

DID YOU KNOW?

Heavy Clouds

Did you know that a single cloud can weigh more than a million pounds? Despite floating in the sky, the water droplets in an average cumulus cloud weigh about as much as 100 elephants.



Your Brain Runs on Water

Did you know that your body is roughly 60% water, but your brain is about 75% water? That's why even mild dehydration can affect your concentration and mood.



Water Really Is Blue

Did you know that water is actually slightly blue? In large quantities, pure water has a very faint blue tint due to the way it absorbs light, though we usually can't see this in small amounts.

Water's Memory

Did you know that water can "remember" being boiled? When you reboil previously boiled water, it often boils more vigorously because tiny gas bubbles remain trapped in microscopic imperfections in the container.



More Water Than a Watermelon

Did you know that a jellyfish is about 95% water? That's more water content than a watermelon, which is only about 92% water.

Understanding Your Consumer Confidence Report: A Window Into Water Quality

EVERY YEAR, Skagit PUD publishes a comprehensive document that every customer should know about — the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). This annual water quality report is more than just regulatory paperwork; it's your comprehensive guide to understanding the safety and quality of the water flowing from your tap.

What Is a CCR?

The Consumer Confidence Report is a federally mandated annual summary of your drinking water quality. Required by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Safe Drinking Water Act, this report provides detailed information about your water's source, the testing we conduct throughout the year, and how our water quality measures up against federal and state standards.

Think of your CCR as a report card for your drinking water — it shows you exactly what's in your water, where it comes from, and the extensive measures we take to ensure it meets the highest safety standards.



Water Quality Coordinator Emilia Blake manages the lab at the Judy Reservoir Water Treatment Plant.

Why Your CCR Matters

Your Consumer Confidence Report serves several important purposes. It keeps you informed about the quality of one of life's most essential resources, demonstrates our commitment to transparency in water management, and provides you with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions about your family's health and safety.

The report also helps you understand the complex process of water treatment and the rigorous testing protocols that protect public health every single day.

Our Commitment to Water Safety

We ensure safety by continually monitoring and testing your water for potential contaminants. Serving 116,000 people across our service area, we take comprehensive measures to protect water quality. The majority of our customers are served by the Judy Reservoir system, which provides water to the Burlington, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley areas.

Our Water Quality staff collects 100 water samples each month to check for total coliforms and E. coli bacteria. Total coliforms include bacteria found in the soil, in water influenced by surface water, and in human or animal waste. Most E. coli are harmless and essential to a healthy human intestinal tract. However, some E. coli are pathogenic, meaning they can cause either diarrhea or illness outside the intestinal tract. The types of E. coli that can cause diarrhea can be transmitted through contaminated water.

Depending on the monitoring schedule

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provided by the Washington State Department of Health, Skagit PUD also tests for various other contaminants, including pesticides, lead and copper, disinfectant by-products, and a host of different chemicals.

Protecting Water Quality from Source to Tap

Because Skagit PUD maintains over 630 miles of pipeline throughout the county, we want to ensure the water leaving the treatment plant is safe and that it's safe for the last customer in the distribution system. Part of our testing protocol is to monitor the chlorine level of each sample. A sufficient level of chlorine remaining in water after its initial application ensures we kill any bacteria that may enter the pipelines.

This comprehensive approach means we're not just testing water quality at the source — we're monitoring it throughout our entire distribution network to guarantee that every customer receives safe, clean water regardless of their location in our service area.

Reading Your Report

When you review the Consumer Confidence Report, you'll find detailed tables showing detected contaminants, their levels, and how these compare to federal Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Don't be alarmed if some contaminants are detected — the presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. The key is that all water quality

measurements consistently meet or exceed federal and state safety standards.

Your CCR also includes information about potential health effects of certain contaminants, sources of contamination, and any violations or special monitoring situations that may have occurred during the reporting year.

Accessing Your Report

You can view Skagit PUD's most recent Consumer Confidence Report on our website at <https://www.skagitpud.org/customers/water-quality/water-quality-standards/consumer-confidence-reports>. If you wish to have a paper copy, you can print one directly from our website or receive a printed version by contacting our Water Quality department at (360) 848-2135.



2024 Water Quality Report

Questions and Additional Information

Our water quality team is always available to explain testing results, discuss treatment processes, or address any concerns you may have about your drinking water.

Remember, your Consumer Confidence Report represents our ongoing commitment to providing you with safe, reliable drinking water and maintaining the transparency you deserve as our customer. It's proof of the extensive work that goes on behind the scenes every day to protect public health and ensure the highest quality water reaches your home.

Don't Cut It Short: Why Your Lawn's Height Matters

That perfectly manicured, golf course-style lawn might look appealing, but cutting your grass too short could be sabotaging your water conservation efforts. Lawn care experts recommend maintaining grass at 3-4 inches tall rather than the typical 1-2 inches many homeowners prefer.

Taller grass develops deeper, more robust root systems that can access moisture

further underground, reducing the need for frequent watering. The longer blades also provide better shade coverage for the soil, reducing evaporation and helping retain moisture during hot summer days. Additionally, taller grass is naturally more drought-resistant and can stay green longer during dry spells.

"When you scalp your lawn, you're essentially weakening its natural defense system against heat and drought," explains Kevin Tate, PUD community

relations manager. "Those extra inches of height can significantly reduce your watering needs during peak summer months."

Beyond water savings, maintaining proper mowing height also promotes healthier grass that's more resistant to weeds, pests, and disease. This summer, consider raising your mower deck a notch or two — your lawn, your water bill, and the environment will thank you.

