

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2025

HOH TRIBAL WATER SYSTEM, PWS ID: 105300011

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

For more information regarding this report contact:

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present the Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) for calendar year 2025. This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information 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 healthcare 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) or www.epa.gov/safewater.

Where does my water come from?

The Hoh community water system is supplied by two groundwater wells, Well #5, and Well #6. Well #5 was constructed in 06/11/2013, is 65 feet deep and can produce 25 gallons per minute; Well #6 was constructed on 06/13/2013, is 65 feet deep and can produce 25 gallons per minute.

Source water assessment and its availability

Contact your water system for a copy of the Hoh Tribal Water system source water assessment.

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or www.epa.gov/safewater.

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:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 stormwater 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, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater 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 that 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.

How can I get involved?

Contact your water system to find out opportunities on how to get involved.

Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. To help protect household plumbing and reduce the chance that metals such as lead and copper can dissolve from pipes, we adjust the pH balance of the water

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.

- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Significant Deficiencies

A significant deficiency can include a flaw in design, operation, or maintenance, or a failure or malfunction of the sources, treatment, storage, or distribution system that EPA determines to be causing, or has the potential for introducing contamination into the water delivered to consumers.

- The lower storage tank needs to be physically disconnected from the water system and drained. This deficiency was identified during the 10/15/2019 sanitary survey and was resolved on 3/19/2026.

Level 1 Assessments

- Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.
- During the past year, we were required to conduct one Level 1 assessment. During the past year, we failed to conduct the required assessment by 4/11/2025. The Level 1 assessment was completed on 1/14/2026.

Additional Information for Lead

Hoh water department completed an initial lead service line inventory in October 2024, and the inventory is available by contacting Keith MacGeagh, by Phone: 360-780-0280 or email: keith.macgeagh@hohtribe-nsn.org or visiting the Hoh Tribal Administration building.

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 Hoh water department is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Hoh Tribe water system. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

For more information please contact:

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Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA sets regulations to limit contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all contaminants that were detected during 2024. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water.

All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value.

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 vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. Please see the definitions in the table below.

| Unit Descriptions | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Term | Definition |
| ppm | ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) |
| ppb | ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) |
| mrem | millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body) |
| pCi/L | Picocuries per Liter: a measure of the radioactivity in water |
| NA | NA: not applicable |
| ND | ND: Not detected |
| NR | NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended. |

| Important Drinking Water Definitions | |
|---|---|
| Term | Definition |
| AVG | Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples. |
| MCLG | 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 | 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. |

Important Drinking Water Definitions

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| TT | TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. |
| AL | AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. |
| Variances and Exemptions | Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. |
| MRDLG | MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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. |
| MRDL | 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. |
| MNR | MNR: Monitored Not Regulated |
| MPL | MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level |
| Level 1 Assessment | A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system. |
| Level 2 Assessment: | A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions. |

2025 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Coliform Bacteria

| Maximum Contaminant Level Goal | Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level | Highest No. of Positive | Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level | Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|---|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 0 | 1 positive monthly sample. | 2 | | 0 | N | Natural present in the environment. |

Lead and Copper

Definitions:

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

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

| Lead and Copper | Date Sampled | MCLG | Action Level (AL) | 90th Percentile | # Sites Over AL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|-----------------|--------------|------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|---|
| Copper | 2023 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.16 | 0 | ppm | N | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |
| Lead | 2023 | 0 | 15 | 8 | 0 | ppb | N | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. |

Regulated Contaminants

| Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------|-------|-----------|--|
| Chlorine | 2025 | 1 | 0.8 - 1 | MRDLG = 4 | MRDL = 4 | ppm | N | Water additive used to control microbes. |
| Radioactive Contaminants | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
| Combined Radium 226/228 | 2/26/2020 | 1.5 | 1.5 - 1.5 | 0 | 5 | pCi/L | N | Erosion of natural deposits. |

Violations Table

| Chlorine | | | |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---|
| Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort. | | | |
| Violation Type | Violation Begin | Violation End | Violation Explanation |
| Monitoring, Routine (DBP) Major | 07/01/2025 | 07/31/2025 | We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. |
| Monitoring, Routine (DBP) Major | 08/01/2025 | 8/31/2025 | We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. |
| Monitoring, Routine (DBP) Major | 09/01/2025 | 9/31/2025 | We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. |

| Consumer Confidence Rule | | | |
|--|-----------------|---------------|--|
| The Consumer Confidence Rule requires community water systems to prepare and provide to their customers annual consumer confidence reports on the quality of the water delivered by the systems. | | | |
| Violation Type | Violation Begin | Violation End | Violation Explanation |
| CCR Report | 07/01/2025 | 08/01/2025 | We failed to provide to you, our drinking water customers, an annual report that informs you about the quality of our drinking water and characterizes the risks from exposure to contaminants detected in our drinking water. |

| E. Coli | | | |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---|
| Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems. | | | |
| Violation Type | Violation Begin | Violation End | Violation Explanation |
| Monitoring, GEW Triggered/ Additional, Major | 02/20/2025 | 2025 | We failed to collect follow-up samples within 24 hours of learning of the total coliform-positive sample. These needed to be tested for fecal indicators from all sources that were being used at the time the positive sample was collected. |

Ground Water Rule

The Ground Water Rule specifies the appropriate use of disinfection while addressing other components of ground water systems to ensure public health protection.

| Violation Type | Violation Begin | Violation End | Violation Explanation |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| Failure Address Deficiency (GWR) | 09/01/2024 | 2025 | We failed to properly respond to a significant deficiency in our water system. |

Nitrate (Measured as Nitrogen)

Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

| Violation Type | Violation Begin | Violation End | Violation Explanation |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| Monitoring, Routine Major | 01/01/2025 | 12/31/2025 | We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. |

Public Notice Rule

The Public Notification Rule helps to ensure that consumers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices immediately alert consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water (e.g., a boil water emergency).

| Violation Type | Violation Begin | Violation End | Violation Explanation |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| Public Notice Rule Liked to Violation | 11/08/2024 | 12/18/2025 | We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations. |

Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)

The Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) seeks to prevent waterborne diseases caused by E. coli. E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

| Violation Type | Violation Begin | Violation End | Violation Explanation |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---|
| LEVEL 1 ASSESS, MULTIPLE TC POS (RTCR) | 04/12/2025 | 01/14/2026 | We failed to properly complete a Level 1 Assessment in our water system. |
| MONITORING, ROUTINE, MAJOR (RTCR) | 08/01/2025 | 08/31/2025 | We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. |
| REPORT SAMPLE RESULT/FAIL MONITOR RTCR | 07/01/2025 | 07/31/2025 | We failed to submit sample results or report a failure to test our drinking water in a timely manner. |

| | | | |
|--|------------|------------|---|
| REPORT SAMPLE RESULT/FAIL MONITOR RTCR | 09/01/2025 | 09/30/2025 | We failed to submit sample results or report a failure to test our drinking water in a timely manner. |
|--|------------|------------|---|

Toluene

Some people who drink water containing toluene well in excess of the MCL over many years could have problems with their nervous system, kidneys, or liver.

| Violation Type | Violation Begin | Violation End | Violation Explanation |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| Monitoring, Routine Major | 01/01/2025 | 12/31/2025 | We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. |