

Your drinking water is brought to your home by:

Spokane County Water District #3

SCWD#3 operates 7 independent water systems in Spokane County and is dedicated to making sure that every drop of water delivered to your tap is clean and safe for your family. Water District Board Meetings are held weekly on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and public attendance is welcome.

Spokane County Water District #3
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Purpose: This report is provided to all of our customers. It describes your drinking water quality for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. Your water utility is committed to supplying safe water that meets or surpasses State and Federal Standards and achieves the highest standards of customer service.

Water Source: Your drinking water comes from the **Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer** (see map, page 2). This pristine and abundant aquifer lies in two states, holds ten trillion gallons of water, and is the sole source of drinking water for almost half a million people in the region. This groundwater source is recharged by the local precipitation and the snowpack in northern Idaho and western Montana. It is naturally filtered by surface vegetation and the layers of gravel above the water line. The aquifer travels through northern Idaho and into Washington where it discharges into the Spokane River and the Little Spokane River.

The SVRP aquifer is unique because of its vast size, swift flow of water, porous soils and the fact that the land over the aquifer is extensively developed. These factors make our aquifer uniquely susceptible to contamination. We must all treat the aquifer with care to keep our drinking water clean for everyone to enjoy. In the past one hundred years aquifer levels have remained constant, however scientific models have shown us that even though the aquifer is plentiful it is not limited. Careful planning will be required in the coming years to ensure that this aquifer remains clean and available for our community. Preserving our water sources for the future is a priority for SCWD#3.

To find out more about how you can be an active partner in our efforts visit: www.spokaneaquifer.org/education-awareness

SCWD#3 strives to be a good steward of the aquifer and your water system. Year-round water quality monitoring, replacing aging or leaking pipes and pumps, and planning for growth are just some of the responsibilities of the District.

Water Quality: To ensure that your water is **clean and safe**, we test for contaminants all year long. The Department of Health and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. **We are proud to report that your water meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations.** While some contaminants were found in the water, the Environmental Protection Agency has determined that your water is safe at these levels for you and your family. Keep in mind that the presence of contaminants doesn't mean the water is unsafe. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. A person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect. Health related standards are set by the Washington State Department of Health. See table on page 3 for your most recent water sampling results.

Important Note: Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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 providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants or for more information about contaminants and potential health effects call the **Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.**

ENGLISH

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.

RUSSIAN

Этот отчет содержит важную информацию о вашей питьевой воде. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести это для вас или поговорите с кем-то, кто понимает это.

SPANISH

Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca por usted o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

VIETNAMESE

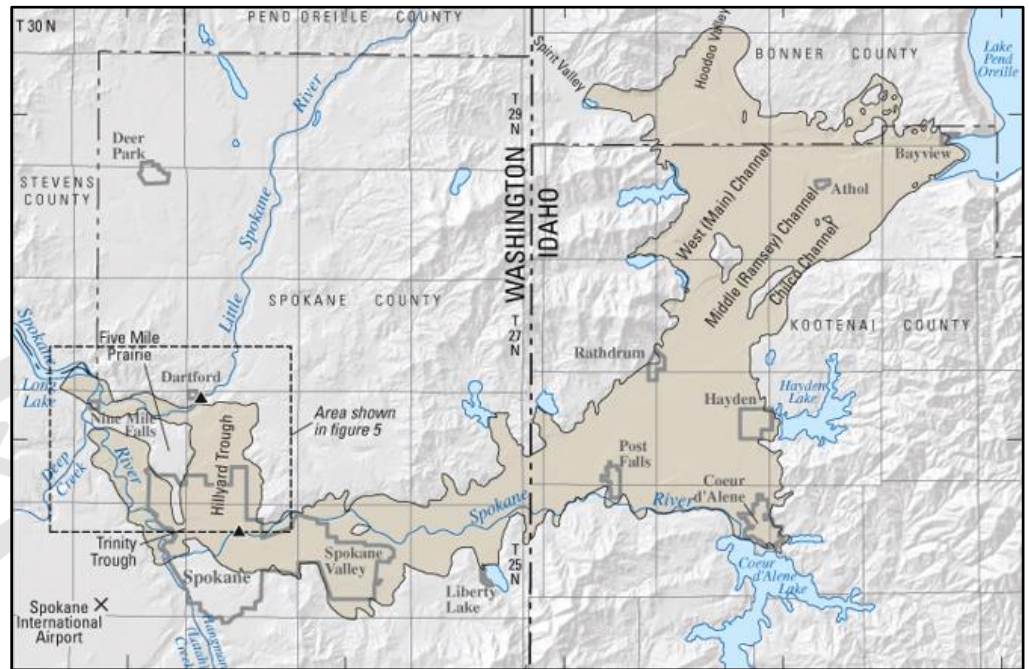
Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Có ai đó dịch nó cho bạn, hoặc nói chuyện với ai đó hiểu nó.

SPOKANE VALLEY RATHDRUM PRAIRIE AQUIFER

Conservation Tips for Outdoor Watering:

Avoid watering lawns in the heat of the day to reduce water lost to evaporation. The best time to water is before 9:00 am or after 6:00 pm. Avoid watering on windy days as wind can distort sprinkler patterns and cause uneven coverage. Also be sure to shut off your sprinklers while it's raining.

For information regarding ways to save water, visit our online website at scwd3.org, follow us on Twitter, visit spokanewateringnerds.org/tips-to-save-water or search "water conservation tips" in your web browser.



Water Use Efficiency: In addition to monitoring the quality of the water, SCWD#3 also works to make sure we are **using water efficiently**. The District set new water use efficiency goals in 2021 (found below) and report our progress annually.

DEMAND SIDE GOAL: Reduce Residential Usage by 1/2 GPD/ERU Each Year

The District's goal in 2023 was to reduce residential water use to 567 gallons per day per equivalent residential unit (GPD/ERU). Currently for 2023, our residential customers averaged 542 GPD/ERU which is a savings of over 1,300,000 gallons of water. The District will continue to run a rate structure that promotes water conservation, notifying customers when leak alarms are indicated on their radio read meters, and provide customer education for water saving practices.

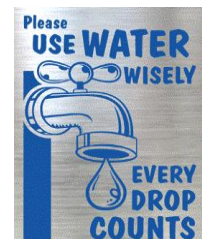
SUPPLY SIDE GOAL: Reduce the District's Average Distribution System Leakage Below 9.5% for the Next 6 Years

The District did not meet its goal for 2023. A leak detection company was hired in 2023 to assess the entire water system. One small leak was identified, but due to porous soil and high background noise from a busy arterial street, pinpointing the exact location of the leak has been troublesome. We continued to keep an eye on the area and reassessed the entire system again early this year in 2024. Two leaks were identified on an aging section of waterline that runs through an easement between houses with limited access. One of them has been repaired and there are plans in place to gain access to fix the second one. We hope by repairing both of these we're able to get an early jump on meeting our goal in 2024.

Free Online Bill Pay: SCWD#3 switched online bill pay providers to **xpress BILL PAY**. This change is designed to make online bill pay easier and best of all **it's free!** **xpress BILL PAY** is a secure online bill payment system that offers 24-7 access to your utility account to make payments with credit cards, debit cards, or electronic funds transfers. If you have multiple accounts, **xpress BILL PAY** gives customers the ability to manage all their service provider billing accounts from a single login. **Auto Pay** allows customers to set up automatic payments and not worry about them again. A complete history of payment confirmations, online transactions, and **Water Consumption History** are also provided. Email reminder alerts are sent to customers when bills arrive, when they're due, and when they're paid. Visit the website at www.xpressbillpay.com and sign up today! Or download the mobile app!



From Your Local Water Utility
Spokane County Water District #3
<https://scwd3.org>



SOURCE WATER TESTING (sample taken at the well)

CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE YEAR	UNITS	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST DETECTION	POSSIBLE SOURCE
Nitrate	2023	ppm	10	10	2.83	Runoff from Fertilizer Use; Leaching from Septic Tanks, Sewage; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Barium	2023	ppm	2	2	0.02	Discharge of Drilling Wastes; Discharge from Metal Refineries; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Arsenic	2023	ppb	0	10	2.5	Erosion of Natural Deposits; Runoff from Orchards; Runoff from Glass and Electronics Production Wastes
PFOA	2023	ppt	0	10	2.97	Run-off or Leaching from Firefighting Foam, Industrial Discharge, and Landfills; Wastewater Treatment Plants
PFOS	2023	ppt	0	15	4.90	Run-off or Leaching from Firefighting Foam, Industrial Discharge, and Landfills; Wastewater Treatment Plants
PFBS	2023	ppt	0	345	3.49	Run-off or Leaching from Firefighting Foam, Industrial Discharge, and Landfills; Wastewater Treatment Plants
PFHxA	2023	ppt	0	NA	2.85	Run-off or Leaching from Firefighting Foam, Industrial Discharge, and Landfills; Wastewater Treatment Plants
PFPeA	2023	ppt	0	NA	2.99	Run-off or Leaching from Firefighting Foam, Industrial Discharge, and Landfills; Wastewater Treatment Plants
Gross Alpha	2023	pCi/L	n/a	15	ND	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Radium 228	2023	pCi/L	n/a	5	ND	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Volatile Organic Chemicals	2023	ppb	Varies by chemical	Varies by chemical	ND	Varies by Chemical

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TESTING (sample taken at the tap)

CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE YEAR	UNITS	MCLG	AL	90 TH PERCENTILE	POSSIBLE SOURCE
Lead	2021	ppb	0	15	1.83	Corrosion of the Household Plumbing Systems; Erosion of Natural Deposits; Leaching from Wood Preservatives.
Copper	2021	ppb	1300	1300	80	
CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE YEAR	UNITS	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST DETECTION	POSSIBLE SOURCE
Total Trihalomethanes	2023	ppb	0	80	4.28	By-product of Chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	2023	ppb	0	60	ND	By-product of Chlorination
E.coli Bacteria	2023		0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also E.coli positive	ND	Human and Animal Fecal Waste

RADON is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is common in the Spokane area. Exposure to excessive amounts of radon may increase cancer risk. Your drinking water, in most cases is a very small source of radon in indoor air. For local assistance concerning radon in your home, contact the Spokane County Health District at (509) 324-1560 ext. 5

LEAD: 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. Spokane County Water District #3 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 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791** or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

ABBREVIATIONS:

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

MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level – The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.

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

ND – Not Detected

NA – Not Applicable

pCi/L – Pico Curies per Liter – a unit of radioactivity

90th Percentile – 90% of at-risk homes had this concentration or less of lead/copper.

Ppm – Parts per million or milligrams per liter. About 4 drops in a 55-gallon barrel or 1 second out of 12 days would represent 1 ppm.

Ppb – Parts per billion or micrograms per liter. About 1 drop of water in a swimming pool or 1 second out of 32 years would represent 1 ppb.

Ppt – Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter. About 1 drop in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools or 1 second out of 31,710 years would represent 1 ppt.