

# CITY OF FERNDALE PROVIDES EXCEPTIONAL WATER FOR YOU!

## A WORD FROM OUR MAYOR

Between the record-breaking heatwaves of last summer and the rising floodwaters of last fall, water has been on our minds throughout 2021. Whether the climate delivers too much or too little precipitation, the City continues to ensure that you have fresh, clean, reliable water flowing through your faucet each and every day.

The City continues to make major investments in our utility infrastructure. We are on schedule to complete the expansion of our wastewater treatment facility this year and begin upgrades on our water treatment plant. We have increased the pumping capacity of the Shop Well #2 from 0.6 MGD to 1.5 MGD. We are also building an emergency intertie with the City of Bellingham's water system to increase our resilience in the case of a catastrophic event. This will allow us to access their water if some crisis causes critical damage to our own facilities.

Finally, we know that the rising costs of food, gas and yes, utility bills have made life difficult for many of our residents. Over the last three years, we have implemented a new rate schedule for our utility bills and this year are examining the impact to ensure that the costs of our utility infrastructure are fairly and equitably distributed.

For more information about all of these projects, you can check out our city website at [www.cityofferndale.org](http://www.cityofferndale.org). In the meantime, know that we are working around the clock to make sure your utility needs are met well into the future.

Greg C. Hansen  
Mayor of Ferndale

The City has implemented mandatory watering restrictions effective June 1st through September 15th. Residents with odd numbered street addresses are mandated to water only on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Residents with even numbered street addresses water only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Mondays are non-watering days to allow the City's reservoirs to recharge after the weekend. For more information visit [www.Cityofferndale.org](http://www.Cityofferndale.org) or contact the City at 360-384-4302.

### WATERING EXEMPTIONS:

The Mandatory Watering Restrictions do not apply to the following situations:

- Drip irrigation systems or handheld watering
- Watering of flower and vegetable gardens
- Watering of outdoor potted plants and hanging baskets
- Watering newly planted lawns

### MANDATORY WATERING RESTRICTIONS: JUNE 1 – SEPTEMBER 15

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
✓ ODD	✗ NO WATERING	✓ EVEN	✓ ODD	✓ EVEN	✓ ODD	✓ EVEN



The City of Ferndale is a partner of the Whatcom Water Alliance, a regional water conservation group. The Alliance shares a passion in providing clean and safe water to protect your health, planet and quality of life.



We must all work together to keep our water clean and healthy. To do that, we each need to learn to value water. To learn more, visit [www.watersworthit.org](http://www.watersworthit.org).

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City of Ferndale  
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Your Comments Are Welcomed!

The Ferndale City Council meets the first and third Mondays of every month at the City Hall Annex Building located at 5694 2nd Avenue, Ferndale, starting at 6:00 p.m. Public comment is taken at the beginning of each meeting.

For more information, please call City Hall at (360) 384-4302.

CITY OF  
FERNDALE

# Water Quality

REPORT 2021

Mayor Hansen  
at the Water  
Treatment Plant



The City of Ferndale water source is a system of three groundwater wells. Two of the wells are completed in the Vashon-Olympia (V-O) aquifer and one well is completed in the Possession-Whidbey (P-W) aquifer. Water in the V-O aquifer appears to be semi-confined to confined by an overlying thick sequence of fine-grained glacial sediments located in the Mountain View and Boundary uplands in western Whatcom County. The P-W aquifer is located at greater depths and is highly confined by overlying low permeability glacial and non-glacial sediments. Water from both aquifers is treated at the City's treatment plant where it is softened and chlorinated (to protect against microbiological contaminants).

## WHY PROVIDE A WATER QUALITY REPORT?

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water 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 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 byproducts 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

# WATER QUALITY RESULTS FOR 2021

PWSID#24850M

Substance (units)	Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source	In Compliance?
RAW WATER (Before Treatment)					
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	Range Detected: 0.66 - 0.92 Average: 0.75	TT		Naturally present in the environment.	Yes
REGULATED AT THE TREATMENT PLANT					
Arsenic (ppm)	0.001	0.010	0	Erosion of natural deposits.	Yes
Barium (ppm)	0.032	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits.	Yes
Copper (ppm)	0.027	SMCL =1		Erosion of natural deposits.	Yes
Nitrate (ppm)	Annual Sample: ND	10	0	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaking from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	Yes
Free Chlorine Residual (ppm)	Range Detected: 0.56 - 1.48 Average: 0.79	4 (MRDL)	4 (MRDLG)	Water additive used to control microbes.	Yes
REGULATED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM					
Copper (ppm) (Tested 2021)	90th Percentile Copper: 0.116 Range Detected: 0.015 - 0.173	Action Level 1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.	Yes
Lead (ppm) (Tested 2021)	90th Percentile Lead: 0.007 Range Detected: 0 - 0.0175	Action Level 0.015	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.	Yes
Total Coliform (presence/absence)	180 samples collected Zero positive samples	≥2 positive samples per month	0	Naturally present in the environment.	Yes
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Range Detected: 1.9 - 3.2 Average: 2.6	60		By-product of drinking water disinfection.	Yes
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Range Detected: 14.6 - 28.2 Average: 21.4	80		By-product of drinking water disinfection.	Yes

## UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

<b>ppm</b>	Parts per Million	<b>mg/L</b>	Milligrams per Liter
<b>ppb</b>	Parts per Billion	<b>pCi/L</b>	Picocuries per Liter
<b>Action Level (AL)</b>	The concentration of a contaminate that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.		
<b>MCLG</b>	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.		
<b>MCL</b>	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.		
<b>MRDLG</b>	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.		
<b>MRDL</b>	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).		
<b>SMCL</b>	Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level: The maximum concentration or level of certain water contaminants in public water supplies set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect the public welfare. The secondary levels are written to address aesthetic considerations such as taste, odor, and color or water, rather than health standards. Also see Primary Drinking Water Standards, Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), and Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG).		
<b>TT</b>	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.		
<b>ND</b>	Not detected		
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency		
<b>CDC</b>	Center for Disease Control & Prevention		

**Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4:** Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA determine their occurrence in drinking water and decide whether future regulation is warranted. Of the 31 contaminants including pesticides, metals, organic solvents, and alcohols monitored, only manganese (average 0.46 ppb, range 0.40 - 0.52 ppb) and low levels of disinfection by-products were detected as show below:

2020 UCMR4 Data			
	Units	Average	Range
Monobromoacetic Acid	ppb	0.5	0.3 - 0.6
Dibromoacetic Acid	ppb	2.6	2.0 - 3.3
Bromochloroacetic Acid	ppb	0.8	0.4 - 1.8
Bromodichloroacetic Acid	ppb	2.6	2.4 - 3.2
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid	ppb	1.3	0.6 - 2.6
Tribromoacetic Acid	ppb	1.4	0 - 3.3
Haloacetic Acids(5)	ppb	3.0	2.5 - 3.9
Haloacetic Acids (6Br)	ppb	9.2	6.4 - 12.5
Haloacetic Acid(9)	ppb	9.2	6.4 - 12.5



City of Ferndale Water Treatment Plant  
 Phone (360) 384-4607 | [www.cityofferndale.org](http://www.cityofferndale.org)  
 Mike Olinger - Public Utilities Superintendent



## MESSAGE FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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/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 (1-800-426-4791).

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. We are 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 drinking 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>.