



2024 Consumer Confidence Report

Rockaway Beach Community Association herein presents our annual Water Quality Report (known as a “Consumer Confidence Report”), as required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Rockaway Beach Community Association is committed to providing you with water that meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. This report sets out where your water comes from, what the current year’s tests show about it, and other information that you may wish to know about your drinking water.

Rockaway Beach Community Association utilizes King Water Services, a NW Natural Water Company, as its state- certified Satellite Management Agency (SMA). SMAs ensure that small systems, like ours, have technical and managerial oversight to provide safe drinking water. King Water Services management and compliance teams have been working in close contact with the Washington Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Ecology, and the board of directors to improve the standard of service to this water utility, and to continue providing safe, quality drinking water to our customers. For more information about this report please contact us at rockawaybeachsecretary@gmail.com, or if you have any questions you have about your drinking water, please contact the NW Natural Water Services Compliance Department at (503)-554-8333.

With the increase in full-time residents reaching a certain threshold, reporting year 2024 is the first year that Rockaway Beach has been operated as a Class A, Non-Transient Community. This means that additional sampling and reporting requirements have been added to our water system, which only improves our understanding of what is in our drinking water and helps to keep us healthy and safe. Therefore, you will see some additional results below that you will not have seen in previous years’ reports.

WATER SOURCE

Our system pumps groundwater from an Island County aquifer and transmits the water to the reservoir. The water is chlorinated at the treatment plant, to minimize the risk of any coliform bacteria growing in your system. It is also filtered to remove the majority of any iron and manganese in the water. If you experience any extended deterioration in water quality, please contact us or King Water Services.

SUBSTANCES EXPECTED TO BE IN DRINKING WATER

To ensure that tap water meets acceptable drinking standards, the US EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants that may be in drinking water. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

Such substances may include:

Microbial contaminants, such as bacteria and viruses, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems agricultural livestock, or wildlife. These are tested monthly.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, mining, or farming. These are tested based on a schedule prescribed by the state Department of Health (DOH); they include nitrates, which are tested annually.

Pesticides and Herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff and residential uses. These are tested based on a schedule prescribed by the DOH.

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals which are by-products of industrial processes, gas stations, storm water runoff and septic systems. These are tested based on a schedule prescribed by the DOH.

Radioactive contaminants, which are usually naturally occurring. These are tested based on a schedule prescribed by the DOH.

WATER QUALITY TABLE

The information set out in the table is based on tests conducted during the year. Terms used in the Water Quality Table and in other parts of this report are defined below. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected, or wish to show non-detect levels, during the 2024 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL or AL	RBCA Testing Results	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10.4	4.33	2.5	10.3	Monthly	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Iron (mg/L)	0.3	0.3	0.055	ND	0.057	3/year	No	
Manganese (mg/L)	0.05	0.05	0.0014	ND	.0013	3/year	No	
Nitrate-N	10	10	ND	ND	ND	August	No	Septic leaching Fertilizer runoff, Natural deposits
Copper (5 home samples) mg/L	1.3	1.3	.026	ND	.0568	March	No	Service line components, natural deposits
Lead (5 home samples) mg/L	0	.015	ND	ND	ND	March	No	Materials and components in service lines
Microbiological Contaminants								
E. coli per 100 mL	0	Absent/Present	Absent	NA	NA	Monthly	No	Septic tanks, livestock, wildlife
Total Coliform per 100mL	NA	Absent/Present	Absent	NA	NA	Monthly	No	Septic tanks, livestock, wildlife

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL or AL	RBCA Testing Results	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Organic Contaminants								
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	9.5	9.0	9.9	3/year	No	Chlorine disinfection byproducts
Halo Acetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	1	ND	1	3/year	No	
Radiological Contaminants								
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	0	5	0.562	.41	.72	June / Sept	No	Naturally occurring in rock/soils
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	0	15	ND	ND	ND	June / Sept	No	
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	0	50	2.6	2.1	3.1	June / Sept	No	

Violations and Exceedances

Not Applicable. We are pleased there were no exceedances. Pesticide and Herbicide panels were also ran in 2024 with no detectable levels.

Unit Descriptions

Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L). Equivalent to 1 drop of water in a hot tub
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L). Equivalent to 1 drop of water in an Olympic size swimming pool.
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected

Important Drinking Water Definitions

Term	Definition
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.
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.

YOUR WATER SYSTEM DID NOT HAVE ANY COMPLIANCE VIOLATIONS IN 2024.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Not every chemical tested was included in the table of this report in order to prioritize information. Pesticide and Herbicide panels were also required for testing in 2024 with no detectable levels. PFAS chemicals are tested in 2025 and will be included in next year's Consumer Confidence Report.

NITRATE

Nitrates in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm are considered to be a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity.

ARSENIC

Your drinking water currently meets EPA's revised drinking water standards for arsenic. However, it does contain low levels of arsenic, compared to the state MCL of 10.4 ppb. There is a small chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic for many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer, or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory disease are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. The EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water.

IRON AND MANGANESE

Typical of much of the Island's water, your water contains elevated levels of Iron and Manganese, which are abundant in the rocks and soils in the area. These are secondary contaminants, and the US EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has not mandated treatment to reduce the levels of contamination. Scientific findings suggest that the levels found pose no threat to human health. Manganese and iron are considered to be an aesthetic problem. At sufficient concentrations, iron can adversely affect the taste of water and can leave rust-colored stains on laundry, plumbing fixtures and porcelain. Manganese can cause similar problems, has a bitter metallic taste and may leave black "specks" in ice cubes. Manganese can also produce staining and cause water to have a brown or black discoloration.

The Washington State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water (ODW) is modifying their recommendations for public water systems that have manganese in their water supply. For many years, manganese in drinking water was considered as only an aesthetic concern, causing discoloration and staining. However, recent studies show negative health effects from exposure to high levels of manganese in drinking water. They have used this new information to revise their guidelines, which are expected to be implemented in the coming years. Additional information can be found on the DOH website at <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-12/331-740.pdf>

The treatment plant currently removes the majority of iron and manganese present in your water system. King Water Services periodically tests the water for iron and manganese to ensure that the treatment system is working properly.

CONDUCTIVITY AND CHLORIDE

The system is tested twice a year for conductivity and chlorides; this is to ensure that our water source is not being contaminated by salt water per Island County requirements. Unfortunately, samples were not taken in 2024. Levels reported are from 2023 and 2025.

Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Result	Source
Chloride	Aug -2023 Apr - 2025	Mg/l	250	250	20.7 /22.0	Salt water or natural deposits
Conductivity	Aug -2023 Apr - 2025	Umhos/cm	700	700	344 / 344	

LEAD AND COPPER

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. Your 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. If you would like to be included in our annual testing, please contact us and we will try to add you to the next sample group. 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>.

COLIFORM (BACTERIA) and *E. coli*

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. *E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal waste. 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. Coliform bacteria samples are taken monthly.

ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. They include immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer, those undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, the elderly, and infants, who can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers before drinking any water. More information about EPA/CDC guidelines to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium*, other contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE – SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

Sometimes problems occur associated with snow, freezing weather, heavy rains, and flooding – all of which can cause water pipes to break and necessitate the need to get the water turned off in an emergency. Please remember that it is the responsibility of your water system (the purveyor) to deliver safe drinking water to your property. As a rule, this responsibility stops at the meter or shut-off valve – usually located at, or close to, the property line. However, **it is the responsibility of the homeowner to know where their shut-off valve is located and to keep the area clear and readily accessible.**

If water has been shut off to your residence for any length of time, it is good practice to flush the lines with plenty of water to ensure contaminants that may have accumulated or been introduced be cleared out of your lines and replaced with fresh treated water.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Water services in your water system may have been installed with, or upgraded to include a check valve that helps protect the water system from a backflow event. This occurs when a drop in pressure in the mains allows water to be drawn into the mains from the service connection; as a result, the system water can be contaminated.

The installation of the check valve causes the home to become a “closed system” and makes it susceptible to damage caused by thermal expansion of the water. Thermal expansion takes place in water heaters when water is heated. As the water is heated, it expands and increases in volume. Traditionally, the increased volume of water flows back into the supply line and into the public water supply main. With the addition of backflow preventers, check valves, and pressure-reducing valves on the supply line, a closed loop is formed, and the water cannot flow back into the supply line. The volume of water then increases, and the resultant pressure increases beyond what the hot water system is designed to handle. The increase in pressure causes the emergency relief valve on the water tank to open and discharge water creating a nuisance and resulting in inefficient operation. Excessive pressure may also rupture pipe fittings and lead to water heater explosions. To eliminate this potential hazard, the owner must install pressure relief valves or accumulators in the plumbing system to relieve pressure. Please ensure that your water heater has been properly installed with working protection devices (T&P valve and expansion tank); if in doubt, consult with your plumber.

ANNUAL WATER USAGE STATS

As a community, we have been good about conserving our water resource. Since our aquifer relies primarily on precipitation to re-charge, in 2019 our community implemented a voluntary summer watering calendar and a summer usage fee schedule for the months of June through September. Both these programs bring awareness to reducing consumption and pressure on our well and the Camano Island Aquifer during the dry season.

A summary of our 2024 total water usage follows:

Water Pumped / Source Meter (gallons)	Residential Meters (gallons)	Backwash/ Treatment (gallons)	Flushing/ Reservoir Cleaning (gallons)	Authorized Consumption (gallons)	Net Loss (gallons)	System Loss (%)
681,780	624,470	37,970	NA	662,610	19,170	2.8%

Our system is required to operate with system losses (primarily leaks) not to exceed 10% of total volume. We ask that all customers notify us immediately if you notice or suspect a break in the service mains. For various reasons, water usage was down 107,500 gallons compared to the previous year. Conservation and fixing leaks can go along way to reduce pressure on our aquifer.

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. Plant shrubs, bushes, and trees that don't require frequent watering.
- 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 (early morning/evening) to reduce evaporation. Use a timer when watering your lawn and try to rotate sections every 15 to 20 minutes.

Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information

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.
- Properly maintain your septic system to reduce leaching to water sources. In Island County, alternative septic systems (which is almost all our homes) are REQUIRED to be inspected annually by a licensed septic maintainer. Conventional systems (only 1 or 2 in our community) are required to be inspected every 3 years. Septic tanks normally require pumping every 3-5 years. Your septic inspection will let you know if your tank needs pumping and whether your entire system is operating correctly. Fix issues identified during your inspection as soon as possible to avoid more costly repairs or system replacement. Some of our homeowners have never had their systems inspected or pumped since installation. For homes with Glendon or Oscar type septic systems, make sure your inspector/maintainer is licensed by Island County as well as the system manufacturer! Refer to the manufacturer's website to cross-check whether your maintainer is licensed to service/maintain your system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center (Camano Island Transfer Station). Camano Ace Hardware accepts old paint for recycling, contact them for details.

For more information about this report, or for any questions you have about your drinking water, please contact:

rockawaybeachsecretary@gmail.com

or

NW Natural Water Services Compliance Department at (503)-554-833