable limit for specific contaminants the water may contain. We make an effort to balance your "right to know" against the sheer volume of information that we can provide. Our website provides a method to get information out in a cost-effective way.

Summit Water goes beyond what is required by these agencies to provide quality water to your home or business, through increased monitoring and placing into practice protection methods that further reduce the risk of contamination.

Water quality monitoring reports are submitted by Summit Water and also directly from the testing laboratory, to the DOH who then provides the information to the EPA. The agencies verify our compliance with the many regulatory standards and testing protocols required to assure safe drinking water. **For this reporting period in 2023, the water we provided met the established water quality standards.**

**Safe Drinking Water Hotline**

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 Hotline **(1-800-426-4791)**.

**Immunocompromised Persons**

*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 about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) between the hours of 6a.m. and 2 p.m. Pacific Time.*

**Chlorine Disinfection Byproducts**

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) are a family of chemicals formed when a disinfectant such as chlorine is added to the water supply. The maximum level permitted for TTHM is 80 parts per billion (ppb) and for HAA5 the maximum level is 60 ppb. Disinfection is an important and necessary step in the supply of tap water, which helps to protect against harmful bacteria and other living organisms that may contaminate the water. Chlorine is the most widely used and approved disinfectant in the United States. Summit Water uses chlorine in a gaseous form for the disinfection of the water supply. There are no contaminants of the water supply coming from the wells. The primary purpose for chlorine addition is for potential contamination of the water distribution system (water mains) up to your meter.

**Summit Water & Supply Company's 2023 Consumer Confidence Report**

**About Summit Water**

We are a member owned, "not-for-profit" corporation, "Group A" water system (State of Washington Department of Health identification #85050V). The services of the corporation are provided to the residence, businesses, public entities and other organizations located in the greater Summit/Waller area of Pierce County. There are approximately 5,270 members. The corporation's articles of incorporation and By-laws along with federal, state and local regulations govern the operation of the company.

The Board of Directors meet twice a month and receives member comments. Summit Water will be glad to provide you additional information about water quality, and you may write, call, e-mail, or drop by at 9701 50th Ave. East, Tacoma, WA. 98446-5444, (253-537-7781), [service@summitwater.org](mailto:service@summitwater.org). For more information about the health effects of the listed contaminants in the material provided in this report, call the Environmental Protection Agency hotline at (800) 426-4791.

**The Sources of Your Supply**

In 2023, system source water was supplied by five (5) wells located throughout Summit Water's service area along with a wholesale connection with Lakewood Water District. The 2023 wholesale contract allows for a transfer of 1.75 million gallons per day (MGD) with a future maximum transfer of 3.0 MGD (1,095,000,000 gallons annually) and a pumping capacity of approximately 2,080 gallons per minute. Our storage facilities consist of three (3) standpipe tanks and two (2) ground level tanks with a combined storage capacity of approximately 7.0 million gallons. Potable water and fire flow are supplied through approximately 110 miles of water pipe ranging in size from 2 to 16 inches. The system is operated as a gravity fed system, which means water flows in and out of the standpipe tanks to meet system demand as well as maintaining adequate system pressure. The distribution system is divided into five (5) pressure zones ranging from a hydraulic elevation of 595 to 125 feet. Pressure reducing valves (PRV stations) are located throughout the system where distribution pipes cross pressure zone boundaries. PRV stations are used to step-down the pressure on the distribution system as water flows downhill and gains pressure. Although Summit Water operates and maintains PRV stations on the distribution system, **these stations are meant to protect water main infrastructure, not private plumbing systems (plumbing beyond the water meter)**. The Company recommends that individual PRVs and water expansion tanks be installed on all private plumbing systems, which exceed 80 psi and/or are located in the lower elevation pressure zones.

If you would like to know what pressure zone you are located in or have other questions regarding system operations, please give us a call at (253) 537-7781 or email us at [service@summitwater.org](mailto:service@summitwater.org) and we will have the appropriate personnel respond to your request.

## Important Definitions

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**Action Levels (AL)** An Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant, which triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

**Treatment Technique** If a contaminant exceeds the maximum contaminant level, EPA may require the water system to use a treatment technique. A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**ND** Not detectable at testing limit.

**SAL.** State Action Level.

**pCi/L** Picocuries per Liter.

## Other Things to Know

Chlorine residuals are maintained throughout the distribution system, and sampling is performed daily to ensure the water has the recommended residual. Certified personnel monitor the chemical addition to the water at the well sites. They also perform on-site tests and collect samples including, but are not limited to, the following:

| Daily                       | Chlorine residuals, pH and temperature  |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Semi-Monthly                | Bacteria (total coliform)   |
| Annually                    | Nitrates  |
| EPA Directed (3 Year Cycle) | Inorganic, volatile organic contaminants, synthetic organic contaminants, radioactivity, lead, copper and arsenic |

All new construction and repair work performed on the water system infrastructure is treated with chlorine. The water is tested for purity by a state approved laboratory prior to these facilities providing water to you the consumer.

EPA states *“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, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.*

## Measurements

Water is sampled and tested throughout the year. Contaminants are measured in parts per million (ppm), billion (ppb), trillion (ppt) and even parts per quadrillion (ppq).

One part per million is equivalent to one minute in two years, or a single penny in \$10,000.

One part per billion is equivalent to one minute in 1,900 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

One part per trillion is equivalent to one minute in 1,900,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

## Additional Water Quality Information

All samples taken at our source wells and throughout our system tested below the minimum levels acceptable to the EPA and the DOH. Wells are also the source of water for the Lakewood Water District (LWD) system. Water purchased from LWD is supplied to Summit Water at a higher level of chlorine residual than what is normally maintained on our system. The blending of the water supplies from the two water systems results in water characteristics, which are not uniform throughout the Summit Water distribution system. This is most noticeable in the Waller Road area.

## Source Protection

For the past 29 years, Summit Water & Supply has continued its development and implementation of a cross-connection control program. This program meets the state cross-connection control regulations. We continue to work closely with the health department and the property owners in our wellhead areas so that everyone works toward protecting this resource. Prudent chemical application practices and disposal methods will keep your groundwater resource pristine. If you observe evidence of the dumping or abandonment of potential contaminants, **you should report it immediately to the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.**

*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, or 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, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can, also come from gas stations, 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 activities.*

*In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount 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.”*

## Water Quality Monitoring Results

Summit Water collected approximately 290 water samples in 2023 from its sources and throughout the water system. A certified laboratory conducted the analyses on those samples. The results are on file with the Washington Health Department’s Drinking Water Program Office and the EPA.

The testing of the sources of supply for the regulated and unregulated contaminate substances indicated that the **contaminate levels are below** the Maximum Contaminate Levels as established by the EPA.

Some of the items listed below were detected in our water during the 2023 sampling period. All are below the levels allowed by the agencies. Not listed are other potential contaminates that were not detected in any of our tests.

## Lakewood Water District (through wholesale intertie)

Lakewood Water District’s water meets all federal, state and local quality standards. The items listed below are the highest levels detected in the Lakewood Water District’s water for the monitoring period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. Not listed are those volatile organic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals, pesticides and herbicides that were not detected.

## PER- and POLYFLUOROALKYL (PFAS) SAMPLE RESULTS

For a complete copy of Lakewood Water’s CCR, please call the Summit Water office at (253) 537-7781 (or see Lakewood Water’s website at [www.lakewood-water-dist.org](http://www.lakewood-water-dist.org)).

## Summit Water & Supply

| Contaminants   | Highest Level Allowed (MCL) | Highest Level Detected | Ideal Goals (MCLG) | Potential Sources of Contaminants   |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---|
| <b>REGULATED AT THE GROUNDWATER SOURCES</b>  |                             |                        |                    |   |
| Nitrate  | 10 ppm                      | 3.04 ppm               | <10 ppm            | Runoff from fertilizer/septic and erosion of natural deposits   |
| Herbicides/Pesticides  | Varies                      | Not Detected           | Varies             | Application to crops, improper disposal, seepage due to accidental spills/leaks   |
| <b>PER- and POLYFLUOROALKYL (PFAS) SAMPLE RESULTS SAMPLED AT THE (GROUNDWATER) SOURCES</b> |                             |                        |                    |   |
| PFAS   | Varies                      | Not Detected           | Varies             | PFAS are man-made chemicals used in stain resistant fabrics, nonstick cookware, water repellant clothing, as well as some cosmetics, firefighting foams and products that resist grease |
| <b>REGULATED AT THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM</b>  |                             |                        |                    |   |
| Total Haloacetic Acids   | 60 ppb                      | 4.86 ppb               | <60 ppb            | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection  |
| TTHM Potential   | 80 ppb                      | 9.07 ppb               | <80 ppb            | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection  |
| Chloroform   | N/A                         | 5.84 ppb               | 0                  | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection  |
| Bromodichloro-methane  | N/A                         | 2.11 ppb               | 0                  | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection  |
| Dibromochloro-methane  | N/A                         | 1.12 ppb               | 0                  | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection  |
| Bromoform  | N/A                         | Not Detected           | 0                  | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection  |
| Total Coliform Bacteria  | <5% of monthly samples      | 0%                     | 0%                 | Naturally present in the environment  |
| Fecal Coliform / E coli  | 0                           | 0                      | 0                  | Human and animal waste  |

## Lakewood Water District

| Contaminants                                | Highest Level Allowed (MCL) | Highest Level Detected | Ideal Goals (MCLG) | Potential Sources of Contaminants                             |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---|
| <b>REGULATED AT THE GROUNDWATER SOURCES</b> |                             |                        |                    |   |
| Nitrate                                     | 10 ppm                      | 1.76 ppm               | <10 ppm            | Runoff from fertilizer/septic and erosion of natural deposits |
| <b>REGULATED AT THE CONSUMER’S TAP</b>      |                             |                        |                    |   |
| Copper                                      | 1.3 ppm                     | 0.311 ppm              | <1.3 ppm           | Household Plumbing  |
| Lead  | 0.015 ppm                   | 0.0034 ppm             | 0                  | Household Plumbing/Lead Service Lines                         |
| <b>REGULATED AT THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM</b> |                             |                        |                    |   |
| Total Haloacetic Acids                      | 60 ppb                      | Not Detected           | <60 ppb            | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection                      |
| TTHM Potential                              | 80 ppb                      | 2.15 ppb               | <80 ppb            | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection                      |
| Chloroform                                  | N/A                         | 0.84 ppb               | N/A                | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection                      |
| Bromodichloro-methane                       | N/A                         | 0.78 ppb               | N/A                | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection                      |
| Dibromochloro-methane                       | N/A                         | 0.65 ppb               | N/A                | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection                      |
| Bromoform                                   | N/A                         | Not Detected           | N/A                | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection                      |
| Total Coliform                              | <5% of monthly samples      | Not Detected           |                    | Naturally present in the environment                          |
| Fecal Coliform                              | 0                           | Not Detected           |                    | Human and animal waste  |

*The chart above only reflects a portion of the testing Lakewood Water District performs. Complete Source Water Assessment (testing result information) is available at the Lakewood Water District office.*

| Contaminants                                | State Action Level (SAL) | Highest Level Detected | Potential Sources of Contaminants   |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>REGULATED AT THE GROUNDWATER SOURCES</b> |                          |                        |   |
| Perfluorobutane Sulfonic Acid - PFBS        | 345 ppt                  | 10 ppt                 | PFAS are man-made chemicals used in stain resistant fabrics, nonstick cookware, water-repellant clothing, as well as some cosmetics, fire-fighting foams and products that resist grease. |
| Perfluorohexane Sulfonate - PFHxS           | 65 ppt                   | 11 ppt                 |   |
| Perfluorheptanoic Acid - PFHpA              | N/A                      | 4.1 ppt                |   |
| Perfluorhexanoic Acid - PFHxA               | N/A                      | 11 ppt                 |   |
| Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid - PFOS        | 15 ppt                   | 14 ppt                 |   |
| Perfluorooctanoic Acid - PFOA               | 10 ppt                   | 8.6 ppt                |   |