

Our People = Our Strength

Putting our staff first... providing regular opportunities to learn and grow... this is what makes North City Water District's utility workforce so strong, and keeps our water system far ahead of the national average.

- 2 reservoirs
- 2 Booster Stations
- 3 Emergency Connections
- 4 Supply Stations
- 807 Hydrants
- 2,394 Valves
- 95 Miles of Pipe
- 13 Amazing Employees

From their professionalism and high-quality public service, to the personal pride they take as water stewards—we at North City Water District could not be more proud of our staff.

We make a point to provide them with regular training that is specific to their role, as well as cross-training in other aspects of managing a water utility. *"Water is a stable industry with ample opportunity for advancement,"* says Thomas Brown, North City Water District Utility Person Level II. Many of our field staff have attained extra certification levels that afford them with broader perspective and invaluable expertise.

Given the ever-evolving technologies and processes related to managing a water utility, both in the office and out in the field, we firmly believe in developing a strong utility workforce that not only meets our customers needs today, but builds a foundation for a durable water utility that meets their needs well into the future. *"Next to air, we are the most important industry on the planet... we all need water to live a good life,"* says Barb Shosten, our Director of Finance.

As a publicly formed and owned Special Purpose Utility District, our mission is to provide high quality drinking water to our community in a manner that promotes conservation, maintains customers' trust, and protects their long-term investment in a reliable water system. Says Utility Office Person II Lorri Smith, *"I love being able to answer customers' questions and resolve their concerns so they feel satisfied and heard."*

Here's how our staff upholds this mission:

- We regularly review our rates to keep them as low as possible while balancing investment in regular infrastructure maintenance.
- We regularly inspect, test, and maintain the various parts of our water system to ensure everything is functioning as it should, rather than waiting until something breaks to address an issue amidst more disruption and cost.
- We regularly communicate the issues that we are actively addressing through a variety of methods including our website, social media, blog, newsletter, and in-person community events and gatherings.
- We make decisions that ensure our water system provides maximum reliability, proactive redundancy, and resilient operations in the face of emergencies.

"I truly enjoy how well we work together as a team to solve problems and meet the needs of our customers," says Bob Heivilin, Utility Person V/WQ.

Do you have a story of great service from our employees that you would like to share? We would love to hear from you... just call or email us at customerservice@northcitywater.org



It's Time to Turn in the Test Report for Your Backflow Assembly!

North City Water District takes pride in providing safe, high quality drinking water to our community. However water safety is a two-way street: contamination can occur within your own piping system, wherever there is a "cross connection"—a point in a plumbing system where the drinking water supply is connected to a non-potable water source. Preventing this type of contamination from entering the public water system is where you come in...

Backflow prevention assembly devices (such as the one pictured above) prevent backflow from occurring. If you have any of the items listed below, if you are a business of (most) any kind, or if you raise farm animals, you are required to (1) have a mechanical backflow preventer in place; (2) have a state certified Backflow Assembly Test performed each year; and (3) have the tester send us a copy of your test result. If you need a list of certified testers, contact us at 206.362.8100.

Typical Backflow Hazards:

- Fire sprinkler system
- Lawn irrigation system
- Swimming pool
- Hot tub / jacuzzi tub
- Livestock watering system
- Decorative fountain
- Water lines to a boiler or hydronic heating
- Hydraulic boat lifts

The State Health Department has established rules that require water purveyors (including your District) to identify potential cross connection hazards within our water system, and take appropriate action to protect against these hazards.

If you recently purchased your home and are unaware of this device, or where it is located, we can help! Just give us a call at 206.362.8100.

About Your Water Quality

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. In Seattle's surface water supplies, the potential sources of contamination include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses, bacteria, and protozoa from wildlife;
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which are naturally occurring; and
- Organic contaminants, which result from chlorine combining with the naturally occurring organic matter.

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency and/or the Washington state board of health prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration and/or the Washington state department of agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

How to Learn More

We at North City Water District encourage public interest and participation in the decisions that affect our drinking water. To learn more about our water supply, its quality, and what you can do to help keep our water clean, safe and abundant, please don't hesitate to contact us at 206.362.8100.

You are also welcome to phone in to our Board of Commissioners meetings. These meetings take place every first and third Tuesday of each month at 3:00 pm; the schedule and agendas (which include the phone-in number) can be found on our website at: www.northcitywater.org/resources/meeting-schedule-agendas-and-minutes-2/

Additional information about your water can be obtained from:

Seattle Public Utilities: 206.684.3000
www.seattle.gov/util/MyServices/Water/Water_Quality

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 800.426.4791
www.epa.gov/safewater

Washington State Dep't. of Health (DOH): 800.521.0323
www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/

The North City Waves Newsletter is brought to you by North City Water District, and its Board of Commissioners:

Ron Ricker (President), Patricia Hale (Vice President), and Charlotte Haines (Secretary).

Feel free to contact us at PO Box 55367, or 1519 NE 177th Street, Shoreline, WA 98155.

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Conserving Water Together

Water Use Efficiency Report

During 2022, North City Water District purchased 554.4 million gallons of water from Seattle Public Utilities, with a distribution leakage rate of only 1.3% throughout our system. This is significantly below the State standard of no more than 10% water loss.

Conservation Program Goals

As one of the 19 members of the Saving Water Partnership, North City Water District participates in a ten-year goal to keep our region's total average annual retail water use under 110 mgd, despite population growth. During 2022, we exceeded this goal by achieving 95.5 mgd. Key to meeting this goal were the following programs:

- 115 people learned about water-wise gardening at our free Savvy Gardener classes: **mark your calendar and watch our blog for details about the next class on Thursday, September 14 about "Favorite Northwest Native Plants"**
- 20 classroom presentations about water reached 455 students (we love promoting early water awareness!)
- 14 multi family households received new toilet rebates; and
- 4 single family households received new toilet rebates

Conservation Starts at Home

During May and June, rain decreases and people use more water in their yards and gardens. This is when it's especially important to conserve water, because adult salmon are returning to spawn when stream flows are at their lowest. Conserving water not only saves money on your water bill, it helps protect salmon, which in turn enables our ecosystems to thrive for generations to come. Here are some tips:

1. **Check your Toilet.** Toilets account for 25% of all water use in homes, making them a great place to start conserving. A running or leaky toilet can add hundreds (even thousands) of dollars to your bill. New, rebate-eligible toilets meet rigorous flushing performance criteria and use 30 to 80% less water than older toilets.
2. **Upgrade your Showerhead.** After your toilet, a shower is the next largest water user in the home. You can save up to 2,300 gallons of water per year just by replacing an inefficient showerhead. Look for those with a WaterSense label—this independent certification ensures customer satisfaction with performance as well as water efficiency.
3. **Review your Watering Practices.** Make sure sprinklers are watering the landscape, not the street or sidewalk. Set sprinkler timers to water at night or in the early morning.



From Our Board...

by Ron Ricker, President

With the longer days of an approaching Summer Solstice, many of us are spending more time outside doing the things we love, including gardening, walking a dog, bicycling, hiking, and getting together with friends and neighbors. After several years of being isolated, doesn't it feel great to be able to get together again! We're feeling the same: our staff can't wait to participate in community events this year... we love getting to meet our customers and answering questions about our water system. We were likewise thrilled to be able to meet with our legislators in person this past session, where we added our support for equitable bid limits across all special purpose districts, cities and counties, and encouraged their continued support of infrastructure funding via the Public Works Assistance Account. Another happy shoulder-to-shoulder moment shown at right was accepting the 2023 Excellence in Communications Award for our year-long "Discover Our History: Celebrating 90 years of Excellence" campaign from the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Water Works Association. We're so proud that we plan to keep all those chapters available on our website for the foreseeable future.



North City Waves Newsletter ~ a publication by North City Water District

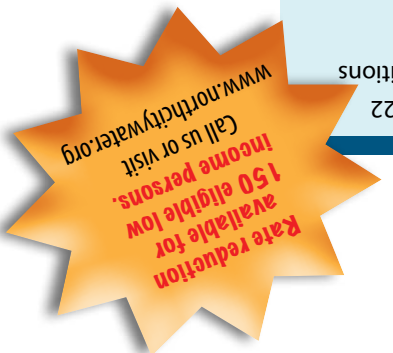
- 1) Join www.nextdoor.com for neighborhood news and notices
- 2) Follow us on www.facebook.com/NorthCityWaterDistrict
- 3) Sign up for news, alerts, free classes and more on our website at www.northcitywater.org

Three Ways to Stay in Touch

- Annual Water Quality Report for 2022
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Cedar River Watershed; photo courtesy of Seattle Public Utilities

Annual Water Quality Report for 2022

North City Water District continues to maintain state and federal water quality guidelines that are significantly below EPA maximum levels.

All About Your Water

Where Is Your Water From? Tolt and Cedar River Watersheds.

Who Tests Your Water? Your drinking water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), who sets drinking water quality standards, establishes testing methods and monitoring requirements for water utilities, sets maximum levels for water contaminants, and requires utilities to give public notice whenever a violation occurs. Your drinking water is tested frequently both by North City Water District and Seattle Public Utilities, our supplier, to ensure that high quality water is delivered to your home and business.

How Safe is Your Water? Your water falls safely within state and federal guidelines for each and every contaminant, significantly below the EPA's levels.

What is Your Water Being Tested For? 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 is available by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800.426.4791.

When is Your Water Tested? Out of roughly 100 EPA-regulated contaminants, some parameters are tested continuously, some are tested daily, some are tested weekly, some monthly, some quarterly, and some annually—all in accordance with federal and state regulations. Others, such as UCMR (Unregulated Contaminants) monitoring or herbicides, are only required to be tested once every 6 years.

How is Your Water Tested? Over 200 compounds are tested and not detected; most of this monitoring occurs once every several years. Tests are done before and after treatment and while your water is in the distribution system. The Tables presented on the following page list all of the contaminants detected in the most recent required water testing and compare them to the limits and goals set by the EPA and the State of Washington to ensure your tap water is safe. Not shown are more than 200 additional contaminants that were tested for, but not detected, in your drinking water. If you would like to see a list of these

other compounds or if you have other water quality questions, do not hesitate to contact us (number below). Note: asbestos monitoring is not required for our District because all asbestos pipe in our distribution system was replaced prior to 1991.

Lead and Copper Monitoring Results

Our regional water supply does not contain lead or copper. However it is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing.

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. North City Water District 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 at 1.800.426.4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

People With Special Concerns

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791. If you would like to learn more, or have questions about water quality, just give us a call at 206.362.8100.

Table 1: Water Quality Testing Results for 2022

Compounds that were not detected in 2022 are not included in these charts.

Types of Detected Compounds	Units	Primary Source	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Max. Allowed (MCL)	Levels in the Cedar River Watershed Average Range		Levels in the Tolt Watershed Average Range		Meets EPA Stds.?
RAW WATER									
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	Naturally present in the environment	NA	TT	0.72	0.39 to 0.97	1.24	1.10 to 1.41	Yes
FINISHED WATER SOURCE									
Turbidity	NTU	Soil runoff	NA	TT	0.35	0.19 to 1.93	0.04	0.02 to 0.24	Yes
Arsenic	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	0	10	0.43	0.34 to 0.52	0.28	0.22 to 0.38	Yes
Barium	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	2000	2000	1.26	1.02 to 1.43	1.21	1.14 to 1.30	Yes
Bromate	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	0	10	0.4	ND to 5	ND	ND	Yes
Fluoride	ppm	Water additive to promote strong teeth	4	4	0.7	0.6 to 0.8	0.7	0.6 to 0.8	Yes
Nitrate	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits	10	10	0.1	One sample	0.1	One sample	Yes
SPECIFIC SAMPLES FROM NORTH CITY WATER DISTRICT'S DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM									
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	NA	80	Average: 27 Range: 18.5 to 33.2				Yes
Haloacetic Acids (5)	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	NA	60	Average: 26 Range: 18.9 to 36.1				Yes
Chlorine	ppm	Water additive to control microbes	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4	Highest Monthly Average: 0.86 Range: 0.00 to 1.51				Yes

Table 2: Lead and Copper Monitoring Results for the Tolt Watershed in 2020

Samples are taken every three years; the next samples will be taken in 2023. Five of the 51 samples in the Tolt Watershed were taken in NCWD's service area. None of the samples for the Cedar River Watershed were from NCWD's service area.

Lead and Copper Sampling Program and Units	Ideal Goal MCLG	Action Level ¹	Results of 2020 Samplings ²	# Homes Exceeding Action Level	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Lead, ppb	0	15	3.8	0 of 55	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Samples collected in homes within the Tolt water service area.
Copper, ppm	1.3	1.3	0.19	0 of 55	

¹ The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

² 90th percentile: 90 percent of the samples were less than the values shown.

Table 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 allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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.

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

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit: Turbidity is a measure of how clear the water looks. The turbidity MCL that applied to the Cedar supply in 2022 is 5 NTU, and for the Tolt supply it was 0.3 NTU for at least 95% of the samples in a month. 100% of Tolt samples in 2022 were below 0.3 NTU.

NA: Not applicable.

ND: Not detected.

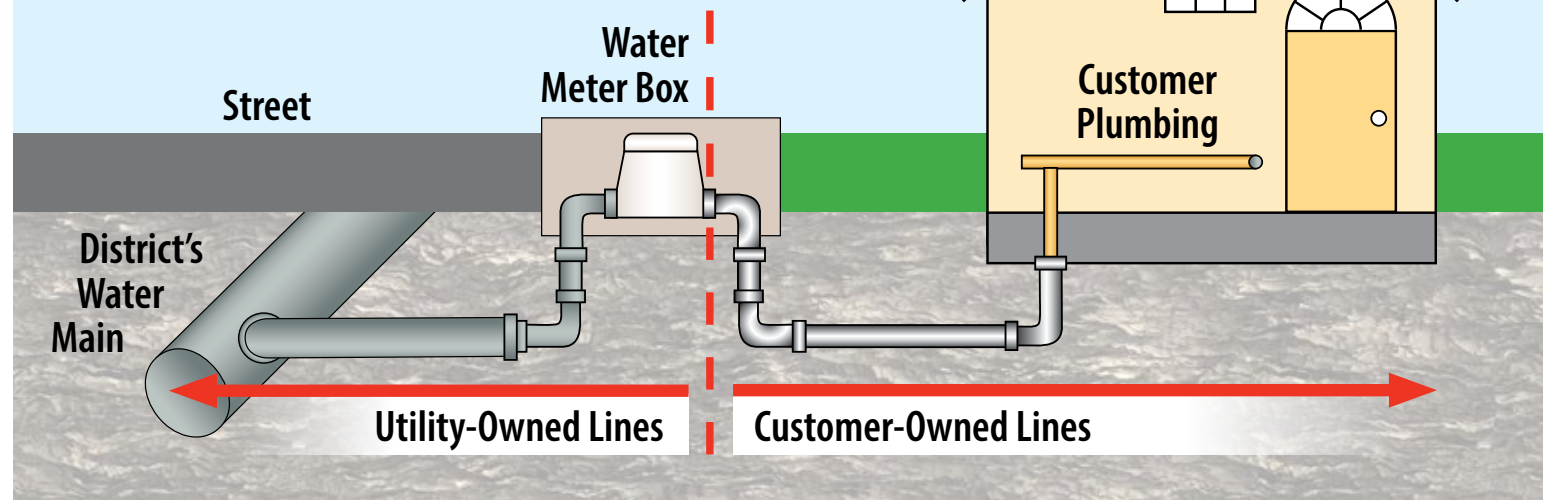
ppm: 1 part per million = 1 mg/L = 1 milligram per liter.

ppb: 1 part per billion = 1 ug/L = 1 microgram per liter.

1 ppm: = 1000 ppb.

Was Your Home Built During or Prior to 1970?

The National "Get The Lead Out" Effort is Underway!



If your home was built during or prior to 1970, North City Water District needs your help to identify which of our customers' water lines may contain lead, as a first step in a national effort to "get the lead out" of the water system.

As shared in our previous newsletter, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is requiring all public water systems to perform a Lead Service Line Inventory, with results back to the EPA by October 2024.

The purpose of this inventory is to identify and document what type of pipe material is being used across our water system—including both the utility-owned water lines, as well as our customers' water lines (as shown in the above diagram).

Two parts of the Service Line need to be assessed:

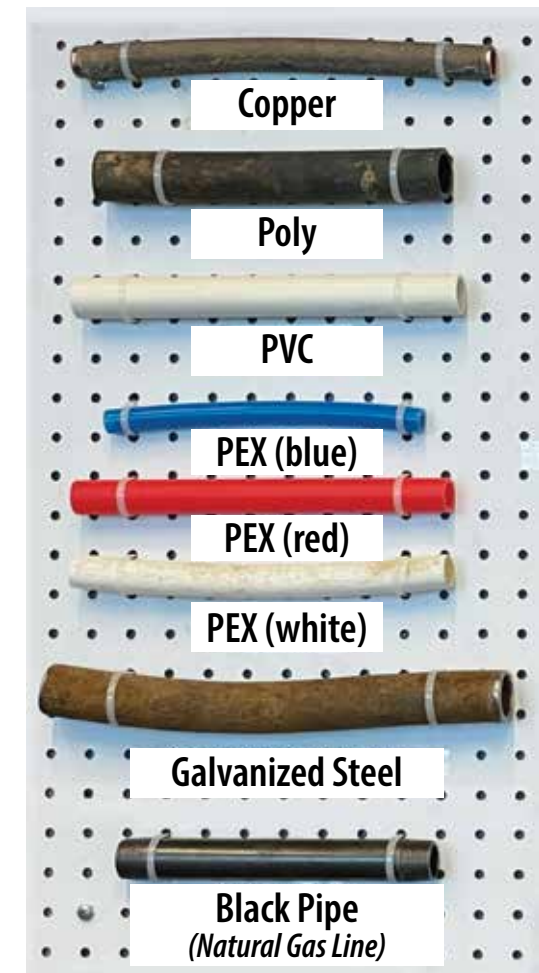
- District-Owned:** the line that runs from the District's water main to your water meter; and
- Customer-Owned:** the line that runs from the water meter to your home.

North City Water District has never used lead in our service lines from the main to the meter, and King County banned the use of lead service lines in the late 1960s. However, homes built during or before 1970 could have lead pipe in the customer-owned portion of the water line (between the water meter and the home).

This is where we need your help.

If your home was built during or prior to 1970, we are asking our customers to fill out a survey to help us gather as much information as possible. There are four ways to access the survey:

- Online at our Website:** this is the easiest way... visit the website address at right, and fill out the online survey.
- Download the Survey:** visit our website and click on the link to download, print, and fill out the survey, then mail it or bring it in to our office.
- Pick up a Survey:** swing by our Drive-Through Payment window to pick up a Survey Form. Fill it out, then mail it or bring it in to our office.
- Request a Survey by Mail:** call us at 206.362.8100 and we'll send a form out to you. Fill it out, then mail it or bring it in to our office.



Website Address for the Survey:

www.northcitywater.org/lead-survey

