



# 2025 Water Quality Report

WINSLOW WATER SYSTEM

PWS ID #97650



This information presents the 2025 Annual Water Quality Report. The City of Bainbridge Island is pleased to advise you that your water system is in compliance with all state and federal water quality regulations. In this annual report, you will find important information about your water system as well as the results of all testing that has been completed from January 1 through December 31, 2025.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please call the Public Works Operations and Maintenance Division at 206-842-1212. We welcome your questions and encourage community involvement. Community involvement is important to protecting our water resources. This report is available on the city's webpage at <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/370/Water-Supply-Distribution> and a physical copy is available upon request.

## Source of your Drinking Water

Last year the City of Bainbridge Island Winslow Water System produced 258,314,000 gallons of water to supply over 8,000 customers in the historic Winslow and Fletcher Bay areas. The water supply is provided by eleven wells located at four well sites. At each well site the water is treated with chlorine and fluoride before being pumped into the distribution system to supply customers and fill storage reservoirs. The wells draw from three separate aquifers giving the City flexibility to meet changing conditions and future demands. Of the eleven wells that supply the system, the state has determined eight have a low risk of contamination while only three have a moderate to high risk of contamination. A wellhead protection plan and an active cross-connection control program help protect the water system from contamination.

## Sources of Contaminants

Sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include springs, rivers, lakes, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity.

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 Bainbridge Island 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 the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Arsenic Health Statement

While your drinking water meets the EPA's standard for arsenic, 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 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.

## Special Precautions

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Individuals who are immune compromised, those undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant patients, 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 healthcare providers. United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/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 Safe Water Drinking Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## Water System Improvements

Construction is almost complete on the 2 million gallon tank. The city has also installed several pressure reducing stations in the distribution system to help regulate the pressure when the new elevated tank comes online in 2026. This is a capital improvements project that was scheduled for design in 2021 and construction started in 2023. This project will replace the 2 existing tanks near the High School and provide sufficient elevation to correct several deficiencies identified with the existing structure such as water quality, stagnant water, improved fire flow, and seismic deficiencies.

## Water Quality Data Table

This table shows only those compounds that were detected above the state reporting level. Although all the substances listed here are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by the EPA, we feel it is important you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentration of these substances does not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample results collected within the last five years are included.

Regulated at the Water Source and Distribution System							
Compound	Year Tested	MCL	MCLG	Highest Reported Detection Range	Highest Results	Meets Standard	Potential Sources
Nitrate (mg/L)	2025	10	10	ND	ND	Yes	Runoff, septic systems, and other agricultural processes
Arsenic (ppb)	2024	10	0	4 - 5	5	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits. Runoff from orchards; glass and electronic production.
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)	2023	15	0	0.3 - 0.8	0.8	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 228 (pCi/l)	2023	5	0	0.04 - 0.07	0.07	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits.
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	2025	4.0 MRDL	4.0 MRDLG	0.01 - 1.61	1.61	No <sup>(1)</sup>	Water additive used to control microbes.
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	4.0	4.0	0.48 - 0.87	0.87	Yes	Water additive to promote dental health.
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2025	60	NA	0.00 - 3.32	3.32	Yes	Byproduct of chlorine disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2025	80	NA	31.4 - 34.0	34.0	Yes	Byproduct of chlorine disinfection.
Total Coliform Bacteria	2025	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	0	0	Yes	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. No coliforms were found in any samples.

<sup>1)</sup> Chlorine residuals measured in some parts of the distribution system are below 0.2 ppm. This does not meet current treatment technique standards. Infrastructure upgrades are being planned to improve reservoir mixing and ensure more uniform chlorine residuals that meet standards throughout the distribution system.

Regulated at the Customer Tap							
Compound	Year Tested	AL	MCLG	Sites Above AL/ Total Sites	90th Percentile Results	Meets Standard	Potential Sources
Lead (ppb)	2025	15	0	0/30	0.002	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing. Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (mg/L)	2025	1.3	1.3	0/30	0.09	Yes	

In 2014, 2018, and 2019 the City of Bainbridge Island Winslow Water System and many other water systems throughout the United States tested for substances that are not currently regulated. This is required by the EPA and is called the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). These parameters do not yet have drinking water standards and the results of this nationwide monitoring will help EPA decide which parameters should have set health standards.

EPA-Required Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring				
Compound	Year Tested	Highest Reported Detection Range	Highest Results	Potential Sources
Molybdenum (ppb)	2014	0 - 2.6	2.6	Naturally occurring.
Strontium (ppb)	2014	44 - 110	110	Naturally occurring.
Vanadium (ppb)	2014	0 - 0.5	0.5	Naturally occurring.
Chlorate (ppb)	2014	0 - 220	220	Byproduct of chlorine disinfection.
Chromium-6 (ppb)	2014	0 - 0.05	0.05	Naturally occurring.
Manganese (ppb)	2018 - 2019	23 - 108	108	Naturally occurring.
Total Organic Carbon (ppb)	2018 - 2019	0 - 1350	1350	Naturally occurring.
Bromide (ppb)	2018 - 2019	0 - 47	47	Naturally occurring, manufacturing byproduct.
HAA9 (ppb)	2018 - 2019	0.7 - 16	16	Byproduct of chlorine disinfection.

## New Requirements

On January 15, 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) that went into effect on December 16, 2021. Group A Community and non-transient non-community (NTNC) water systems are required to follow the LCRR, which is located in 40 CFR 141. On November 1, 2024, EPA published the finalized Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), which builds on the current requirements of the LCRR. The new LCRI requirements will take effect in November 2027.

What does this mean to Group A water systems? To comply with the LCRR and LCRI, community and NTNC water systems must have developed and submitted a Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) to the state by October 16, 2024. City of Bainbridge Island has completed their initial LSLI. Copies can be made available upon request. Please email us at [pwom@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:pwom@bainbridgewa.gov) if you would like to receive a copy.



## New and Emerging Contaminants:

On April 10, 2024, EPA finalized the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for six PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances). All public water systems must monitor for these PFAS and have three years to complete initial monitoring (by 2027), followed by ongoing compliance monitoring. Water systems must also provide the public with information on the levels of these PFAS in their drinking water beginning in 2027.

Public water systems have five years (by 2029) to implement solutions that reduce these PFAS if monitoring shows that drinking water levels exceed these MCLs.

Beginning in five years (2029), public water systems that have PFAS in drinking water which violates one or more of these MCLs must take action to reduce levels of these PFAS in their drinking water and must provide notification to the public of the violation.

The City of Bainbridge Island started testing the public water systems for PFAS in 2023.

Regulated at the Water Source and Distribution System							
Compound	Year Tested	MCL	MCLG	Highest Reported Detection Range	Highest Results	Meets Standard	Potential Sources
PFOA	2025	4.0 ppt	0	ND	ND	Yes	Industrial and consumer products
PFOS	2025	4.0 ppt	0	ND	ND	Yes	
PFHxS	2025	10.0 ppt	10 ppt	ND	ND	Yes	
PFNA	2025	10.0 ppt	10 ppt	ND	ND	Yes	
HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX Chemicals)	2025	10.0 ppt	10 ppt	ND	ND	Yes	
Mixtures containing two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	2025	1 (unitless) Hazard Index	1 (unitless) Hazard Index	ND	ND	Yes	

## Definition of Terms

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other drinking water supplier requirements

**Hazard Index:** EPA uses a Hazard Index to quantify contaminants that are more than one and mixed.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to what is called the Maximum Contamination Level Goal (MCLG) as possible.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**mg/L:** Equals milligrams per liter of liquid.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** 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.

**ND (non-detect):** No detectable level of contaminant.

**PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances):** PFAS is a group of approximately 5,000 man-made persistent chemicals used in a variety of industries and consumer products.

**PPM (Parts per million):** Equals one part of liquid per million parts of liquid.

**PPB (Parts per billion):** Equals one part of liquid per billion parts of liquid.

**PPT (Parts per trillion):** Equals one part of liquid per trillion parts of liquid (also expressed as ng/L).

**pCi/l (Picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

