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# 2024 Water Quality Report

## Cougar Ridge Homeowners Association

### PWS ID 24006 D – Thurston County

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H2O Management Services is pleased to present to you this year's Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of your water and the services we deliver to you.

The Cougar Ridge Homeowners Association has contracted with H2O Management Services since April 1, 2020 to provide professional management and operation of the system by qualified personnel. You will see H2O in and about the community as we perform routine preventative maintenance and repairs. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve your community.

#### Where does my water come from?

Cougar Ridge water comes from a deep well drilled 160 feet into one of the county's major aquifers. Water for these aquifers comes locally from the approximately 40 inches of rainfall falling the year. 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 the 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. 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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. 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).

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, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, 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** may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses. **Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems. **Radioactive contaminants** 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, the Washington State Department of Health and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington State Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

#### 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).

#### About Monitoring Waivers

Monitoring waivers are granted by the Washington State Department of Health and are based on a source's susceptibility rating (risk of contamination), water quality history, and information gathered from across the state.

#### Source protection information

The Washington State Department of Health has compiled source water data for all community water systems. The assessment includes: source water protection areas, an inventory of potential sources of contamination, and a susceptibility determination. An interactive map with data for your water system is currently available at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/dw/swap/maps/>

## Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that have been detected during the calendar year January 1 thru December 31, 2024. 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 are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Contaminants	MCL	MCLG or AL:	Your Water	# Samples Exceeding MCL/AL	Sample Date	Violation or Exceeds AL	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
<b>Nitrate</b> [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1.9	NA	9-16-2024	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Copper</b> – action level at consumer taps (ppm) 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Results	NA	1.3 AL	0.076	0 of 5 Samples	7-3-2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Lead</b> – action level at consumer taps (ppb) 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Results	NA	15 AL	<0.001	0 of 5 Samples	87-3-2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

### Unit Descriptions

**ppm:** parts per million, or **ppb:** parts per billion, or **NA:** Not Applicable  
milligrams per liter (mg/L) micrograms per liter (ug/L)

### Important Drinking Water Definitions

**MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level: This highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close 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

**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:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**Lead & Copper 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile** (90<sup>th</sup> %): Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

### About Lead in Drinking Water

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. Triton Head Association Water System 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>.

### **Additional information for Nitrate**

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water could cause babies under 6 months of age to become seriously ill and, if left untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Este informe contiene informacion importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda. (English translation: This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.)

**The Environmental Protection Agency has instituted a nationwide survey of all water systems to determine lead in domestic service lines nationwide. This survey is specific to houses built before 1988. The survey must be completed by October 2024. This procedure requires creating a representative sample of all connections. This involves excavation of the meter connection and taking a photo of lines going to the house and from the mainline to the meter. After that has been completed, the documentation must be sent to EPA and the Washington State Dept. of Health. H2O Management Services is now preparing a representative sample for one water system to determine the time and cost involved in creating the representative sample. We are estimating that a system of 200 connections costs between \$500 - \$600. Larger systems will cost more and smaller systems less. This charge does not include excavation, labor, taking pictures, backfill, filing documentations, etc. that will be completed by a third party. Excavation will be done on a time-based cost. Look for the Lead Service Line Inventory form from the Dept. of Health.**

### **What is PFAS in water?**

Per- and poly fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are chemicals produced in the United States since the 1940s. They are used for applications ranging from firefighting to stain and water proofing of consumer products such as carpets, clothing and food packaging.

Group-A Community water systems are required to monitor for PFAS beginning January 2023 through December 2025. Each water system's Water Quality Monitoring Schedule lists the PFAS monitoring requirement starting in 2023. [PFAS Monitoring and Follow Up Actions 331-668](#) outlines the monitoring requirements in the revised rule. Systems must collect samples at the entry point to the distribution system and have them analyzed by EPA Method 537.1 or 533 by a lab accredited for these analytes in Washington State. H2O Management Services is now working on scheduling tests for the water systems we manage.

### **Water Conservation**

You can help meet 2025 summer savings goals by continuing to conserve water. Following these simple guidelines will help the Cougar Ridge Homeowners Association Water System meet their conservation goals.

### **Car Washing**

- Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose that can be adjusted down to a fine spray, so that water flows only as needed. Check
- hose connectors to make sure plastic or rubber washers are in place to prevent leaks.
- Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- Wash your car on the lawn, and you'll water your lawn at the same time.

### **Lawn Care**

- More than 50 percent of residential irrigation water is lost due to evaporation, runoff, over watering, or improper system design/installation/maintenance.
- Don't over water your lawn. Lawns only need 1 inch of water per week. Buy a rain gauge so that you can better determine when to water.
- Water the lawn or garden early in the morning during the coolest part of the day. Consider installing an automatic timer. Don't forget to adjust your watering schedule, as days get longer or shorter.
- Raise your lawn mower cutting height—longer grass blades help shade each other, reduce evaporation, and inhibit weed growth.
- Use a broom or blower instead of a hose to clean leaves and other debris from your driveway or sidewalk.
- Don't leave sprinklers or hoses unattended. Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden to remind you when to stop. A running hose can discharge up to 10 gallons a minute.

- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- To water sloping lawns, apply water for 5 minutes and then repeat 2-3 times.
- If water runs off your lawn easily, split your watering time into shorter periods to allow for better absorption.
- Don't water your lawn on windy days when most of the water blows away or evaporates.
- Use sprinklers for larger areas of grass. Water small patches by hand to avoid waste.
- Let your lawn go dormant during the summer. Dormant grass only needs to be watered every 3 weeks or less if it rains.

#### **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.

***H2o Management Services Inc. is now online. In the future, all CCR reports will be on the website. Look for them in June of each year. Our website is [h2omanagementservicesinc.com](http://h2omanagementservicesinc.com).***

***When typing the URL be sure to use the letter "o" and not the number zero. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact:***

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