

SPANAWAY WATER NEWS

A NEWSLETTER TO THE CUSTOMERS OF SPANAWAY WATER COMPANY - Spring / Summer 2006

WATER QUALITY REPORT – 2006



Welcome to your eighth annual water quality report. This report presents information to you in the format prescribed by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The report includes information about many topics including: your water sources, how to contact your water system, public participation opportunities, and most importantly details of water quality and any detected contaminants.

We appreciate the time you take to read this annual report and learn about both your water sources and Spanaway Water Company. We continue striving to provide you with safe, high quality water that meets or exceeds all federal and state standards. Water quality is tested daily by water company employees and on a regular schedule that includes weekly, annual, and tri-annual analysis by Washington State and EPA certified laboratories.

Spanaway Water Company (SWC) is a non-profit mutual water company owned by all the property owners (members) served by the company. SWC serves over 8,200 families and more than 330 businesses in the Spanaway Area. The company's Board of Directors are elected from and by the company membership. Therefore, you can be certain that both high water quality and reasonable prices are their top priorities.

The annual meeting of SWC is held on the second Monday of November at 7:30 p.m. Members are elected to the Board of Directors at the annual meetings. The Board of Directors meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. You are invited to participate at these meetings, all of which are held at the Company office at 18413 "B" St. E.

If you would like more information about Spanaway Water Company, the information in this newsletter, contaminants, or any other water issues, we will be happy to answer your questions. Please see spanaway-water.org or call 531-9024 and ask for Tim Tayne, Water Programs Manager, or Jeff Johnson, Manager.

HOW AND WHY IS MY WATER TREATED

As water is pumped from each of the eleven wells, chlorine is added as a disinfectant providing extra protection to insure that no harmful bacteria are present. The minimum amount of chlorine is used to maintain a detectable level throughout the water system. Corrosion control with sodium hydroxide is also used at four wells. This treatment reduces the slight natural acidity of the water, resulting in decreased copper levels found in some homes. These treatment requirements are mandated under federal law.

Four of our wells have naturally occurring manganese. Even at the very low levels found at the wells, "brown" water may occur when large flows are created in water mains, such as when fire hydrants are used for fire fighting or testing. The rushing water picks up the manganese "rust" that settles in the mains. Manganese is not a health related contaminant, rather it is an essential human nutrient with a recommended daily amount (RDA) of 2.0 mg. However, even at 0.05 mg/l (1/40th of the RDA) brown water may occur. The presence of manganese is therefore considered an aesthetic problem, not a health issue. Your water company has a manganese filter at well 4 with additional filters planned for the Yakima (2008) and Buckeye Grove (2006) wells. The company's main flushing program has improved water quality and reduced brown water calls. Should you experience "brown" water, letting an outside faucet run for 5 to 15 minutes should clear the problem. Routine main flushing is done on Tuesdays. To reduce the risk of discoloring clothing we ask that you avoid washing clothes on Tuesdays.

HOW HARD IS MY WATER

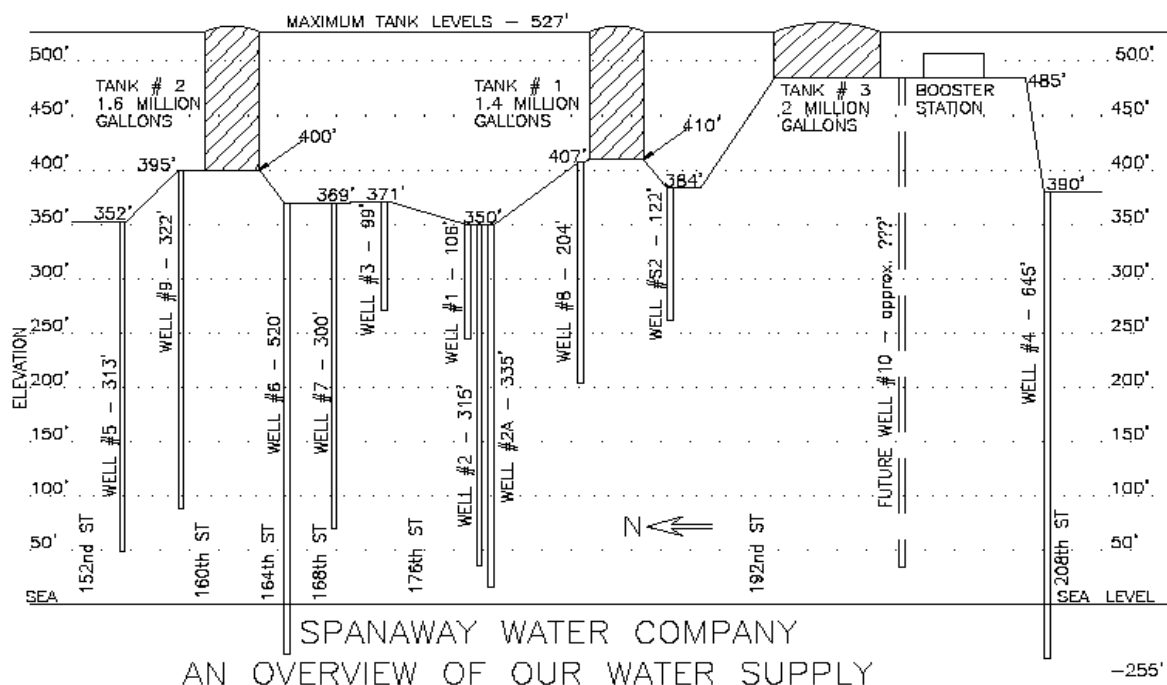
Often when you purchase a new dishwasher the instructions will suggest you call your water purveyor to find out how "hard" your water is. Spanaway Water contains between 48-55 ppm (parts per million) or 2.9-3.2 grains of hardness. This slight hardness is from naturally dissolved calcium and magnesium. Hard water is safe but may require a little more soap or detergent.



These dissolved minerals can also build on hot water heater heating elements forming a white to whitish-blue crust. If you see this on your faucet screens the hot water heater should be flushed. You can do this by attaching a hose to the faucet at the bottom of your hot water heater and running the hose outside. Then run the water through the hose for a few minutes. This flushing is recommended by manufacturers at least annually. For more information contact Spanaway Water or your heater manufacturer.

WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF MY WATER?

Spanaway Water Company draws water from 11 wells located in the Spanaway area of the Chambers/Clover Creek watershed. The well depths vary from 99 to 645 feet. The water system has three tanks holding 5,100,000 gallons, one booster station serving the higher elevations at the south end of the water system, well over 120 miles of water mains, and over 740 fire hydrants. The diagram below provides an overview of the water system.



WATER QUALITY DATA REQUIREMENTS

The following portion of the newsletter is presented in compliance with the EPA's format and content requirements. Please call if you have any questions or comments. It should be noted that the portions in italics are EPA required language.

About Water Sources and contaminants: *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, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic chemical contaminants, such as salts and metals, which 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, which 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, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, can also come from gas stations, urban storm water 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.

SPANAWAY WATER QUALITY TESTING

In 2005 we sampled every source for metals, nutrients, bacteria, and some for radionuclide chemicals, with the only detections listed in the tables. The finished water was testing for bacteria and disinfection by-products (DBP), the results of naturally occurring organic chemicals reacting with chlorination. The DBP's testing results were all less than 25% of the EPA's maximum contamination level. We have also included the EPA's standards and information about the contaminants that were detectable. A complete listing of all water quality testing and the highest levels ever found in the water system is available at the company office.

Contaminants detected in 2005 with designated Maximum Contaminant Levels

Inorganic Compounds: (ppm)	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level	Range of Detection	Sample Date/s	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Arsenic	0.01	0.01	0.003	ND-0.003	6/05	No	Erosion of rock, mining, and orchard spraying
Fluoride	4	4	0.3	ND-0.3	6/05	No	Additive for teeth, erosion of soils, mining
Nitrate	10	10	4.8	ND-4.8	6/05	No	Runoff from fertilizer use: Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; or erosion of natural deposits.
Chlorine	4	n/a	1.01	0.34-1.01	Daily 2005	No	Water additive used to control microbes.

Organic Compounds

Volatile Organic Chemicals (all in ppb):

Trihalomethanes (TTHMs):	80*	80	17.6	ND-17.6	Qtr'ly/2005	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform		Unset	11.3	ND-11.3	Qtr'ly/2005	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromo-dichloromethane		0.00	5.2	ND-5.2	Qtr'ly/2005	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloro dibromomethane		60.0	0.63	ND-0.63	Qtr'ly/2005	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform		0.00	ND	ND-ND	Qtr'ly/2005	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	60*	60	8.1	ND-8.1	Qtr'ly/2005	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Monochloroacetic Acid		Unset	ND	ND-ND	Qtr'ly/2005	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dichloroacetic Acid		0.00	3.6	ND-3.6	Qtr'ly/2005	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Trichloroacetic Acid		30.0	3.5	ND-3.5	Qtr'ly/2005	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Monobromoacetic Acid		Unset	ND	ND-ND	Qtr'ly/2005	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromoacetic Acid		Unset	ND	ND-ND	Qtr'ly/2005	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

* Compliance is determined by running annual average of quarterly sampling for subcomponents of TTHMs and HAA5s.

Radionuclides

Analyte	MCL	MDA	SWC Level	Range	Sample Date	Violation	Source of Contaminant
Gross Beta (pCi/l)	50	50	ND	ND-ND	8/04-11/04	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-228 (pCi/l)	—	0.8	ND	ND-ND	2005	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants with action levels rather than MCLs

Copper	AL	MCLG	Spanaway Level	# of sites above the AL	Sample Date/s	Typical Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	ND-0.39	0	11/04	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Lead

Lead (ppb)	15	0	ND - 5	0	11/04	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
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Terms and abbreviations used in the following table:

Minimum Detectable Level (MDA): the level of contaminant in drinking water that can be reliably detected by the laboratory.

Maximum Contamination Level Goal (MCLG): 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.

Maximum Contamination Level (MCL): 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.

Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

ND: not detectable at testing limit. **N/A:** not applicable. **mfl:** million fibers per liter. **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter. **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter. **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

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

Special considerations for at risk people: Some people may be more vulnerable to contamination 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

HOMELAND SECURITY – A Community Concern

Like all utilities, we take security very seriously and we also rely on the public to assist in facility security. Should you notice any unusual activity at any utility facilities, including water system wells, tank sites, or fire hydrants please contact the office at 531-9024 and/or the sheriff at 911. Tampering with a water system is a federal crime with penalties up to \$1,000,000 and 20 years in jail.

HELP PROTECT YOUR WATER SOURCES

Since Spanaway's ground water sources are located in aquifers under where we live and work, our everyday activities can contribute to the contamination of these aquifers that supply our water. Ground water is naturally purified by traveling through the soil materials below us, but if these soils become contaminated with chemicals they will also release those chemicals into the ground water.

To help protect these resources, use lawn chemicals sparingly, or look for safer alternatives. Always properly store and dispose of hazardous chemicals, and do not dump anything in storm drains.

All City of Tacoma and Pierce County residents can safely dispose of household hazardous waste free of charge at the HazWaste Place located at the Tacoma Landfill. HazWaste Place is open seven days a week from 8AM to 6PM. The address is: 3510 S. Mullen St. which is off of Center St between Orchard and Tyler Streets next to the Home Depot store. You can call them at 800 287-6429.

For more information regarding our wellhead protection program or what you can do to protect our resource, feel free to call us or visit our web page at www.spanaway-water.org/

NEW BILLING OPTIONS ARE COMING

In September 2005 SWC began accepting credit card payments. This is an addition to our accepting check, cash, and money orders.

By July 2006 we plan to be accepting ACH (automated clearing house) payments, which will allow you to have your bill automatically paid every other month by your bank. Online banking through our website will follow the ACH, and it should be available by the end of 2006. The online bill paying will allow the customer to access their account to review bills and pay online at that time.

P.S. For your convenience we have a drive-up night drop box at the office. We do have two requests of you - please include your account number on your payment checks, and if you make your payments at the office counter or drive up window **please bring your entire bill with you. It makes payment quicker for you and processing a lot easier**

for the staff. **THANKS!!**



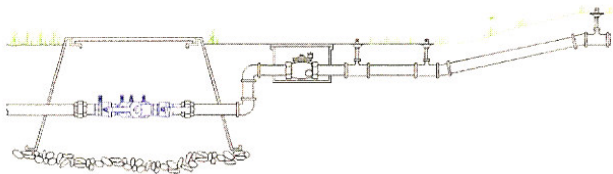
HAVE A GREAT SUMMER, that's safe, Water Wise!

CROSS CONNECTION

A cross-connection, as defined by the Washington Administrative Code, is "any actual or potential physical connection between a public water system or the consumer's water system and any source of non-potable liquid, solid, or gas that could contaminate the potable (drinking) water supply by backflow." This backflow could occur from backpressure or Backsiphonage at the customers meter.

As residential customers, you will receive a customer cross connection survey over the next few months. After we receive your completed survey, our cross connection specialist will assess any potential cross connections your plumbing may have. We may then contact you to schedule an inspection of your water system to further understand your plumbing. Your water system consists of the plumbing that starts at your water meter and continues throughout your house. Some customers with complex plumbing, heat pumps, hot tubs, or irrigation systems may require a backflow assembly that will protect the drinking water. The most common residential cross connection is an in ground sprinkler system.

The regulation requires all irrigation systems to have an approved backflow prevention assembly that meets the degree of risk. Unless the system contains a pump or injects chemicals, a higher risk, a double check valve assembly (DCVA) is required. If you have questions regarding the installation or the annual testing requirements for these assemblies, feel free to contact Tim Tayne at Spanaway Water Company.



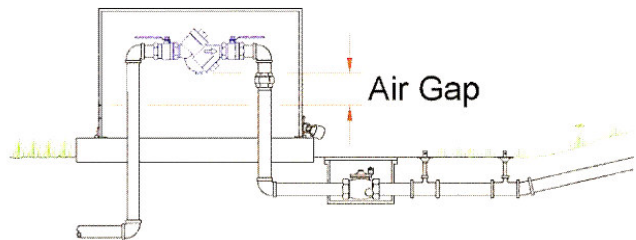
***Double Check Valve Assembly
in Below-Ground Box***

health risks will be minimized by use of a DCVA, while the installation of a reduced pressure backflow assembly (RPBA) may be required if the risk is high enough to cause health concerns.

New commercial customers will be required to install a back-flow assembly at the time water service is supplied. This will usually be a DCVA, unless the risk is high enough to require a RPBA.

For further information regarding this program, feel to contact us.

Now which pipe were we working on?



***Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly
in Above-Ground Enclosure***

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE – Road, Sewer, and Water Main Projects

It seems that every road in Spanaway is under some kind of construction. The following update gives you a heads-up about what construction to anticipate.

The next expected County road project should be the widening of 176th St. from "B" St. to Meridian. The project will widen the road with a median, curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. This work is planned to begin until 2008 with the first phase extending east from 38th Ave. The section from "B" St. to 38th Ave. is planned for 2010. With these County projects, the existing 8" and 12" water mains must be relocated and will be replaced with a new 12 inch ductile iron main. The replacement of existing system facilities will be paid from the capital projects fees, a part of all water bills. Because there will be new mains east of 10th Ave. these will be paid from fees charged to growth.

The 22nd Ave. sewer extension work has been completed. However the county is beginning design for a new stop light at 22nd Ave. and 192nd St. Expect periodic closure as this construction occurs.

Internally, Spanaway Water is currently redrilling and expanding our well #5 at the old shop location. After eight years we have finally received the water right permit from the Department of Ecology to increase the well production from 250 to 1,200 gallons per minute. This project not only replaces the failing 1962 well with a larger well but allows corrosion control and on-site chlorine generation facilities to be installed. We will also be completing well #6 development this fall/winter. This well is designed to produce up to 900 gallons per minute (GPM) and includes manganese filtration and on-site chlorine generation. Finally, we are beginning the acquisition and design process for the systems fourth and fifth storage tanks. Tank 4 will serve the rapidly growing southeastern upper pressure zone portion of the water system while Tank 5 will add storage for the main pressure zone.

Finally, SWC will be installing a sewer extension to the "old office" site on 5th Avenue. Once complete the sale of the old office should move ahead. The cost of the sewer extension will be added to the original sales price for the site.



Its up to each of us – Use Water Wisely!

***2006 Annual Water
Quality Report, & Conservation Updates***

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