

# 2023 Quality Water Report



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Yakima County Public Services

# Buena Water Quality Report 2023

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua que usted bebió. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.



Yakima County Public Services

## Introduction

In compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, Yakima County is providing its Buena Water System customers with their annual water quality report. This report explains where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State standards.



## Does My Drinking Water Meet EPA Standards?

Our water meets all of EPA's and the State's standards. These standards require that we test for over 130 contaminants that may be in your drinking water.

## What is the Source of My Water?

**Your water comes from two wells.** Well # 1 is drilled 477 feet and Well # 2 is drilled 473 feet deep. The two wells are so close to each other they are considered one source. Both wells are located near the water tower on Highland Drive approximately 1/4 mile north of Buena Road. Yakima County owns the land immediately around the wells and restricts certain activities on that property. After the water is pumped out of the wells, we add chlorine to protect you against microbial contaminants.

## Water supplies vary in their susceptibility to contamination.

A well's susceptibility increases when it is poorly constructed, improperly cased, or located where no confining layer exists between the aquifer and the surface. Construction of each of the Buena wells exceeds the State's minimum construction standards.

## Who Can I Call for More Information?

For more information about your drinking water, please call Joe Stump or Jose Campos with Yakima County Public Services at 509-574-2300.



## 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 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Why are There Contaminants in My 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).

**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.

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Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it 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, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, 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 (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.



## Is Our Water System Meeting Other Rules That Govern Our Operation?

The State and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. In 2022, we collected all required samples at the required times.

## Fluoride In Your Drinking Water

Some water systems add fluoride to the water with a goal of maintaining 0.80 to 1.3 parts per million. Fluoride can also occur naturally in ground water. Most of the fluoride found in groundwater is naturally occurring from the breakdown of rocks and soils. When your dentist asks you if you have fluoride in your water you can say; our water comes from wells with natural occurring fluoride with an average concentration of 0.16 parts per million.

## Are There Nitrates In Our Water?

The Buena water system is required to test for nitrates from each source annually. Buena water has a nitrate level of 2.21 parts per million, well below the maximum contaminant level of 10 parts per million.

## Water Conservation Tip

Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Yakima County offers an eye on water. Using your personal computer, you can sign up to see your water usage. This is free to our customers. If interested call 509-574-2300 and ask for Joe Stump or Jose Campos.

## Water Use Efficiency

The water use efficiency goal for Buena is to reduce water production and consumption by 3% in a six year period and to keep unaccounted for water below 10%. In 2021 we produced 30.2 million gallons and sold 30.1 million gallons, resulting in 0.59% unaccounted for. In 2022 we produced 29.6 million gallons and sold 28.1 million gallons, resulting in 5.1% unaccounted for.

## Cross Connection Control

One of the many threats to our drinking water supply is known as a cross-connection (CC). A CC is the point at which a non-drinking water substance can possibly come in contact with drinking water. Connections as seemingly innocent as a sprinkler system, hot tub or ornamental ponds can easily enable contaminants to enter potable (drinking) water lines via backflow. Customers install potential CCs like these and other water-using equipment every day, but, they are often unaware of the potential danger that lurks in the pipes as a result. Buena water customers have access to irrigation or auxiliary wells on their property. If the piping from another water source is connected with the drinking water piping, the Buena drinking water system could easily be contaminated. Auxiliary water piping can be connected with drinking water piping with the proper backflow assembly if it is installed properly and tested annually by a certified backflow tester. If you or your neighbors have connected the piping between auxiliary water and drinking water please call Jose Campos with Yakima County Public Services.

For more information about cross-connections or backflow assemblies, contact Jose Campos at Yakima County Public Services 509-574-2300.

## Our Board of Yakima County Commissioners

meet Tuesdays at 10:00 am. Please feel free to participate in these meetings by using a Zoom link or by telephone. Please call Joe Stump or Jose Campos at 509-574-2300 for details.

## Water Quality Data Table

The water quality data (see insert) lists all the contaminants that were detected during monitoring from 2020 to 2023. Definitions of the terms and abbreviations used in the table are given on the next page.



## Definitions:

**MCL**: Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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

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

**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 (e.g. chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide).

**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.

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

**n/a**: Not applicable.

**ppb**: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.

**ppm**: Parts per million or milligrams per liter.

**pCi/L**: Picocuries per liter.