

# Water Quality Monitoring Results

Longview's water is monitored for over 170 contaminants, including pesticides, at the water treatment facility. In addition, Public Works Department personnel collect samples from throughout the distribution system to test for coliform, chlorine levels, lead, copper, and asbestos. The SDWA requires water systems to report annually on any contaminants *detected* in drinking water. In accordance with Washington State Office of Drinking Water recommendations, contaminants monitored but not detected are not identified in this report. All primary contaminants detected, regardless of level, are identified in this table. Unless otherwise noted, contaminants are measured in *parts per million* (ppm) or *parts per billion* (ppb). To add perspective, one ppm is roughly one inch in sixteen miles.

Contaminant	Most Recent Test	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Major Source(s)	Violation
Nitrate	4/11	ppm	10	N/A	.24	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Fluoride	4/11	ppm	4	4	1.11	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	No
Lead	3/10	ppb	Action Level 15*	0	.30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.	No
Copper	3/10	ppm	1300*	1.3	.166	Corrosion of household plumbing Systems; Erosion of natural deposits.	No

\* Samples for lead and copper are subject to *action levels*. An *action level* is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Contaminant	Most Recent Test	Unit	MRDL	MRDLG	Detected Level	Major Source(s)	Violation
Haloacetic Acid	12/11	ppb	60	60	24.11** 11.7 – 41.0	By-product of chlorination used for drinking water disinfection	No
Total Organic Carbon	12/11	ppb	TT	TT	690	By-product of chlorination used for drinking water disinfection	No
Total Trihalomethanes	12/11	ppb	80	N/A	40.66** 24.8 – 52.4	By-product of chlorination used for drinking water disinfection	No

\*\* This value is the annual average of all samples at all sampling points for this contaminant. The range of individual results is shown below the running annual average.

## Important Definitions

**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.

**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.

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

**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.



Cowlitz River near Longview Regional Water Treatment Plant intake after Mt. St. Helens eruption May, 1980.



Rev. 3/12

# 2011 Water Quality Report



*This is your 2011 Water Quality Report, also referred to as a Consumer Confidence Report. The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires water utilities to provide detailed water quality information to each customer annually.*

*This information is provided so that you, the consumer, are better informed about the quality of the water you drink.*

## So, what's the bottom line? .....

Longview's water meets or exceeds state and federal standards. Your water is tested regularly at laboratories certified by the State of Washington to perform these tests. State and federal regulators routinely monitor our compliance and testing protocols to assure safe delivery of drinking water to you. If you have questions or comments about the information in this report, please call the Longview Regional Water Treatment Plant at 360.442.5681, or the Utilities Operations Center at 360.442.5700. We welcome your interest in Longview's water system.

## The Source of Longview's Water

The Longview Regional Water Treatment Plant takes water from the Cowlitz River about five miles north of its confluence with the Columbia River. The water is pumped across Westside Highway to the plant from a pump station on the west bank of the Cowlitz. The average rate of pumping is about 8,000 gallons per minute (gpm), and sometimes as high as 12,000 gpm.

Due to the sediment conditions in the Cowlitz River, along with fisheries and endangered species regulations and the need for significant upgrades at the existing treatment plant, the City of Longview is developing a new groundwater supply to be the source of its drinking water. The new water supply source, expected to be completed in October 2012, will consist of four high capacity (4,000 gpm) groundwater wells and a new treatment plant constructed in the Mint Farm Industrial Park near



Washington Way and Industrial Way. This new water supply will comply with all drinking water regulations and will supply high quality water to meet the communities' needs for many years.

## Additional Information about 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 materials. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in water sources are microbes, pesticides, herbicides, organic or inorganic chemicals, and radioactive materials.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets the amount of certain contaminants that can be present in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sets the limits for contaminants in bottled water. Drinking water, including bottled water, may contain small amounts of some contaminants. Per the EPA and FDA, the presence of small amounts of contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. If you would like more information about these contaminants, please contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general public. Some persons with weaker immune systems, 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 caused by some contaminants. These individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Guidelines from the EPA and Centers for Disease Control on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by certain contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

# Be water wise

... and quit throwing money down the drain!



You can help make every drop of water count by making sure you use water efficiently at your home. Start by tackling the biggest water guzzlers first...in the laundry, kitchen, and bathroom. The chart below shows where water is used in a typical home. A family of four can save up to 68,000 gallons of water a year by following the conservation tips below.

**Kitchen water savers.** ♦ Wash full loads in your dishwasher on a shorter cycle and **save up to 7 gallons** per load. ♦ Use both sides of the sink when washing dishes by hand. Use one side to wash and the other side to rinse. Do not wash dishes under a running faucet. ♦ Install aerators for every faucet in the house. ♦ Keep a bottle or pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator. This eliminates letting the tap run while waiting for the water to get cold. ♦ Clean vegetables in a pan of water and not under a running faucet. Water used to clean vegetables can also be used to water plants.

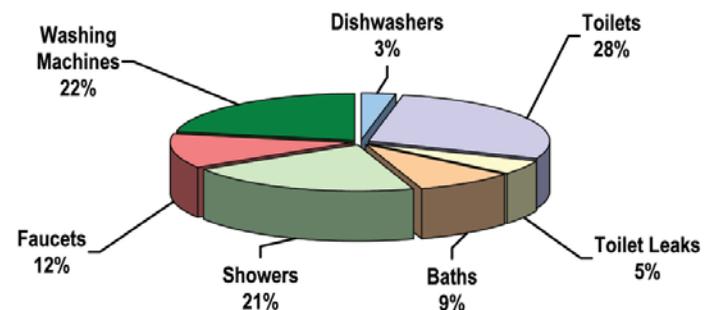
**Fix leaks.** A single dripping faucet can waste far more water in a single day than one person needs for drinking in an entire week. Conserve water and save money by finding and fixing leaks.

**Laundry water savers.** ♦ Wash only full loads of laundry, or use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the machine. Washing full loads only can **save up to 20 gallons** of water per load.

**Outdoors.** ♦ Lawns only need one inch of water a week, so don't overwater. ♦ Use a rain gauge to help determine when to water. ♦ Prevent water runoff from your sprinkler system. ♦ To reduce evaporation, water the lawn in the early morning or evening. Avoid watering during the heat of the day or when it is windy. ♦ Install a trickle or drip irrigation system for a slow, steady supply of water to the plant roots.

**In the bathroom.** ♦ Toilets should not be used in place of the trash can to flush away tissues, bugs, gum wrappers, or the goldfish that didn't make it. ♦ Check for flapper and valve leaks by putting a dye tablet or a bit of food coloring into the toilet tank. Wait a few minutes without flushing. If the color shows up in the toilet bowl, you have one of the more common toilet leaks. ♦ Use a displacement device (not a brick) or install a water-saving toilet and **save 3 to 25 gallons per person** per day.

Where water is used in a typical home



**Which saves more, a shower or a bath?** Compare the time it takes to fill your tub or take a shower. ♦ Use a water-saving shower head and **save up to 12 gallons per person per day or 750 gallons** a month. Fill the bathtub only half full and **save 18 to 25 gallons** per bath.

\*Savings information from Tacoma Water / Tacoma Public Utilities.