

## Lead and copper . . . Are you at risk?

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. Graham Hill Water 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: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Ways to improve the taste of your water:

Even though your water is perfectly safe, it may contain naturally occurring minerals that affect the taste. Running cold water one to two minutes, refrigeration, and a slice of lemon will greatly improve the taste of the water. If your water is chlorinated, leaving a container of water uncovered and refrigerated will lessen the taste and odor of chlorine.

## For further information ...

To learn more about water quality or this report, please call Robert Ellison at 253-847-8617, or e-mail us at [info@grahamhillwater.org](mailto:info@grahamhillwater.org)

Department of Health - [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov)  
EPA - Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791 [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

## Is tap water safe to drink?

**YES!** Your water undergoes scheduled sampling and testing to make sure it is safe. Bottled water does not necessarily meet these high standards. In recent tests, ten popular brands of bottled water revealed a wide range of pollutants, such as bacteria, disinfection byproducts, heavy metals, pharmaceuticals, arsenic, radioactive isotopes, nitrates and solvents. And . . . the cost of one bottle of water equals about 1,000 gallons of tap water! Save money, stay healthy and reduce pollution by drinking water straight from your tap.

## Water efficiency tips . . .

- ◆ Turn water off while brushing your teeth and rinsing your dishes.
- ◆ Cut the time per shower by a few minutes and save up to 150 gallons per month.
- ◆ Run full loads in your washing machine and dishwasher.
- ◆ Wash vegetables and fruits in a pan of water instead of running water. Then use the water for watering plants.
- ◆ Insulate hot water pipes to save water and energy.
- ◆ Mulch around plants to reduce watering.

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Si hay algo que no entienda, pídale a alguien que se lo traduzca.**

# How does your water quality stack up?



Drinking water comes from different sources and localities, which determine purity, taste and abundance. Graham Hill Water provides sampling, treatment, and maintenance so you have water that is safe and satisfying all year long.

*Graham Hill Water samples and conducts bacteriological, chemical, physical and radiological tests to ensure your water quality. This report will explain where your water comes from, what's in it and how it compares with standards set by the Washington State Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).*

# 2020 Annual Water Quality Report



**GRAHAM HILL WATER**

# Graham Hill Mutual Water Co Inc.

## Graham, WA 98387

### Is my water safe?

Last year, 2019, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. DOH, your water system manager, and you safeguard Graham Hill Mutual Waters water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

In the last few years we conducted more than 100 separate tests for approximately 90 contaminants. These include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, inorganic chemicals such as nitrates, radionuclides, and Coliform bacteria. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality, or the last detection if not tested in 2019. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information especially because informed customers are our best allies.

### Do I need to take special precautions?

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/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 (800-426-4791).

### Where does my water come from?

Graham Hill Mutual Water comes from three wells drilled into one of the counties major aquifers. Water for this aquifer comes locally from the approximately 40 inches of rainfall that fall on the land around you.

As the water travels through the various soil materials, it dissolves the minerals found in our water. This is one of the reasons it is very important to prevent pollutants from contaminating this water as it travels through the aquifer materials.

### Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### How can I get involved?

To become more involved with your water system, please contact Tim Tayne at 360-878-0214 or your Graham Hill Water Manager.

## Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

#### Important Drinking Water Definitions:

**MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.

**MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.

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

Contaminants (units)	MCLG	MCL	Your water	Date	Violation	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Iron	0	0.3	<0.10-0.15	2013-2018	No	
Manganese	0	0.05	<0.01-0.098	2019	No	
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	10	10	0.45-2.64	2019	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; sewage, normal erosion
Lead solder	0	0.015	0.0018	2017	No	Leaching of pipes &
Copper solder	0	1.3	0.44	2017	No	Leaching of pipes &
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
Total Coliform (# of Months w/ 0 Positive samples)	0	2	0 months positive for Total Coliform	2019	No	naturally present in the environment

#### 2016 and 2018 Inorganic Chemicals (IOC) and Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC) in 2019 and Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC) in 2016-2018 results were: All not detected or below state reporting levels

<b>Radionuclide</b>						
Gross Alpha	0	15	LT	2015-2016	No	Erosion of natural soils
Radium 228	0	5	EQ	2015-2016	No	Erosion of natural soils

#### Units Description:

LT: Less than state reporting limits  
 NA: Not applicable  
 MNR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.  
 ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)  
 % of monthly positive samples: Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive

EQ: is equal to or greater than the lab's established MRL  
 ND: Not detected  
 NR: Not reported  
 ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)  
 # of monthly positive samples: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive